

# Kent County Cricketers

A-Z

Part Three

1946-1999

By Derek Carlaw

Statistics by John Winnifrith

## **Kent Cricketers A to Z**

### **Part Three (1946 to 1999)**

#### **Introduction**

Part Three follows the pattern set by Parts One and Two and covers the 176 Kent cricketers who made their first appearance in first-class cricket between the commencement of the 1946 English and Welsh cricket season and the end of the last century. This included both the most barren period in the Club's history, the 1950s when they only once finished in the top half of the Championship, five times in the bottom four, and what became known as Kent's third 'Golden Age', the 1970s when, as well as winning the Championship three times, (albeit once shared), with the advent of limited-overs cricket there were now more targets to aim at, resulting in nine one-day titles, one in 1967, seven in the 'Golden Age' and one in 1995.

In this period the County also acquired a record which may be recalled with mixed feelings by some followers of the White Horse. Between 1967 and 1997 Kent were Championship runners-up six times and 12 times runners-up in List A competitions between 1970 and 1997.

Much had changed from the 1940s. Four day matches, the decline of the spinner, huge advances in bat technology, full pitch covering, a new first-class county, coloured clothing and much else besides. Above all, 1963 saw the introduction of the Gillette Cup, the first limited-overs competition which, via its many offshoots, was destined to change the game forever. As the 20th century drew to a close, limited-overs cricket was not only becoming dominant, it was showing signs of becoming entirely so.

Leaving aside a few unexpected, often self-destructive, collapses, batsmen generally prospered and bowlers suffered with the advent of bland, covered wickets, but some of the variety seems to have departed from the first-class game, exacerbated perhaps by the gradual disappearance of outgrounds. Between 1946 and 1999 Kent played on ten grounds in all, and on 88 different away venues, ten in Essex, seven in Yorkshire, six in Glamorgan, five in Northants, Somerset, Sussex and Warwickshire. By 1999 Kent, having dispensed with historic grounds such as The Rectory Field, Blackheath, the Bat & Ball, Gravesend and the Crabble, Dover, they were down to three. Essex and Sussex were still clinging on with four.

The first tentative venture into limited-overs cricket in 1963 also saw the departure of the amateur. The demise of the amateur concept had been on the cards to those who kept their ears and eyes open even before the First World War but when the end came in 1962, 12 of the 17 counties, Kent among them, still had amateur captains. In that first post-war season Kent fielded 15 amateurs and 14 pros, three times five amateurs played in the same side, only once fewer than three. By 1962, the amateur contingent was down to three and on nine occasions the team were all professionals.

Although Kent committees over the years had opposed the abolition of amateur status, a professional, Doug Wright, captained Kent from 1954 to 1956 and, although amateur captaincy was restored with the arrival of Colin Cowdrey in 1957, when he was absent for Test matches or other reasons, his deputy was almost always an experienced professional irrespective of other amateurs being in the side. Between 1946 and 1962, 34 amateurs played for Kent, only 11 of them were capped.

In 1946 68% of those who played had been born in Kent, including those born in Metropolitan Kent. By 1999 the figure had dropped to 55% but by the early 1950s, even before the influx of overseas players in 1968, Kent had begun recruiting players from overseas and by 1999 they had fielded 21, contributing 64,000 runs, 98 centuries and over 2,000 wickets. 12 had been capped for Kent and 11 had played Test cricket for their countries.

Things had also changed in the authorship of the A to Z. Due largely I fear to how much advancing years can sometimes clog the mechanism I needed some help. Arguably Kent cricket's greatest supporter, Howard Milton, long-serving Kent Honorary Statistician and a Vice President, had already

contributed the entry in Part One for Frank Woolley. He has kindly now added the entries for Lord Cowdrey and Alan Brown. Former Honorary Curator David Robertson did the same for Mike Denness, Graham Johnson, David Sayer and Bob Woolmer. John Winnifrith, who has so valiantly proofread Parts One to Three of the A to Z, took care of the entries for Richard Ellison, Simon Hinks, Kevin Jarvis, Robert Key, Martin McCague, Steve Marsh, Roy Pienaar and Trevor Ward.

Unfortunately, I will be unable to promise an A to Z Part 4. Apart from old age, what with players on loan, short term contracts and frequent signings for limited-overs cricket only, there would simply be too much to cover. Just as one of my lasting regrets has been that James Aylward was too early to be fitted into Part One – although I did, by accident compile his entry - so Darren Stevens joined Kent too late to fit into Part Three. He surely qualifies for Kent's all-time top 20.

### **Acknowledgments & Sources.**

The Association of Cricket Statisticians and Historians were the originators and sponsors of the A to Z project and throughout I have benefitted more than I can express from the guidance and support from all concerned and especially for their patience in recent years when progress on the A to Z has been slow, to put it no stronger.

Howard Milton, David Robertson and John Winnifrith have already been referred to above as joint authors. Howard and David have been involved in the A to Z from the earliest days, even before the project had been known as such, and without their input, it would probably have never gone ahead, while John, although a more recent addition, has been an invaluable contributor, as well as providing the statistics and carrying out the proof reading.

Particular thanks are due to Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell for permission to quote extensively from their seminal work on post-1945 Kent Cricket *Trophies and Tribulations* (Greenwich Publishing, 2010.). As in the case of the First World War, Paul Lewis has, with his usual generosity, once again shared the results of his extensive research into the service records of Kent cricketers in the Second.

Among former Kent Players, the late Derek Ufton and Bob Wilson have both been outstanding sources of information and have recorded their reminiscences on disc. Notes on conversations and/or correspondence by post or e-mail with other former Kent cricketers have been a major part of the research for the A to Z project and Included among them were Hartley Alleyne, the late Michael Denness, Petrus de Villiers, Mark Dobson, Clive Dring, Paul Farbrace, Norman Graham, the late David Halfyard, Simon Hinks, Graham Johnson, Bernard Julien, the late 'Hopper' Levett, the late Claude Lewis, the late Brian Luckhurst, the late Tony Pawson, the late John Pretlove, Charles Rowe, the late David Sayer, John Shepherd, the late John Spanswick, Chris Tavaré, Peter Topley, Derek Underwood, the late Bob Wilkinson and the late Ted Witherden.

Among relatives who provided information were Mrs Barbara Knight (daughter of Fred Ridgway) Brian Mayes (son of Dickie Mayes), Simon Nicholls (son of David Nicholls) and Mrs Karen Whitehead (daughter of Freddie Lucas) as well as the family of Robert Minns.

Of cricketers with no Kentish affiliation thanks are due to the late Keith Boyce, Collis King, the late Jim Laker, the late Jack Parker and Rohan Kanhai who the writer first met when we sat together at a Cricket Society dinner at Edgbaston in 1957. Subsequently on several subsequent occasions, we talked again after I married the daughter of his Headmaster.

Derek Barnard once again allowed us to make use of his extensive research on past players, notably the late Percy Davis and Alan Dixon. Others who contributed to our research included Peter Bowden, the late Bill Cawley, David Frith, Mike Goulder, David Kelly, Liam Knight, Ian Lambert, the late Dr Maxwell Landau, Steven Lynch, Nigel Mannouch, Andy Nutting, Phil Paine, the late Richard Streeton and Chris Swadkin.

During the happy times I spent at the long gone Gover Cricket School in Wandsworth, I learned much about County Cricket from the great Alf himself as well as from his son John and the now sadly departed trio of Arthur Wellard, John McMahon and 'Lofty Herman'. It was thanks to the latter that, after he had been officiating at Blackheath in July 1963, I first became aware of the unique talent of Derek Underwood.

Extensive use has been made of the *Cricket Archive* website. It is impossible to remember now how we managed without it. Among printed sources, *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, the official *History of Kent County Cricket Club* from *Appendix H* onwards, the *Kent County Cricket Club Yearbook 1947-1950*, and the *Kent County Cricket Club Annual 1951* to date, not to mention the invaluable *Trials & Tribulations* already referred to above are the primary sources. The late Cyril Garnham and John Evans, formerly editors of the Kent CCC Annual were particularly helpful.

Biographies and autobiographies on and Kent cricketers will be found in the text. Among periodicals, the titles most often consulted were *The Cricketer* magazine, under its various titles, the short-lived *Wisden Cricket Monthly* and of national newspapers *The Times* and *The Daily Telegraph* and of locals, *The Kentish Gazette*.

Among Archivists/Historians who have contributed, mention must be made of those from Alleyn's School, Ayr Academy, Beckenham & Penge Grammar School, Bedford School, Blundell's School, Charterhouse, Christ's Hospital, Cranbrook School, Dartford Grammar School, Dover Grammar School, Dulwich College, Eton College, Harrow School, The Judd School, King's School, Canterbury, King's School, Rochester, Maidstone Grammar School, Marlborough College, Rugby School, Shrewsbury School, St. Edmunds's School, Canterbury, St. Lawrence College, Sevenoaks School, Simon Langton Grammar School, Sutton Valence School, Tonbridge School and Winchester College.

For biographical information, much use has been made of genealogical websites, mainly [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) and [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk).

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**John Edward Aitchison (No. 635).**

*Born:* 27.12.1928; Gillingham. *Died:* 02.04.2009, Sydenham, London.

Right-hand batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1949-1950. Second Eleven Cap 1950.

Parents: Gilbert Samuel Aitchison & Margaret Elizabeth Aitchison (née Cassell).

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	3	0	6	4	2.00	0	0	0

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	147	2	88	3	29.33	3-33		

The son of a hairdresser, John Aitchison was aged 16 in 1945 when he took 128 wickets for Bexleyheath, including 5 for 48 in 18 overs against a British Empire Eleven consisting almost entirely of county cricketers. Joining the staff in the following year, on his first appearance for the Second Eleven, v Sussex Seconds at Canterbury, he took 5 for 46 and 4 for 92, ending the season with twelve wickets at 12.80 plus another 17 in Club & Ground matches at 17.64.

Unfortunately, like most young cricketers of the time, National Service intervened. He took ten wickets in two matches for the Second Eleven in 1947 including 3 for 24 and 3 for 6 v Sussex Seconds at Hastings but, posted to the Army in Germany, what little service cricket he had was played on indifferent matting wickets. In 1948 he managed just two appearances with the Club & Ground.

It seems that he was never quite the same bowler after leaving the Army. Demobilised in 1949 he made his first-class debut when, with Doug Wright absent, he was called into the side against Glamorgan at Gravesend. Used as first change, he finished off the innings by claiming the wickets of top scorer Maurice Robinson, Len Muncer and Haydn Davies for 33 runs in 24 balls but was not picked again that season and for the Second Eleven his 24 wickets cost a disappointing 32.00. His best performance was 4 for 49 v Hampshire at Bournemouth and he batted usefully on occasions, hitting 44 v Devonshire at Broadstairs. In Club & Ground matches he was economical with 17 wickets at 20.10.

In 1951 he made two more first team appearances – against Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells and Leicestershire at Loughborough – without taking a wicket and with only eleven wickets (avge.32.40) for the Second Eleven, he was not retained at the end of the season. He headed the Club & Ground averages with 19 wickets at 11.30.

In club cricket, first back with Bexleyheath then subsequently with Harvey's Sports when working for the company, he played with considerable success with both bat and ball. As a footballer he was signed by Queens Park Rangers but never appeared in the first team. He subsequently played for Ramsgate. He retired after a highly successful management career in the metals fabrication industry.

**Terry Alderman (No.734).**

*Born:* 12.06.1956; Subiaco, Perth, Western Australia.

Right-hand batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1984-1986. Kent cap 1984.

Educated: Aquinas College, Perth & Churchlands College of Further Education.

Tests: 41 for Australia. ODIs: 65 for Australia.

*Wisden* Cricketer of the Year: 1982.

Parents: William & Jane Alderman

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	40	48	21	322	52*	11.92	0	1	38
<b>Australia</b>	41	53	22	203	26*	6.54	0	0	27
<b>Overall</b>	245	265	108	1307	52*	8.32	0	1	190

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7018	288	3607	174	20.72	8-46	15	3
<b>Australia</b>	10181	432	4616	170	27.15	6-47	14	1
<b>Overall</b>	48706	1919	22701	956	23.74	8-46	53	8

### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	23	7	5	25	11	12.50	0	0	13
<b>Australia</b>	65	18	6	32	9*	2.66	0	0	29
<b>Overall</b>	165	53	25	163	26*	5.82	0	0	67

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1212	26	812	38	21.36	5-36	1	4.01
<b>Australia</b>	3371	75	2056	88	23.36	5-17	2	3.65
<b>Overall</b>	8783	184	5346	231	23.14	5-17	4	3.65

With hindsight, the decision by the Kent management not to invite Terry Alderman back for a third season must be among the most unfortunate ever taken on the Club's behalf, fit to rank with that almost 60 years earlier not to offer a contract to the great Kent-born allrounder Arthur Wellard. Even without hindsight, many Kent *aficionados* deplored the decision at the time and saw their forebodings vindicated when, for Gloucestershire, Alderman finished the 1988 season with 75 wickets at 22.81.

With his control, relentlessly probing accuracy, ability to swing the ball and gift for hitting the seam, allied to his rare – almost unique – gift for getting close to the stumps, he has strong claims to be considered the finest pace or seam bowler ever to play for the County. Bowling wicket to wicket with a slightly disconcerting smile on his face, if the batsman missed, more often than not he found himself back in the pavilion. Although not quite in the allrounder class, Alderman was also a useful tail-end batsman and a dependable close catcher, particularly in the slips, with a catches- to-matches ratio for Kent of 0.95.

Originally trained as a teacher, Terry Alderman came to Kent a fully established Test cricketer. His father had played Australian Rules Football for Western Australia and cricket for the State colts. In the son's early years he had received much help from Western Australia coach Daryl Foster and captain John Inverarity, both of whom later contributed a great deal to Kent cricket.

Making his debut for his State in 1974/75 at the age of 18, with the likes of Dennis Lillee, Jeff Thomson, Max Walker, Rodney Hogg and Geoff Lawson ahead of him in the pecking order he had to wait for his chance in Test cricket. It came when he was a surprise, and in some ways controversial, choice for the 1981 England tour. Many in Australia would have preferred the greater pace of a slightly off – the -boil Thomson but Alderman had learned a great deal in 1980 during a season playing for Watsonians in Edinburgh and the selectors thought it likely that he would prosper in English conditions.

Originally primarily a swing bowler, he seems to have bowled a little quicker in England and found he could do more on English – as he had on Scottish – pitches by hitting the seam. 42 wickets (avge.21.26) in a six-match series was a bright spot in what was otherwise a frustrating series for Australia. Rather more than vindicating the selectors' judgement, on his Test debut, at Trent Bridge, he took 4 for 68 and 5 for 62, including the wicket of Geoffrey Boycott twice, followed by 5 for 42 at Edgbaston and 4 for 88 and 5 for 109 at Old Trafford. He dismissed Boycott six times, three caught at the wicket, two lbw, one caught second slip. Mike Gatting, he dismissed three times, Ian Botham, Graham Gooch. David Gower and Peter Willey twice each. A portent of things to come, of his 51 first-class wickets on the tour, 16 came via lbw decisions.

Apart from time lost through injuries – he dislocated a shoulder tackling an English intruder during a pitch invasion at Perth in 1982 – and a ban following a 'rebel' tour to South Africa, he remained a regular in the Test side until 1990-91.

In his first season with Kent he took a while to settle in with only four wickets in his first three matches but, despite missing two games through injury, he ended the season Kent's leading wicket-taker with 76 first-class wickets at 22.69 and another 38 (avge.21.36) in limited overs cricket. In first-class matches he claimed five wickets in an innings six times, nine in a match twice.

In 1986, his second year, he missed the first two games of the season and three others through injury but headed the Kent averages with 98 wickets, all in Championship matches, at 19.20. Given a full season, there can be no doubt that he would have gone well beyond the hundred. With Graham Dilley, Richard Ellison, Kevin Jarvis, Chris Penn, Eldine Baptiste and Alan Igglesden to call on, Kent had, on paper at least, as potent a seam attack as any in the country.

Alderman could hardly have done more. Eight times he claimed five or more wickets in an innings, three times ten in a match – 6 for 49 and 4 for 86 at Gloucester, 8 for 46 and 3 for 84 at Derby, 8 for 70 and 6 for 74 against Leicestershire in the opening match of Canterbury Week. In the latter match he took 4 for 13 in his first six overs in the first innings and 3 for 5 in 15 balls in the second. There was a pulsating finish. Chasing 218, at tea on the final day Leicestershire needed ten runs with two wickets in hand. On the resumption Les Taylor was caught by Alderman at slip off Graham Dilley with the score 209 and, three runs later, George Ferris was lbw bowled Alderman, his seventh lbw of the match, one of his 29 lbw victims that season.

His final appearance for Kent, against Essex at Folkestone was an anti-climax. In the previous fixture at Trent Bridge, he had commenced with 4 for 9 and ended with 5 for 84, the five being the complete Notts top order. Against Essex he bowled nine overs without taking a wicket and was unable to bowl in the second innings.

Some of Terry Alderman's greatest triumphs were still ahead of him. Touring England again in 1989 he took 41 Test wickets (avge.17.36), 19 of them lbw, and by common consent was the major factor in his side's victory in the series. He continued to trouble England in 1990-91, taking 6 for 47 when Australia won at Brisbane and carried on playing for Western Australia until the 1992-93 season, an unusually long career by Australian standards.

Taking his career as a whole, 15.69% of Terry Alderman's victims were bowled, 35.56% caught by a fielder other than the nominated wicketkeeper, 21.86% caught at the wicket, 25.62% lbw and 2% caught and bowled. Compared with some other pace bowlers of broadly similar ranking the percentage of lbws is exceptionally high – Sir Richard Hadlee 17.78%, Ray Lindwall 17.00, Glenn McGrath 19.88, Brian Statham 16.63.

Alderman undoubtedly flourished on English pitches where the lbw decisions rose to a remarkable 31.62%. The figure in England for his great contemporary Sir Richard Hadlee is 13.77 and Glenn

McGrath 13.19, modern technology notwithstanding. Oddly enough, on Australian wickets McGrath has a marginally better record, 21.89 to 21.22.

So successful was Alderman in England in 1989 that in his account of the Australian tour in the 1990 *Wisden* the late John Thicknesse was moved to pen a lengthy polemic in which he made the extraordinary suggestion that English umpires 'to consolidate their reputation for impartiality have tended to favour the opposition, subconsciously or otherwise'

*'Because he tends to deliver the ball over the leg stump at his end and homes relentlessly in on the stumps' 'a straight ball from him flies straight down the middle of the pitch'. 'it was axiomatic Alderman would hit the pads more often and gain more lbws. There were times as the series wore on, however, when the response to an Alderman appeal appeared to be almost automatic'.*

It all sounds rather unlikely. From admittedly fairly limited opportunities for personal observation, if anything Alderman seemed to get rather fewer favourable decisions than he deserved. He gained 113 in first-class matches on English soil. It would be difficult, probably impossible, to ascertain which umpires were involved but a total of 32 stood in matches in which he gained an lbw decision, made up of 27 English, one Australian, one Bajan, one Guyanese, one Welshman and one English-born but brought up in the Principality. Barry Dudleston and John Holder stood in eight matches, Ken Palmer seven, Harold Bird, Barrie Meyer, Don Oslear and David Shepherd six each, a fair mix of batsman-friendly and bowler-friendly and including a few pretty strong characters unlikely to be worried over much about 'consolidating their reputations'.

Alderman clearly relished bowling at English batsmen and not only on English soil. David Gower heads the list of batsmen dismissed, 11 times in first-class matches, five in List A fixtures, with 3 lbws, two ducks and eight other single-figure scores. Graham Gooch comes second with 11 first-class and three List A dismissals, 6 lbws, two ducks and four other single-figure scores. These two are followed by (in first-class matches only) -:10: A.M.J.Hilditch, 9: D.W.Hookes, 8: I.T.Botham, G.F.Lawson, 7: K.J.Barnett, G.A.Bishop, J.Dyson, 6: G.Boycott, J.E.Emburey, B.Roberts (Derbyshire), R.A.Smith.

In his playing days Alderman worked as Business Development Officer with the Town & Country (WA) Building Society. He was briefly coach to Western Australia before going on to a successful career as a radio commentator. He played Australian Rules football as an amateur until 1978. His sister Denise played cricket for Australia Women.

#### *Further reading:*

Robertson, David, Milton Howard & Carlaw, Derek *Kent County Cricket Club, 100 Greats*. Tempus Publishing Ltd., 2005.

#### **James Moffatt Allan (No. 664).**

*Born:* 02. 04.1932; Leeds, Yorkshire. *Died:* 15.04.2005; Caithness General Hospital, Wick, Caithness, Scotland.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1954-1957. Cap 1955.

Educated: Edinburgh Academy & Worcester College, Oxford.

Parents: Walter & Elizabeth Allan.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	40	67	4	1329	121*	21.09	3	5	27
<b>Overall</b>	179	268	45	4988	153	22.36	5	26	125

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	5326	302	2116	88	24.04	5-31	3	0
<b>Overall</b>	28356	1547	11179	435	25.69	7-54	18	2

Jimmy Allan was probably the best allrounder Scotland has produced, at least at that stage. An aggressive batsman, strong square of the wicket and a left arm-spinner with the virtues of deceptive flight, change of pace and the ability to bowl tight for long periods, he is nevertheless something of a forgotten man among Kent allrounders. In 1955, not a vintage period in the history of Kent CCC, he came within five wickets of achieving the double in all first-class matches.

One of the few Kent cricketers born in Yorkshire, his parents were both Scottish by birth. The son of a doctor, like his three brothers, he was educated at Edinburgh Academy where he topped the bowling averages in 1947 and both batting and bowling in the two subsequent seasons. Captain in his final year, his team went through the season unbeaten and he was picked for the Rest v Southern Schools at Lord's where he shared a century opening partnership with Colin Smith (subsequently Cambridge University, Lancashire and the Gentlemen).

After National Service spent mainly in Germany, he went up to Oxford in 1953 to read Classics. He was not selected for the first two matches but his debut against Yorkshire in the Parks was little short of sensational. Coming on as second change, he began with seven overs, seven maidens and the wicket of Vic Wilson. Five of the maidens were bowled to Len Hutton. There was no further play due to rain and in his next match, against the Australians, he began with a maiden in which he bowled Keith Miller and had Ian Craig stumped – three highly prized wickets without conceding a run. It was not until his fourth over of the day, his eleventh in first-class cricket, that a run came from his bowling.

He ended the season second in the Oxford bowling averages and leading wicket-taker with 38 at 21.73. As a batsman, he was No.11 in his debut match but had worked his way up to opener by the time the team went on tour. In the second innings against Worcestershire at New Road he contributed 40 to an opening partnership of 95 with Henry Birrell (134). This proved to be his highest of the season and he reverted to the middle order for the University match at Lord's.

In 1954, under the captaincy of Colin Cowdrey, he commenced the season batting just above the extras but, sent in as night watchman against Hampshire in the Parks, he hit his maiden century – 118 with 80 runs in boundaries. Restored as opener, he followed up with 153 against Sussex and in the all-important meeting with Cambridge at Lord's he hit 86 in an opening partnership of 145 with Mike Smith (201). Although his 36 wickets were expensive at 34.25, he was again the team's leading wicket-taker.

On Cowdrey's recommendation he was invited to play for Kent, making his debut v Surrey at Blackheath where he scored 40 against Laker and Lock. In eight appearances he scored 309 runs (avge.23.76) and claimed 12 wickets (avge.27.08). In Ray Dovey's benefit match against Hampshire in Canterbury Week he shared opening partnerships with Arthur Phebey of 120 (Phebey 57, Allan 64) and 92 (Phebey 53, Allan 48). He also made his first-class debut for Scotland (v Warwickshire) and ended 1954 with a record of 1,068 runs (avge.29.66) in all first-class matches with 55 wickets at 31.92.

He reached his peak as a cricketer in 1955. For Oxford he led the bowling averages with 46 wickets at 25.50 and scored 653 runs (avge.25.11) despite a top score of only 69. For Kent, he was capped and scored 665 runs at 33.25, placing him second to Cowdrey in the batting averages, while his 40 wickets were taken at an economical 20.15. His three centuries included two in a match – 121\* and 105 at Northampton.

Before he hit his three centuries, he had already made arguably his greatest contribution to Kent when, lacking Cowdrey, Godfrey Evans and Fred Ridgway, Kent met Surrey at the Oval. In the previous week Surrey, then in the middle of their run of seven successive Championships, had brushed Kent aside by an innings in two days at Blackheath. Unbeaten at The Oval, Surrey when faced with a modest Kent

total of 181, lost six wickets for nine runs shortly before lunch to give Kent an unexpected lead of 35. Allan, who opened the bowling in the absence of a second seamer, took 4 for 49; Wright (5 for 45 and a run out) accounted for the rest. Kent were 91 for five when rain ended play on the second day. Next morning their batting folded against Laker and Eric Bedser on a drying wicket, leaving Surrey with plenty of time to score 152. Cruising to victory at 123 for 4, their progress was abruptly halted when Allan had Ron Pratt caught at slip by Arthur Fagg and the remaining six wickets fell for fifteen runs in twenty deliveries – Allan 5 for 60 (9 for 109 in the match), Wright 4 for 45, Phillips 1 for 3.

In all matches he scored 1,369 runs (avge.27.93), took 95 wickets (avge.22.60), including 6 for 17 for Scotland v Ireland in Dublin, and held 31 catches. He was invited to tour Pakistan with MCC 'A' side in the 1955/56 winter (the infamous 'umpire ducking tour') but Oxford commitments prevented him from accepting and Tony Lock went in his place.

In 1956 he again headed the Oxford University bowling averages with 31 wickets at 22.67 and scored useful runs but finished his university career with the unwelcome distinction of having played in four matches against Cambridge without ever having been on the winning side. For Kent he had a disappointing season with the bat, only once passing fifty and being ten times dismissed for single figures, but he headed the Kent bowling averages with 26 wickets at 20.50 which included 5 for 31 v Essex at Clacton and 5 for 45 v Sussex at Hastings.

He was chosen for Gentlemen v Players and for the Gentlemen of England v the Australians. Although he had taken his degree and was free of university commitments, his final year with Kent saw a complete loss of form. In his seven matches he took only eight expensive wickets and with the bat he only once reached double figures. His last appearances were in Tunbridge Wells Week. It was not a happy farewell with scores of 0, 0, 0 and five and bowling figures of 0 for 13 and 1 for 30. To cap it, a disagreement with Les Ames over late arrival precipitated the end of his career with the County although Allan himself was not really at fault.

After finishing with Kent, he returned to Scotland, working as an investment analyst on the Edinburgh Stock Exchange. Most of his cricket was for Edinburgh Academicals and he made 60 appearances for Scotland, 39 of them first-class. Against the New Zealanders in 1965 he was 99\* when he ran out of partners. His career best figures were for Scotland v Pakistan at Philiphaugh in 1971 – 7 for 54, 11 for 123 in the match. In all first-class matches for Scotland, he scored 1,140 (avge.24.25) runs and took 131 wickets (avge.20.71). He also played for Ayr CC in the Western Union Championships, East of Scotland, and Scottish Wayfarers as well as, in later life, Forty Club of Scotland and International Cavaliers. His last match of importance was a two-day (non-first-class) match for Scotland against the Australians at Perth in 1972.

Returning somewhat unexpectedly to English county cricket in 1966, he played 48 times for Warwickshire between 1966 and 1968, scoring 744 runs (avge.18.14) and claiming 58 wickets (avge.39.20).

For five years from 1983 he and his wife Nannie (née Munro) ran the *Farr Bay Inn* in Bettyhill, Sutherland, his wife's birthplace. Despite some early local opposition – the building was previously a Church of Scotland Manse – the venture was highly successful. A man of considerable charm, he had a wide range of accomplishments. Among the latter was the ability to play the bagpipes, learned originally at Edinburgh Academy where, like all three of his brothers, he was Pipe Major. With his wife he helped to set up the Bettyhill Pipe Band and, as well as playing in the band, he also performed at weddings, funerals, ceilidhs and at the annual Remembrance Day service. His other interests included beekeeping and archaeology which he studied under Aberdeen University's Outreach Programme. In 2011 he was of the original twelve inductees into the Scottish Cricket Hall of Fame.

**Hartley Leroy Alleyne (No. 745).**

*Born:* 28. 02. 1957; Barbados.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1988-1989.

Parents: Euclid Clevis & Hyacinth Cordelia Alleyne.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9	15	4	72	28	6.54	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	85	96	25	709	72	9.98	0	1	17

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1273	29	756	21	36.00	5-54	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	13278	400	7028	254	27.66	8-43	9	2

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	16	7	3	41	25	10.25	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	103	48	16	306	32	9.56	0	0	11

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	711	6	541	22	24.59	3-23	0	4.56
<b>Overall</b>	5094	74	3285	147	22.34	4-24	0	3.86

There can be little doubt that Kent did not see the best of Hartley Alleyne. Several good judges – not least some prominent opening batsmen - thought him as fast as anyone on his day. Sir Vivian Richards considered him to be of genuine Test match quality. It was largely on the recommendation of the other great Richards, Barry, that Alleyne came to Kent but thanks to a combination of injury and a curious, not wholly logical, selection policy, he was restricted to a handful of first-class matches.

Alleyne came into the game at a time when West Indies had rather more pace bowlers than could be fitted into one team, or even two. When he made his first-class debut for Barbados v Combined Islands at St John's, Antigua in 1978/79 Alleyne was first change after the late Sylvester Clarke and the late Malcolm Marshall. Later in the season Wayne Daniel and Joel Garner, back from Kerry Packer's World Series would re-join the side. Elsewhere in the West Indies or playing for Packer were Michael Holding, Patrick Patterson, Andy Roberts, Colin Croft, Vanburn Holder, Ezra Moseley, Grayson Shillingford and several others, not to mention all-rounders such as Collis King, Bernard Julien, Franklyn Stephenson, Norbert Phillip and Eldine Baptiste.

When he joined Kent in 1988 Alleyne was a much-travelled cricketer. As well as for Barbados, he had played for Young West Indies both at home and on tour in Zimbabwe. He had experienced three seasons of county cricket with Worcestershire (1980-1982) where, capped in 1980, he took 119 first-class wickets plus another 46 in limited overs cricket and topped the averages in his first two seasons. In 1982/83 he declined an invitation to join Laurence Rowe's first 'rebel' team in South Africa but, following approaches, which were more like something out of John Le Carré, and after much soul searching, he joined the second tour in 1983/1984.

Part of a pace battery which also included Clarke, Stephenson and Moseley, despite some accusations of a doubtful action, previously unheard of and never heard of since, he finished top of the bowling averages and subsequently had three seasons with Natal where he gained five 'Man of the Match' awards in one-day competitions. He had also appeared for both Lincolnshire and Buckinghamshire,



played Grade cricket in Australia with St Kilda and played for, East Lancashire, Haslingden and Rishton in the Lancashire League.

When Terry Alderman was not offered a third season the general understanding among the Kentish faithful was, rightly or wrongly, that he would be replaced by an out and out fast bowler and it was assumed Hartley Alleyne was the man. The other overseas signing, South African all-rounder Roy Pienaar was as a direct replacement for Baptiste although, in the event, Pienaar proved to be batsman/bowler rather than the other way round. Alleyne started badly with a match return of 1 for 120 at Chelmsford but did better against Hampshire at Canterbury with the wickets of Paul Terry (twice), Chris Smith and Mark Nicholas at a cost of 86 runs. At Leicester in the home team's only innings, he took 5 for 54, including the redoubtable Peter Willey lbw for four, but a heel injury in a Benson & Hedges match resulted in loss of his place to Pienaar. At the time only one overseas player was allowed in a team and when Alleyne regained fitness, the need for a fast bowler presumably forgotten, Pienaar's batting and gentle medium pace gained preference. His only subsequent first-class match was against the West Indian tourists where he had the satisfaction of claiming the wicket of his former teammate Desmond Haynes. His 28 wickets for the Second Eleven included 6 for 58 against Sussex.

In 1989, his second and last season, once again Roy Pienaar was generally the man picked even though, owing to an operation following a knee injury, he bowled only eleven overs. Alleyne was limited to five first-class matches in which he claimed nine expensive wickets. His best effort, 4 for 92 at Southend, included the wickets of Graham Gooch and Nasser Hussain. In one-day cricket, he began well with 3 for 23 and the Gold Award at Cardiff but in the end made only nine appearances out of a possible 24, finishing second in the averages with nine wickets at 20.15. He was also second in the Second Eleven averages with 23 wickets at 16.52. He was not re-engaged at the end of the season.

After leaving Kent he returned to Lancashire League Cricket with Colne, Lowerhouse and Todmorden, and had one more season with Natal. He also played club cricket in South Africa and from 1995 to 1997 for Oxtown in the Liverpool & District Premiership Competition. In 1988-1989 he appeared in four matches for Sir JP Getty's Eleven. In recent years he has made a substantial contribution to cricket in the wider sense as a much-liked coach at Birkenhead School and St Edmund's School, Canterbury.

*Further reading.*

Gray, Ashley. *The Unforgiven. Mercenaries or Missionaries*. Pitch Publishing Ltd.2020.

### **Geoffrey Frank Anson MC (No. 628).**

*Born:* 08.10.1922; Sevenoaks. *Died:* 04.12.1977; Ticehurst, East Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1947.

Educated: Harrow School & Caius College Cambridge.

Parents: Lt.Col. Frank Wemyss Anson OBE & Maud Eleanor Anson (née Bolton)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7	13	0	231	51	17.76	0	1	5
<b>Overall</b>	10	18	0	460	106	25.55	1	2	6

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

A batsman who might have achieved more in the game had not the Second World War taken a sizeable chunk out of his youth and the Colonial Service not been higher in his list of priorities, Geoffrey Anson attracted attention by scoring 76 in 100 minutes for Harrow against Eton at Lord's in 1939. Hitting 10 fours, he added 117 in an hour with Edward Crutchley (115) for the fifth- wicket, a display of aggressive

batting that contributed much to Harrow's eight-wicket victory. *Wisden* thought he hit the ball 'exceptionally hard for his age'. He played only occasionally in 1940 but in 1941 he captained Harrow for most of the season and headed the averages with 379 runs at 47.37. In August he was chosen for South Public Schools v North Public Schools at Lord's.

The son of an Indian Army officer who also served in the Indian Political Service, Geoffrey Anson enlisted as a private in the Queen's Royal Regiment (West Surrey) in 1941 but he had already been accepted for Cambridge and was allowed to take his place at university in 1942. Beginning with a century in the Trial Match, he topped the University averages with 530 runs (avge.75.71) including centuries against Public School Wanderers and a London Colleges Eleven and 85 against Oxford University at Lord's.

In the following year he was posted to the Royal Armoured Corps Officer Cadet Training Unit at Sandhurst and in April 1943 was commissioned into the Coldstream Guards. In July 1943 he joined the Fourth (Armoured) Battalion Coldstream Guards, a unit of 6 Guards Tank Brigade, a formation trained and equipped for the infantry support role. Landing in Normandy in August 1944, the Brigade fought in the break-out from the bridgehead and in the approach to the German border.

In February 1945, during the operations to clear the left bank of the Rhine, Anson, by now a Lieutenant and a troop commander, was awarded the Military Cross. While supporting infantry of the 15th Scottish Division in the attack on Frasselt, the leading Churchill tank commanded by the troop Sergeant ran into a minefield. Dismounting from his own Churchill, Anson organised a mine clearance party from among the infantry and tank crews, cleared a path through the minefield and continued with the remainder of his troop to support the infantry on to the objective. Once into Frasselt, he forestalled an imminent counterattack by directing supporting fire from artillery and Crocodile flame thrower tanks. In the words of the citation 'it was undoubtedly due to his drive and determination in the face of great difficulty and danger that the objective was taken.' The MC was presented personally by Field Marshal Montgomery.

After the defeat of Germany, Anson assumed staff duties and served briefly with the Allied Military Government in the Rhineland. He arrived back in the UK in September 1946.

Returning to Cambridge in 1947, Anson hit 106 v Middlesex and 55 v Yorkshire, both at Fenner's but after four matches (one non-first-class) he left Cambridge to join the Colonial Office. While waiting to take up an appointment he played for Kent, making his debut against Sussex in Tunbridge Wells Week and playing a number of useful innings including 51 v Middlesex at Lord's and 44 v Leicestershire at Dover when he added 79 for the fifth-wicket with Jack Davies (84\*). After 1947, his career in the Colonial Service, most of it served in Nigeria, precluded further first-class cricket.

Back in England and living in Birchington, he made a number of appearances for the Second Eleven between 1958 and 1960 and in 1959 played a complete season as Second Eleven captain. Although a well-liked leader, he had a penchant for turning up late, leaving someone else – usually Derek Ufton – to toss up. As a batsman he was unable to recapture the form of his younger days. In 28 innings, his highest score was 40. While at Harrow he played for the BaBees, the BB junior section, and made his last appearance for Band of Brothers as late as 1967.

Death was from a cerebral haemorrhage.

### **Asif Iqbal Razvi (No. 703).**

*Born:* 06.06.1943, Hyderabad, Telengana State, India,  
Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.  
*Educated:* Aliya School & Nizam College, Hyderabad.  
*Kent* 1968-1982. County cap. 1968.  
*Kent Captain:* 1977, 1981-1982.  
*Tests:* 58 for Pakistan. *ODIs:* 10 for Pakistan.  
*Wisden Cricketer of the Year.* 1968.

Parents: Majeed Razvi & Iqbal Begum.

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	243	399	42	13231	171	37.06	26	69	168
<b>Pakistan</b>	58	99	7	3575	175	38.85	11	12	36
<b>Overall</b>	440	701	75	23329	196	37.26	45	118	301

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4077	149	2096	73	28.71	4-11	0	0
<b>Pakistan</b>	3864	181	1502	53	28.33	5-48	2	0
<b>Overall</b>	18899	768	8819	291	30.30	6-45	5	0

### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	241	229	28	5554	106	27.63	3	27	91
<b>Pakistan</b>	10	8	2	330	62	55.00	0	5	7
<b>Overall</b>	259	244	30	5989	106	27.98	3	33	101

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4199	77	2728	106	25.73	5-42	1	3.89
<b>Pakistan</b>	592	7	378	16	23.62	4-56	0	3.83
<b>Overall</b>	5017	84	3272	126	25.96	5-42	1	3.91

Few players gave more pleasure to followers of Kent cricket than Asif Iqbal. His batting was described in *Wisden*. by the late Alex Bannister as ‘an amalgam of pure batting genius and joyous cheek’ Always aiming to dominate, he was exceptionally quick on his feet, drove superbly on both sides of the wicket and blessed with strong wrists, he was arguably the best of his generation as an exponent of the back and late cuts. An excellent timer of the ball and a supreme improviser, at his best, which in England generally meant when the sun was shining, he was almost impossible to keep quiet.

Slimly built and slightly bow legged, his characteristic loose pads could, when accompanied on cold days by several layers of sweaters, give him a slightly comic appearance but between the wickets he has probably never been excelled, either in speed or the ability to judge a run. To see him in partnership with other like-minded runners such as Alan Knott, Alan Ealham or Chris Tavaré was to see running between wickets raised to a level seldom if ever equalled and never bettered.

Bowling medium-pace and swinging the ball both ways off a short run, he first came into international cricket as a bowling allrounder but recurrent back trouble – particularly troublesome in the English climate – restricted him although he remained a useful partnership breaker and sometimes much more than that, especially in one-day cricket. Finally, he was a superb fielder in almost any position. With an affable disposition to add to his allround cricketing ability, he possessed a rare gift for conveying his enjoyment to spectators.

Asif’s father, Majid Razvi, who played for Hyderabad, died when his son was six months old but his cricket developed under the guidance of his four uncles, especially one of them, the distinguished Indian off spinner Ghulam Ahmed. The young Asif played for Hyderabad in the Ranji Trophy in 1959/60 and 1960/61. In 1961, shortly before migrating to Pakistan, he played under the name AI Ritzvi for South Zone against the Pakistani touring team. In Pakistan he appeared for Karachi, Pakistan International

Airways and National Bank and registered a pair for a Governor's Eleven against the MCC tourists on a sub-standard pitch at Lyallpur. He received his first Test cap against Australia at Karachi 1964/65 and made his first appearance on a Kent ground in 1963 at Hesketh Park, Dartford when, playing for Pakistan Eaglets, he scored 74\*, added 122 in an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership with Majid Khan and took 4 for 21 in Kent's second innings.

He attracted wider attention in 1967 when batting No.9 for Pakistan at Lord's. Joining Hanif Mohammad with the score 139 for 7 he hit 76 in a partnership of 130. In the Oval Test later that year he arrived at the wicket, again at No. 9, with Pakistan in their second innings 53 for 7, still 167 in arrears. Raging inwardly at talk of staging an exhibition match, Asif hit 146 in three hours ten minutes, with two sixes and 21 fours, adding 190 for the ninth-wicket with Intikhab Alam. It did not save Pakistan from defeat, but all talk of exhibition matches was silenced and when England batted needing only 32, he struck again, claiming the wickets of Colin Cowdrey and Brian Close at a personal cost of 14 runs.

When the England Under-25 team toured Pakistan under the management of Les Ames earlier in 1967, Asif had captained the Pakistan Under-25 team and during the tour he struck up friendships with Ames, Derek Underwood and Alan Knott. After the Oval Test match, Cowdrey raised the possibility of Asif joining the County. No formal approach had been made but Kent was Asif's preferred choice and when other counties, including Middlesex and Warwickshire, put out feelers a letter to Les Ames produced a contract in the next post.

In the wet and dismal summer of 1968 Asif took time to settle but marked his first season with 1,286 runs (avge.28.74). His top score was 86 but there were eight other scores over 50 and he was four times dismissed in the 40s. Back trouble, exacerbated by the weather, restricted him to 49 overs but he took 4 for 11 on his debut against Lancashire at Canterbury.

A pulled groin muscle kept him out of the last six matches in 1969 but he averaged 35.22, missed his 1,000 runs by only 49 and hit three centuries. His maiden hundred in county cricket, v Middlesex at St Lawrence, came in 160 minutes with 1 six and 12 fours, swinging the game in Kent's favour. 159 at Northampton was equally aggressive but possibly his finest performance came in an otherwise disappointing Canterbury Week. On a sub-standard pitch and due, it was said, to the ball not coming on to the bat, the scoring rate throughout the Week had rarely crept above 2.5 an over. On the final day Asif showed what could be done given the will, rewarding the faithful with 86 out of 92 in 51 minutes, all by authentic cricket strokes and without recourse to crude sloggng. He was quicker than most in adapting to the needs of the 40 over John Player League in its inaugural season.

Kent's memorable Championship season in 1970 proved to be Asif's best for the County with 1,379 runs (avge.39.40), three centuries and five half-centuries. His talent for quick runs was particularly important in the latter half of the season when in pursuit of crucial batting points. At Maidstone against Derbyshire, he hit 93 in 105 minutes and with Colin Cowdrey, scored 157 from 32 overs. On a badly worn pitch at Cheltenham, he set Kent on the road to an unlikely one wicket victory with a third-wicket partnership of 105 in 95 minutes with Mike Denness, his 109 containing 1 six and 13 fours. At Blackheath against Surrey, he not only hit 106\* in two hours. Running at full speed around the boundary, he caught Pat Pocock one-handed high up off the fifth ball of the penultimate over for a twelve-run victory.

With the positive outlook, which characterised his cricket, Asif was always confident that Kent would win the title. During the closing stages of the season when Kent were in winning vein but the issue was still in doubt, Cowdrey voiced the thought that it was a pity the season could not be extended to give more time for picking up points. Asif told him 'But I have already told Mike Denness we shall win it in our last match at the Oval.' He was right. By the time they arrived in Kennington, an eight-point draw was enough to clinch the title.

Asif spent the first half of the 1971 season touring with Pakistan as vice-captain to Intikhab, hitting a typical century in a flurry of strokes when the England bowling was massacred at Edgbaston. He also

took 50 off the Kent bowlers at Gravesend. Back with the County, his season was restricted to nine matches, but he scarcely ever failed with 585 runs at 48.75 and centuries against Middlesex and Worcestershire.

The highlight of his season for Kent however was his 89 against Lancashire in the Gillette Cup Final at Lord's. Scored out of 141, his innings almost snatched victory from Lancashire's grasp until, with 28 runs required at a run a ball, the not notably athletic Jackie Bond leapt high to his right to catch him at full stretch at extra cover. Asif was deservedly Man of the Match.

Although reduced by illness to 15 matches, he averaged over 40 again in 1972. His only century, 106 against Worcestershire at New Road, was scored in 105 minutes but his best effort was reserved for the final home game of the season v Hampshire at Folkestone when Kent were set 337 on a badly worn wicket. Joining Denness with the score 157 for 4, 173 runs came in 102 minutes and Kent were home with 70 minutes to spare, Asif 97\*. He contributed several important innings to Kent's first John Player League title, notably a spectacular 67\* out of 122 when Northamptonshire were beaten at Wantage Road.

The Kent Annual Report for 1973 described Asif as 'one of the most exciting cricketers of the age'. His 1,000 runs included four centuries and two nineties. Against this, he was 14 times dismissed before he had reached double figures, four times without scoring. Among his centuries were 120 v Hampshire at Southampton, 101 of them before lunch, and 103\* in 72 minutes v MCC at Canterbury which brought him the Lawrence Trophy for the fastest century of the season. In the shorter game his 59 and 4 for 43 in the Benson & Hedges Final at Lord's gained him the Gold Award.

After playing only four first-class games in 1974 due to Test commitments with Pakistan, he was at his best in 1975, topping the averages with 1,262 runs at 48.53. despite losing six games to the Prudential Cup in which he led his country. Hitting four hundreds, he put on 209 for the second-wicket v Surrey at Folkestone, (Luckhurst 91, Asif 121) and 222 in 165 minutes for the third-wicket v Sussex at Hove (Asif 140, Woolmer 97).

1976 was a disappointing first-class season. Missing seven games through injury and illness, he averaged a modest 27.00 and only once reached three figures. In limited overs competitions it was a different story with two centuries and one half-century when Kent won the John Player League and several valuable innings when Kent gained their second trophy of the season, the Benson & Hedges Cup. In the final against Worcestershire at Lord's he hit 48\* - relatively sedately by his usual standards - taking the score from 155 for 2 to what proved a match winning 236 for 7.

On the controversial departure of Denness, Asif was appointed captain in 1977. With Colin Cowdrey and Brian Luckhurst retired, Denness migrated to Essex and Knott, Underwood and Woolmer often absent playing for England, the Kent side needed restructuring. Considered by many the shrewdest Kent captain of the post-war era, Asif frequently led a team containing several young, relatively untried cricketers. Nor did it help that in a rainy spell in August, only six points accrued from three games. Displaying rare leadership qualities, a talent for getting optimum performance from the players available and a shrewd eye for opponents' weaknesses, Asif overcame all difficulties and led Kent to their sixth Championship, albeit one shared with Middlesex. They also reached the final of the Benson & Hedges Cup.

The destination of the Championship was in doubt until the last day of the season when Kent won at Edgbaston and the fact that the title was shared rankled with the Kent faithful at the time and still does with some. Commencing 24th August Middlesex had been due to play Somerset at Lord's but were allowed to re-arrange the fixture to accommodate a rained -postponed Gillette Cup Semi Final. On the original date, Kent's match at Colchester had been rained off without a ball bowled and no play would have been possible at Lord's, certainly on the first two days.

As it turned out, Middlesex gained seven bonus points from their rearranged match, played not at Lord's but at Chelmsford. Without the postponement Kent would almost certainly have been sole Champions. The fact that Middlesex had beaten Kent by two wickets off the penultimate ball in the first round of the Gillette and went on to win it, did not make the pill any easier to swallow. Kent's record was won nine lost two; Middlesex won nine, lost five including a 238-run thrashing at Dartford.

The captain averaged 39.48 and reached 1,000 runs for the fifth time as well as over 600 in limited overs competitions. Although there was only one first-class century, there were seven other scores between 52\* and 90. When Leicestershire were beaten by an innings at Mote Park, Asif and Knott added 193 for the fifth-wicket in 130 minutes (Asif 116, Knott 109), a partnership considered by at least one good judge the finest display of running between the wickets ever witnessed.

Asif was deprived of the captaincy in 1978 by the Kent committee due to his involvement with Kerry Packer's World Series cricket. This was against the recommendation of the cricket committee and somewhat unfairly as he had announced his decision to retire from Test cricket – albeit a decision subsequently rescinded. Thanks largely to the influence of Leslie Ames and pressure from the new captain Alan Ealham, the original committee decision not to offer new contracts to the Packer players was reversed. Nevertheless, the new season started in a strained atmosphere.

The deposed skipper remained a vital component of the team which again finished Champions, this time without having to share the title, as well as again winning the Benson & Hedges Cup. Although he headed the averages with 934 runs (avge.49.15), Asif had a curious season. Missing four games through injury and often not fully fit, he did not hit a first-class half-century until July. There followed a purple patch in August with three centuries, among them his career best 171 v Gloucestershire at Folkestone, an innings notable for several straight drives over the heads of the Gloucestershire opening bowlers Mike Procter and Brian Brain. The runs came in 195 minutes with 3 sixes and 22 fours. In the shorter game, he hit four half-centuries in the Benson & Hedges, two 40s in the Gillette Cup.

For Asif the next two seasons were distinctly low key so far as county cricket was concerned. He himself was quoted as feeling that something had gone from his game when he gave up Test cricket. In 1979 the World Cup restricted him to ten county matches but at Cardiff he played one of the finest innings of his career. On a drying wicket on which Glamorgan collapsed in their second innings for 46 (Underwood 5 for 14) and only two other Kent batsmen exceeded 20, he hit 152 in 180 minutes. Oddly enough, in all cricket he registered only one other score over 50 that season. Kent were rebuilding and in 1980 he was frequently out of the side to make room for younger players. He played only nine first-class games and, apart from 57 at Trent Bridge in the John Player League, he did not score fifty in any competition. It was consequently a surprise to many when he was recalled as captain in 1981.

In what proved to be his last full season, Asif did much to revive a side which had just experienced one of its worst recent seasons. Even if it won no trophies, the team rose from 16th to ninth in the Championship table and reached the Semi-Finals of the Benson & Hedges Cup. Although in his own estimation lacking motivation, he took his full share in the difficult task of easing new players into the ranks of an ageing eleven. Personally, he had one of his most consistent seasons, for the sixth and last time exceeding 1,000 runs –1,252 at 44.71- with two centuries and nine half-centuries including 93, 88 and 81\*. He was less successful in one-day matches with a top score of 45\*in all limited-overs competitions.

Granted a benefit, it was entirely by the beneficiary's own choice that only minimal fund-raising functions were staged but the sum raised was still an impressive £67,334.

He was re-appointed captain for 1982 despite having made it clear that it would be his last season. In the event he led the side in only 11 Championship and 17 limited overs matches. Particularly in Championship cricket, the Club took the opportunity to blood what they saw as the two main captaincy contenders, Chris Tavaré and Chris Cowdrey, as well as giving more opportunities to the highly promising Eldine Baptiste. Under a new ruling, only one overseas player was now allowed in the side.

Limited chances notwithstanding, Asif scored 558 runs (ave.37.20) with one century and four half-centuries. Against Warwickshire at Dartford, he hit 55 out of 79 in 76 minutes and 115\*, his final century, in a typical 112 minutes, enabling him to set the visitors up a run chase which saw their last pair struggle through the last over, 16 short of their target. Without a settled side, Kent slipped to 13th in the Championship but did rather better in the shorter game with fourth place in the John Player League.

His final game for Kent, v Middlesex at Lord's, was also his final appearance in first-class cricket. It was an anti-climax. In a drawn game he batted only once - c Cowans b Daniel five - but he had the satisfaction of leading Kent to a one-run victory on the Sunday.

Asif scored 1,000 runs against four of the then 17 first-class counties, Surrey 1,520 runs (avge.40.00), Middlesex 1,371 (38.08), Hampshire 1,277 (30.40) and Sussex 1,072 (38.28). Only against Nottinghamshire and, of course Kent, did he fail to reach 500. He scored a century against every county but Derbyshire, Essex, Kent, Somerset and Yorkshire, four against Surrey, three each against Leicestershire and Warwickshire, two against Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Middlesex and Worcestershire.

When he first settled in Pakistan, Asif worked in the offices of the family engineering company but, like most who have accepted the poisoned chalice of the Pakistan captaincy and entered the labyrinthine political world of Pakistan cricket, since retirement his life has not been free of controversy. Nevertheless, he has continued his involvement with cricket. He was a match referee and ambassador for the ICC, served as Director of Cricket in Qatar where he played a major role in establishing the Gulf State as a major cricket venue. He also worked as Sports Coordinator with ARV in London.

He married his wife Farhana in March 1968. There are two sons.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis Clive & Pennell Mark *Trophies and Tribulations*. Greenwich Publishing, 2010.

Robertson, David, Milton, Howard & Carlaw, Derek *Kent County Cricket Club, 100 Greats*. Tempus Publishing Ltd., 2005.

#### **Derek George Aslett (No. 729).**

*Born:* 12.02.1958; Dover.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin bowler.

Kent 1981-1987. Kent Cap 1983.

Educated: Dover Grammar School & Leicester University.

Parents: Derek Aslett & Jean Aslett (née Hedgecock)

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	119	199	20	6128	221*	34.23	12	26	82

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1597	28	1253	17	73.70	4-119		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	95	87	8	2161	122*	27.35	2	9	24

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
Kent	5	0	0	1	0.00	1-0	0	0.00

Derek Aslett is one of the enigmas of Kent cricket. With a century on debut, a hundred in each innings and a double hundred, all in his first four seasons, few in the entire history of the Club have made a better start but he failed to go on to achieve the long career for which he seemed so clearly destined.

Encouraged by his father George who had played for Dover, he made his Second Eleven debut v Essex at Chelmsford in 1976 while at Leicester University. In the side primarily as a leg-spinner, he made an immediate impact with 6 for 50 including the wicket of Graham Gooch who had already played for England and had hit a century against Kent earlier that season. Two further outings with the Seconds failed to produce another wicket but he took 4 for 59 against the same opponents in the following year and in 1978 blossomed as a batsman, heading the Second Eleven averages and registering his first century, 112\* v Hampshire Second Eleven at Bournemouth. He was less successful in 1979 but, his studies finished with a BA (Hons) in History He was taken on the staff and continued to show promise in 1980 with three half-centuries in, his first full season of Second Eleven cricket.

Over 500 runs in the Second Eleven competition and a spate of first team injuries led to his first-class debut in late August 1981 at Dean Park, Bournemouth, the scene of his earlier Second Eleven hundred. Coming in at 27 for 2, he narrowly avoided being run out before he had scored, added 81 with Chris Cowdrey and 123 with Graham Johnson, finishing 146\* captain Bob Woolmer having declared. This remains the highest by a Kent batsman on debut. He played in the intervening Sunday game and retained his place in the following first-class fixture at the Oval where he was twice dismissed for eleven.

Starting 1982 with 51\* (in a total of 616 for 6) against Oxford in the Parks, he did not get into the Championship side until the fourth game of the season, once again at Bournemouth, where he was first innings top scorer with 80. This was followed by 53 against Middlesex at Tunbridge Wells but a run of low scores cost him his place and he was in and out of the team throughout the season. In 16 games he scored 794 runs at 31.69 with seven half-centuries and a top- score of 82 v Northants at Folkestone. At Hove, he was given a long bowl for the first time in his first-class career, 29.1 – 4 – 119 – 4.

Left out of the team for the first five games in 1983, Aslett justified his inclusion at Hove with top-score (55) in the first innings and 111 in the second when Kent, set 277 in 190 minutes, won by six wickets with three balls to spare. With Baptiste (102\*) he added 191 from 33 overs and reached his century in 152 minutes with 15 fours. By the end of the season, he had achieved the landmark of 1,000 runs for the first time (1,437 avge.43.54) and written his name into the record books with two centuries, (168 and 119) against Derbyshire at Chesterfield. For the first time he made his mark in limited overs cricket with 42 in the National Westminster Bank Trophy Semi-Final against Hampshire at Canterbury and in the John Player one century, against Joel Garner and company at Taunton as well as three fifties.

Ever present in the eleven in 1984, Derek Aslett responded with his highest aggregate, 1,491 (avge.35.50) and five centuries beginning with 140 v Gloucestershire at Bristol in the opening game of the season. Against Middlesex at Dartford, when Kent successfully chased 252 from 57 overs, he hit 129\* in 157 minutes, scoring 171 from 38 overs with Woolmer and 54 from six overs with Knott. *Wisden* labelled him 'the brilliant Aslett' when he hit 152 in 76 overs (3 sixes, 20 fours) on a turning pitch at Taunton. At Worcester where Kent followed-on 256 in arrears, he ended a run of low scores with 109, adding 211 for the third-wicket with Tavaré (96) to secure a comfortable draw.

He spared Kentish blushes when Kent followed on against a still relatively unknown Sri Lanka at Canterbury. Coming in at 29 for 2 and dropped when he had scored three, he hurried to his first hundred in 196 minutes, reached his second in 401 minutes and was 221\* at close of play.



Consistency however eluded him There were only three other scores over 50 (and three in limited overs competitions) and he was dismissed for under 20 on 26 occasions with six ducks. In mid-season he played 14 first-class innings without once reaching 40.

1985 began with a duck against Hampshire, quickly redeemed by 111 at Canterbury against Surrey and 174 in the Parks. Thereafter runs proved hard to come by and in the next 21 innings in all competitions he only once passed 50, 53 at Trent Bridge from mainly 'joke bowling' as the game petered out into a draw. In July he lost his place to Neil Taylor and apart from one appearance against the Australians did not play a first team game again that year.

Expectations that the decline – if such it was – was only temporary were not borne out on the field. In 1986, when he and Graham Cowdrey found themselves competing for one place in the batting order, he scored only 517 first-class runs at 22.47 in seventeen appearances. Admittedly with few opportunities, he did little in the shorter game. Selection policy was not always easy to follow. His first match of the season was against Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells but, due to rain, he did not even get on the field. Nevertheless, he was out of the side for the next three matches.

1987 proved to be his final season. 969 first-class runs and over 500 in limited-overs competitions was a reasonable return but once again his form was patchy. He hit 101\*in a drawn game at Derby and 122\* against Worcestershire in the Refuge Assurance Sunday League at Canterbury but, although he scored four other first-class half centuries, he failed to reach twenty on 25 occasions in all cricket, including a pair against Hampshire at Mote Park. He left at the end of the season.

In the light of his record in 1983 and 1984, precisely why Derek Aslett did not progress remains something of a mystery bearing in mind the runs he scored when set. Certainly, when he first came into the game a lot of his runs came square on the off-side and he was possibly too reliant on the cut once the bowlers found him out. Opposing bowlers could make life difficult by bowling on his pads but, apart from often seeming an uncertain starter, no clearly incurable technical faults were visible from the boundary.

If other counties were interested, nothing came of it. His wife Bernardine is Australian and in 1988 they settled in Western Australia. In his playing days Aslett had worked as postman, hospital orderly and window cleaner but in Australia, although interested in antiques, he had minimal experience but nevertheless embarked on a highly successful career in antiques. He currently owns shops in North Perth and Freemantle.

### **Ronald Anthony Bailey (No.634).**

*Born:* 30. 7.1923 Camberwell, London. *Died:* 28. 9.1990 Tunbridge Wells.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1948

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	5	1	0	0*	0.00	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	468	13	250	2	125.00	1-76		

Ronald Bailey had a reputation as a pace bowler in the Royal Navy but his debut for Kent at Edgbaston was not an easy initiation. His new ball partner Fred Ridgway went off after five overs and against a depleted attack. Warwickshire totalled 478. Bailey bowled 36 overs for 134 runs and one wicket. He was also, bowled by Tom Pritchard (*q.v.*) without scoring.

Retained in the side against Surrey at Blackheath and opening with Eddie Crush, Bailey took 1for76 from 30 overs and had the misfortune to collect a 'pair'. His third and final first-class appearance was at Northampton where the home side totalled 445-9 declared and won by an innings. Bailey bowled twelve wicketless overs for 40 runs and once again failed to get off the mark with 0 and 0\*.

A week later Leading Signalman Bailey took 3 for 32 and 2 for 52 for the Royal Navy v the RAF at Lord's. In August, against Sussex Second Eleven at Rye, match figures of 6 for 80 put him second in the Kent Second Eleven bowling averages for the season. In July 1953, Bailey – by now Yeoman of Signals – appeared for the Navy v Kent Seconds at Chatham and later that year had figures of 3 for 49 and 2 for 31 for Navy v the Army at Portsmouth. On leaving the Navy, he worked as a security guard and played club cricket for Tillings Stevens in Maidstone and for Sissinghurst.

### **David William Baker (No.687).**

*Born:* 26.07. 1935; Hull, Yorkshire. *Died:* 26.12.2021, Beeston, Nottinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg break and googly bowler.

Kent 1961-1963

Educated: Bermondsey Central School.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	27	28	9	85	15	4.47	0	0	8
<b>Overall</b>	34	37	13	101	15	4.20	0	0	11

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4588	183	2419	68	35.57	5-47	3	0
<b>Overall</b>	5452	219	2856	78	36.61	5-47	3	0

David 'Doughie' Baker came to Kent as a prolific wicket taker for Honor Oak with skills honed at the Gover Cricket School and Kent's Eltham indoor classes. In 1959 he played for the Club Cricket Conference against MCC, the Army, the Royal Navy and United London Banks.

Following National Service in the RAF, he joined the staff in 1960 and ended the season as leading Second Eleven wicket-taker with 48 at 16.54 including 7 for70 v Hampshire at Sittingbourne. In the first month of 1961 he took 25 wickets in Second Eleven cricket, including a match return of 10 for 104 against Somerset Seconds at Sittingbourne.

This led to a first team call up against Glamorgan at Gravesend. In the first innings he bowled nine unproductive overs but second time round he claimed the wickets of two England cricketers, Gilbert Parkhouse and Peter Walker, at the cost of 65 runs. Retained for the next fixture at Fenner's, he had figures of 1 for 121 when Cambridge declared at 382 for 7 but in the second innings his 3 for 24 from seven overs was a major factor in the University's dismissal for 54 and an unexpected Kent victory.

For the remainder of the season, he was in and out of the side, 40 wickets in 14 matches at 27.97 placing him third in the averages. Twice he took five in an innings but possibly his best performance was against Yorkshire at Dover where his first innings 4 for 25 included the wickets of Phil Sharpe, Ray Illingworth and Vic Wilson. The Committee Annual Report in 1962 referred to his performance as 'one bright light in the bowling' although 'the cost was too high. In the report of the Cricket Sub Committee Chairman David Clark went further, referring to him as the 'main attacking force' in the Second Eleven where he took 54 wickets at 18.70. 'He has of course a lot to learn but with leg break bowlers this often comes with experience and long spells of bowling at good batsman. That great Kent stalwart, Tich Freeman, did not become a real menace until nearly reaching the age of 30'.

In the cold, wet summer of 1962 Baker's 20 wickets cost 41.85 each. He had appeared in only five widely separated matches by the last week of August but selection for the final three fixtures brought him eleven wickets including 2 for 41 and 3 for 31 at Trent Bridge. For the Second Eleven he remained leading wicket - taker with 48 wickets at 20.00.

In his final season with Kent, Baker began with 0 for 55 and 5 for 90 against Somerset at Taunton and followed with 2 for 50 at the Oval. Dropped after four games, he returned for the Warwickshire match at Gravesend at the end of May but was not picked again. For the Second Eleven he was again leading wicket - taker with 69 wickets at 29.76.

David Baker was not re-engaged for 1964. The reason given was that 'the staff had reached the uneconomic number of 22 and room had to be made for possible additions'. David Clark in his Cricket Sub-Committee report emphasised that 'the purpose of the Second Eleven is to train young cricketers who will eventually develop into first-class players' which, although obviously true, sits oddly with his 1961 report referred to above. Possibly leg spin had simply gone out of fashion.

Baker subsequently played two seasons with Nottinghamshire, taking ten first-class wickets in seven appearances between 1964 and 1965. In Second Eleven Championship matches for Nottinghamshire he took 53 wickets and 63 in the Minor Counties Championship competition including 12 in a match against Lincolnshire and 6 for 18 in the end of season Challenge match with Somerset Seconds. In 1963 he played in a two-day match for Col. L.C.Stevens' Eleven at Eastbourne against the West Indian tourists. Captained by Peter Richardson, Col. Stevens' side included Richie Benaud, Lance Gibbs and Gary Sobers and among Baker's five wickets were Rohan Kanhai and Seymour Nurse

Post- retirement from professional cricket he played local club cricket including a spell with Roth's Amateurs and was for many years a member of Beeston Fields Golf Club. He also sold fishing tackle and for some years he was licensee of *The Sherwin Arms*, Bramcote.

### **Matthew John Banes (No.785).**

*Born:* 10. 12.1979 Pembury

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off break bowler.

Kent 1999-2003

Educated: Tonbridge School and Collingwood College, Durham.

Parents: Christopher & Jane Ann Banes.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	6	0	99	53	16.50	0	1	2
<b>Overall</b>	11	18	1	388	69	22.82	0	3	4

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	294	8	175	3	58.33	3-65		

Many followers of Kent cricket were disappointed when it became clear that Matthew Banes was not destined for a long career with the county. For Tonbridge School he hit eleven centuries and in 1997 participated in four century opening partnerships including 215 (unbroken) against Band of Brothers. He represented MCC Schools and was a member of the England Under 17 development squad. In 2000-2001, played with some success for British Universities in the Benson & Hedges Cup and for Durham U.C.E.E. 2001-2002, as captain in the latter year.

Banes made his Kent Second Eleven debut v Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells in 1999 and topped the averages in the Under 19 Championship. In the following year he joined the staff and made his first-class debut against New Zealand at Canterbury when he was dismissed third ball, lbw without playing a stroke. In the second innings he atoned with 53, adding 91 for the third-wicket with fellow Tonbridgean Ed Smith. He looked a player of genuine class but failed in his second match at Trent Bridge. With University commitments intervening, Banes was confined to Second Eleven cricket over the next three years and at the end of the 2002 season he was released.

The decision was reversed in 2003 when he was re-engaged. This brought one more chance at first-class level, against South Africa when he scored 15 and 24, but despite hitting one century and six 50s for the Second Eleven and heading the averages in the Second Eleven Trophy, at a time of many comings and goings he was again released.

He had played club cricket for Sevenoaks Vine, Eastbourne and Old Tonbridgeans and for some years he was master-in-charge of cricket at Eastbourne College.

### **Eldine Ashworth Elderfield Baptiste (No.725).**

*Born:* 12. 03. 1960 Liberta, Antigua

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1981-1987 Cap 1983

Tests: 10 for West Indies, Limited-Overs Internationals: 43 for West Indies (1983/84 – 1989/90)

Educated: All Saints Secondary Modern School, St John's, Antigua.

Parents: Samuel & Gertrude Baptiste.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	87	127	20	3195	136*	29.85	3	15	44
<b>West Indies</b>	10	11	1	233	87*	23.30	0	1	2
<b>Overall</b>	245	341	50	8070	136*	27.73	3	47	120

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	12426	472	6209	218	28.48	8-76	8	1
<b>West Indies</b>	1362	60	563	16	35.18	3-31	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	41503	1803	17823	723	24.65	8-76	32	4

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	96	79	12	1080	60	16.11	0	5	34
<b>West Indies</b>	43	16	4	184	31	15.33	0	0	14
<b>Overall</b>	310	210	43	2732	65	16.35	0	9	98

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4293	56	2957	109	27.12	5-20	2	4.13
<b>West Indies</b>	2214	30	1511	36	41.97	2-10	0	4.09
<b>Overall</b>	14724	247	9741	365	26.68	6-13	4	3.96

But for a change in regulations which allowed only one overseas player per team, Eldine Baptiste might well have ranked with his near contemporary John Shepherd as one of Kent's truly great allrounders. An aggressive middle-order batsman, accurate bowler capable of long spells, and a magnificent fielder

with a long, powerful, exceptionally accurate, throw, he gave excellent service during his time with the county and the fact that he was selected for the multi-talented West Indies team at a time when they dominated world cricket is testimony to his quality. He was on the winning side in every one of his ten Test matches.

Already experienced with Leeward Islands Under-19s when he joined the Kent staff in 1980, Baptiste played cricket for the Gravesend Club and made his first-class debut in the following season against Oxford University in the Parks, the first of 27 first team appearances that year. With new overseas player restrictions in force that year and skipper Asif Iqbal the other overseas player, there were fewer opportunities in 1982 but he registered his maiden half-century – 69\* v Glamorgan at Canterbury. For Kent Seconds, he scored 201\* against Surrey at The Oval.

Kent's only overseas player in 1983, he responded with 755 first-class runs (1,000 in all matches), centuries against Sussex and Yorkshire and 50 first-class wickets (75 in all matches). In the winter he toured India and went on to Australia for the 1983/1984 Benson & Hedges World Series Cup.

In 1984 Baptiste toured England with West Indies, playing all five Tests and all three Limited-overs Internationals, following Michael Holding, Joel Garner and Malcolm Marshall as fourth seamer. At Edgbaston, he hit 87\*, sharing a ninth-wicket partnership of 150 in 113 minutes with Holding (69).

Back with Kent in 1985, he had his best season, 972 runs and 58 wickets in first-class matches. In one-day cricket, he hit three half-centuries and took 22 wickets, including 5 for 30 v Glamorgan at Cardiff in the Benson Hedges Cup. With the return of Terry Alderman in 1986, Baptiste was restricted mainly to limited-overs cricket, emerging leading wicket-taker with 34 wickets.

Sharing the overseas player role with Roy Pienaar (*q.v.*) in 1987, Baptiste produced some of his best performances – 95 out of 122 v Lancashire at Mote Park, 64 and 6 for 69 v Sussex at Dartford and 8 for 76 at Edgbaston. He again claimed over 50 first-class wickets and there were mutterings in many quarters when he was released at the end of the season. With Northamptonshire in 1991 he disappointed with the bat but again took 50 wickets.

Baptiste played his last Test match and One-Day Internationals against England in West Indies in 1989/90. Much of the remainder of his career was in South Africa where, for Eastern Province, he took over 200 wickets and KwaZulu-Natal where, on retirement, he was appointed coach. He also coached at King Edward VII School, Lytham.

#### **Mark Richard Benson (No.724).**

*Born:* 06. 07.1958, Shoreham, Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler

Kent 1980-1995. Kent County cap 1981.

Kent County captain: 1991-1995.

Tests: one for England.

Limited-Overs Internationals: one for England.

Educated: Sutton Valence School.

Parents: Frank & Julie Benson (née Harrison)

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	290	488	34	18284	257	40.27	48	98	140
<b>England</b>	1	2	0	51	30	25.50	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	292	491	34	18387	257	40.23	48	99	140

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	467	3	493	5	98.60	2-55		

### **List A Career Record Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	269	256	11	7814	119	31.89	5	53	68
<b>England</b>	1	1	0	24	24	24.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	270	257	11	7838	119	31.86	5	53	68

### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Kent have had few more consistent batsmen than Mark Benson. Only ten, all of whom enjoyed longer careers, have scored more runs for Kent and, of those who have scored more than 10,000 runs for the County, only Leslie Ames, Colin Cowdrey, Robert Key (narrowly) and Frank Woolley have bettered his career average. Only Ames, Cowdrey, Arthur Fagg, 'Wally' Hardinge, Key, James Seymour and Woolley scored more centuries. He registered hundreds against every other county but Durham, six against Warwickshire, five against both Surrey and Sussex. Despite rather more than his fair share of injuries – he was diagnosed with osteo-arthritis in his right knee as early as 1986 - he exceeded 1,000 runs in eleven seasons (three times over 1,500) and averaged over 40 in eight.

Calm and unruffled by nature, he was tailor-made for the role of opening batsman and some, Brian Luckhurst for one, considered him Kent's best of the post-war period. He took part in 33 century partnerships for Kent in first-class cricket plus another fourteen in limited-overs competitions. His 300 run partnership with Neil Taylor (Taylor 146, Benson 160) against Derbyshire at Canterbury in 1991, his first year as captain, is the County record.

Of all Kent's 'one Test wonders' he was perhaps the unluckiest. In 1986, a season of six Test matches and four ODIs, Graham Gooch was given six different opening partners' none of whom could be said to have actually failed but equally nobody did enough to cement a permanent place. After scoring 128 (17 fours) against the Indian tourists at Canterbury, Benson was chosen for the Third Test match at Edgbaston but scores of 21 (after the first two wickets had fallen without a run on the board) and 30, as well as 24 in an ODI against New Zealand, were not thought enough to keep him in the side.

Many on the county circuit, especially bowlers who moved the ball away from the left-hander, took a different view. One of the greatest of them all, the late Malcolm Marshall, thought Benson among the best, and certainly the most frustrating, opener he had ever bowled against. The frustration was caused by what became Benson's trademark, known around the counties as the 'Kent leave'. Blessed when in form with the priceless gift of never having doubts about the precise whereabouts of his off-stump, instead of shouldering arms, he developed the defensive technique of playing down the line of off-stump and thus inside the line of most deliveries which swung away or moved off the pitch.

Others began to emulate him, including some outside the County, notably Marcus Trescothick, but the technique had one drawback. To the uninitiated – or merely unobservant – it could appear he was playing and missing. It was even suggested that some at least of the England selection committee may have misled themselves.

As a boy Mark Benson took part in most sports including hockey, Rugby and tennis but, encouraged by a cricket-loving father, he attended the Gover Cricket School and first played for the Sutton Valence first eleven aged 14. From 1974 to 1977 he was a regular member of the Eleven, captaining in his final two years. He averaged over 50 and headed the batting averages in each of his last three seasons, hitting four centuries in 1976 including a record 173\* v King's School, Rochester. In his last season he scored

1,022 runs (avge.85.16), more than any other schoolboy batsman in England, at least among the schools whose performances were recorded in the 1978 *Wisden*.

In August 1977 Benson made two appearances for Kent Second Eleven and next season joined the staff. In 1979 he not only headed the Second Eleven averages with 571 runs (avge.31.72), four half-centuries and a top score of 84, but also led the averages in the Under 25 competition and was rewarded with his Second Eleven cap. In the Annual Second Eleven Report he was 'the outstanding batsman of the season' but – 'He appears to have a weakness in his concentration as he has been getting himself out far too often in the 30s'.

Whatever the doubts, they were quickly resolved in the following season. Starting with 75 against Surrey Seconds at Orpington and 170 & 55 v Middlesex at Enfield, in June he made his first team debut, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells where he scored 28 and two (run out) against an attack beginning with Imran Khan, Garth Le Roux and Geoff Arnold. He held his place for the next fixture but did not get to the crease and was then left out until late July when he returned to register his maiden half-century, 58\* at Lord's against Wayne Daniel and Vincent Van der Bijl. Without yet becoming a fixture in the side, in all he played nine Championship and seven List A matches, opened for the first time at Worcester and hit one more half-century, 53 against Surrey (including Sylvester Clarke) at The Oval.

By the end of the 1981 season Benson was capped and firmly established as a regular first team player, missing only three first-class and one List A fixture. In his second match he hit his maiden first-class century, 114 v Warwickshire at Nuneaton, and ended the season with 1,063 runs (avge.32, 21), two centuries and six half-centuries plus another four half-centuries in limited overs matches.

In 1982 his record of 1,100 runs (avge.44.00) with three centuries, included a remarkably consistent spell immediately on returning to the side following a broken finger. Between 21st July and 21st August his scores were 107, 80, 137, 48, 51, 51, 56\*, 57\*, 6, 81, 59\*.

Next year he hit 1,515 runs (avge.44.55) with four centuries including two in a match, 102 & 152\* against Warwickshire at Edgbaston. Following a pre-season cartilage operation, he fell short of his 1,000 runs in 1984 but passed the 1,000 benchmark in every subsequent season from 1985 to 1992. His most prolific year was 1987 – 1,725 runs (avge.44.23.) In 1989, despite missing nine matches through injury, 1,299 runs (avge.54.12) placed him seventh in the national averages.

Notwithstanding knee problems and a badly bruised thumb, which again kept him out of nine matches Benson scored 1,171 runs (avge.48.79) in 1990 and for the second season in succession hit five centuries. Officially vice-captain, he led the side in eight matches (won two, lost one, drawn five) and when Christopher Cowdrey (*qv*) resigned the captaincy, Benson was the committee's unanimous choice as successor.

Taking over the leadership in his benefit year, he led the side from 16th place to sixth in the table with two more wins and three fewer defeats. Averaging 47.46, he hit four centuries including a new personal best, 257 v Hampshire at Southampton scored from 421 balls with 32 fours. With Chris Cowdrey (97), 224 were added for the fourth-wicket.

Establishing a close relationship with the new manager/coach Daryl Foster and vice-captain Steve Marsh, under Benson Kent finished second in the Championship in 1992, clinched by an innings victory over Warwickshire at Edgbaston, the skipper being one of three century-makers.

In the shorter game, Kent lost to Hampshire in the Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup at Lord's in 1992, Benson (59) Kent's top scorer. They were again runners-up in the same competition in 1995, notable for successive opening partnerships with Ward of 229, 117, 149\*, 147, 132 and 53. A fractured thumb kept the skipper out of the Final at Lord's where Kent lost to Lancashire. Despite the disappointment, the game is memorable in Kent history for one of the Lord's Final classics, Aravinda de Silva's (*q.v.*) 112 from 88 balls.

It was due to Benson that de Silva came to Kent. He had been alerted to the Sri Lankan's talent on a visit to the country some years previously but to most people in Kent the new signing was an unknown and in the chilly early weeks of the season Benson was on the receiving end of much, often vitriolic, criticism, not only from members but from ill-informed committee men. So much so that he even began to doubt his own judgement until, when the sun began to shine, so too did de Silva's genius. Benson was also instrumental in another of Kent's most successful signings, Dean Headley (*q.v.*).

In the 40-over AXA, Equity & Law League, Kent were runners-up under Benson in 1993 and in 1995 won the trophy on superior run rate, ahead of Warwickshire and Worcestershire, all three finishing with the same points. This was the Club's first silverware since 1978 but the team finished bottom in the County Championship and Benson came in for a tongue-lashing from the more traditionally minded among the membership. Many found the resting of bowlers from Championship matches in the later stages of the season a difficult pill to swallow but, in all competitions between 1983 and 1995, Kent had finished runners-up on eight occasions. In retrospect, it is not difficult to follow Benson's (and coach Foster's) reasoning. The criticism rankled, not only with Benson but with many of those who contributed to winning a long-awaited trophy.

In what proved to be his final season, injury restricted Benson to 13 Championship matches and a relatively modest return of 702 runs (avge.33.43) with two hundreds including his second highest, 192 v Leicestershire at Canterbury. Despite missing almost half the programme, he headed the averages for all limited-overs competitions – 656 runs (avge.46.83), one hundred, 119 v Sussex at Hove in the Benson & Hedges Cup, and five half-centuries.

Benson was the chosen captain for 1996 but he again injured his knee, this time in a pre-season game of five-a-side football, and despite prolonged treatment and a lengthy period of recuperation, he was compelled to retire.

During his playing days Mark Benson had a variety of employments including a spell as court representative for a Ramsgate solicitors' practice but on giving up playing turned to umpiring and made his debut as a first-class umpire in 1997. In 2004 he was appointed to the ICC panel and between 2004 and 2009 stood in Test matches and ODIs. He also officiated in IPL matches. In 2010 he resigned from the IPL Elite panel citing health concerns and, according to some accounts, dislike of DRS. He continued on the county circuit but retired in 2016.

Mark Benson's sister Tina had worked for Kent CCC as Marketing Manager.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publishing, 2010

Robertson, David, Milton Howard & Carlaw, Derek, *Kent County Cricket Club, 100 Greats*. Tempus Publishing Ltd., 2005.

#### **George Patrick Maxwell Blackmore (No.630).**

*Born:* 08.0.1908 Gillingham. *Died:* 29. 01.1984 Isleworth, Middlesex.

Right-handed batsman right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1948.

Educated: Blundell's School.

Parents: George Edward Montague Blackmore & Kathleen Grace Blackmore (née Gibb),

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	2	0	4	4	2.00	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	3	3	0	12	8	4.00	0	0	1



## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	156	6	64	2	32.00	1-14		
<b>Overall</b>	258	8	127	2	63.50	1-14		

George Blackmore was five months away from his 40th birthday when he made his debut for Kent. At the beginning of the season, he took two wickets for the Second Eleven against Surrey at The Oval and on his County debut 1 for 47 opening the bowling with Fred Ridgway against Worcestershire at Dudley. The return, at Gravesend in which he claimed one wicket for 17, concluded his first-class career.

His first-class debut had come four years earlier in the Bombay Pentangular Tournament while serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Indian Navy Volunteer Reserve. Playing for the Europeans, captained by Joe Hardstaff against the Parsees, the Europeans side included Denis Compton, Reg Simpson, Dick Howorth, Peter Cranmer and five others with first-class experience. For the Parsees, Rusi Modi scored 215; Blackmore 0 for 63.

The son of a Naval Officer, George Blackmore was in his school eleven in 1925, when he headed the bowling averages and 1926 when he took 5 for 16 against North Devon. In the school magazine he was described as a 'fastish right-hand bowler who can bowl well for four or five overs after which he is apt to become innocuous' 'could bat better with more restraint', a harsh judgement on a boy who in a house cup match that season had contributed 67 & 100 with the bat and 8 for 52 & 4 for 4 with the ball. In 1923, his second year at Blundell's, his father died in Shanghai.

Blackmore played a great deal of club cricket, for Slough, West Kent and, between 1949 and 1953, Band of Brothers.

In 1948 he married Violet LM Harwood. He died in hospital following a heart attack. At the time of his death, he was manager of a glass manufacturing company.

## **John Douglas Jeremy Bluett (No.642).**

*Born:* 29.05.1930 Kensington, London. *Died:* 23.08. 2019, Princess Royal Hospital, Orpington.

Right-handed batsman,

Kent 1950.

Educated: Cranbrook School.

## **First Class Career Record**

### **Batting and Fielding**

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	2	2	0	16	10	8.00	0	0	1

## **Bowling**

Did not bowl

An orthodox batsman with an excellent technique, from 1945 to 1948 John Bluett was in the Eleven at Cranbrook, twice heading the averages and captaining in his final year. Chosen for Kent Young Amateurs in 1947, he hit 104 and 55 v Band of Brothers at Canterbury and 105 and 45\* against the same opponents in 1948. In that year he was chosen for Southern Schools v the Rest at Lord's and made his Kent Second Eleven debut, v Sussex at Rye.

Commissioned in the Royal Artillery during National Service, he was restricted to a single appearance for Kent Second Eleven in 1949 but in 1950 successive innings of 116 v Sussex Seconds at Bromley and 105\* v Devonshire at Canterbury brought him his chance in the first eleven, against Worcestershire at the Nevill when he scored six. On his second appearance, at Loughborough, he made ten but was

perhaps unfortunate to encounter the Australian Jack Walsh, arguably the best- ever purveyor of left-arm wrist spin. Like many young English batsmen unfamiliar with the method, he was stumped.

After 1950 he made a further five Minor Counties Championship appearances and in all, between 1948 and 1958, played 15 matches scoring 707 runs (avge.44.18).

The remainder of Bluett's cricket career was with, Band of Brothers, Bromley (captain 1960/1961 & 1967/1968), Forty Club, Incogniti, West Kent and Yellowhammers. He played for Bromley in *The Cricketer* Cup Competition in 1969 and for a period ran the matches for the Band of Brothers junior section, the BaBes. He received his Club Cricket conference Cap in 1956 and between that year and 1959 represented the Conference on nine occasions including a match against the Indian tourists in 1959.

Bluett was on the Kent General Committee from 1977 to 1979. A varied business career included the Stock Exchange and a directorship of a timber broking company. His son played for Bromley.

#### **Alan Frederick Brazier (No. 665).**

*Born:* 07. 12. 1924, Paddington, London, *Died:* 18. 04.1999, Denmead, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1955-56. Second Eleven Cap 1955.

Educated: Southall Technical College.

Parents: Frederick John Brazier & Emily Louisa Brazier (*née* Bearfield).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	20	34	3	357	51*	11.51	0	2	10
<b>Overall</b>	58	94	14	1366	92	17.07	0	6	20

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	298	11	151	4	37.75	2-45		
<b>Overall</b>	346	16	158	4	39.50	2-45		

Alan Brazier, whose father was an inspector in an engineering workshop, learned his early cricket with Ealing Dean but failed to establish himself in the strong Surrey team of the 1950s and never lived up to the promise of his 1949 season when for Surrey Second Eleven he scored a then record 1,212 runs at an average of 80.80. Included were two mammoth partnerships with Tom Clark, both at The Oval, 332\* v Devonshire (Clark 187\*, Brazier 216\*) and 388\* v Sussex Second Eleven (Clark 209\*, Brazier 203\*) When reaching his personal first-class best of 92 at Northampton in 1953, he added 200 with Raman Subba Row (125) but passed 50 in on only three other occasions. He left after seven years at The Oval. with a first-class record of 972 runs at 21.75.

Given a chance by Kent, he made a promising start in 1955 with 51\* at Leicester, top score in a modest team total of 137, but apart from 50 v Essex at Clacton later that year he did nothing else of note in first team matches although he headed both Second Eleven and Club & Ground averages and hit three centuries. In 1956 he made only four first team appearances with a top score of 22\* but scored over 600 runs for the Second Eleven including a century against Norfolk.

After one more season, although totalling over 500 Second Eleven runs he failed to gain first team selection and was among those not re-engaged. His final century for Kent Second Eleven was 100\* at The Oval. He later coached at St George's Weybridge before becoming a publican in Petersfield.

#### **Alan Brown (No. 675).**

*Born:* 17. 10. 1935, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire.  
 Right-hand lower-order batsman, right-arm fast bowler.  
 Kent 1957-70. Kent Cap 1961. Second Eleven Cap 1957.  
 Tests: Two for England.  
 Educated: High Oakham Grammar School.  
 Parents: Henry Vincent Brown & Hilda Brown (née Coupe)

### **First Class Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	237	301	81	2120	81	9.63	0	3	97
<b>England</b>	2	1	1	3	3*		0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	251	312	87	2189	81	9.72	0	3	104

### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	38776	1492	17534	707	24.80	8-47	25	4
<b>England</b>	323	9	150	3	50.00	3-27	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	40667	1571	18326	743	24.66	8-47	26	4

### **List A Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	31	24	4	194	37	9.70	0	0	8

### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1516	31	945	37	25.54	4-17	0	3.74

Alan Brown was a tall (6ft 3in – 1.9m) fast bowler, remembered for the tremendous drag that completed his action, and who could on his day bowl at a fearful pace, yet who probably did not achieve the distinction that beckoned when first he played for Kent. Consistency in performance was a problem. Yet, nevertheless, with 707 wickets to his name for the county, he still stands a very creditable seventeenth on Kent's all-time list of first-class wicket-takers. He was also a good old-fashioned tail-end batsman of an agricultural bent, who could, amongst a mass of ducks, make a valuable score – he had three fifties to his name with 81 as a top score. Always good company with plenty of well-remembered stories, he remained a popular, congenial figure into retirement.

Alan Brown was the only Kent player who could boast a mining background, a famous source of fast bowlers. However, while there is a mining tradition in Kent, Brown's was Nottinghamshire, and he never actually worked underground. He was born in the mining village of Rainworth (pronounced Renn-uth), two miles east of Mansfield on the road to Newark. He was the seventh of nine children (six boys, three girls). His father Henry Brown came originally from the Bolsolver area, across the county border in Derbyshire and the couple were married in Chesterfield. He worked underground at the nearby Rufford Colliery (active 1911-1993) as a stone miner or to give the occupation its proper name, a ripper. These were the men who removed the rock above the coal seam and set rings (circles) to raise the height of the gate or road as the coal face advanced.

Brown played football for his school and for Mansfield Boys. He left school at 15.

Rainworth was the traditional mining village where the local colliery was not just a place of work but a centre for social activity. The village recreation ground was where Brown honed his football skills. It

was the home ground for Rufford Colliery's football and cricket teams. For the latter, from the age of 11, Brown was the club scorer, and although he bowled and batted in the nets, it was not until the age of 15 that his bowling skills came to fore. A late absence of his brother Douglas for a 22 over game led to his filling the gap. Faced with inevitable defeat, rather in desperation, the captain turned to Brown to bowl. He promptly took four or five wickets such that a twenty or so run margin defeated their opponents. His fame spread and via a brother-in-law with Trent Bridge connections, a trial beckoned and, under the eye of Joe Hardstaff, a place on the Nottinghamshire staff was achieved. There he played a few matches at second eleven level.

Brown had technically been doing an apprenticeship in toolmaking, but this fell away as cricket took a priority in his life. As a result, he ended up back at Rufford Colliery working at the pit-head. A greater force came to ensure he never would work underground.

In August 1954 his country called him and he became 2305525 Gunner Brown A, in the Royal Artillery for National Service. After a couple of weeks Brown found himself at the Milton Barracks in Gravesend where he was to spend all his two years. His trained specialism was as a B3 radar operator, working in the 'Radar Park' beside a high walled barracks perimeter. (Milton Barracks closed in 1971 and 'Radar Park' is now beneath Gravesend's majestic Gurdwara.). Hearing the familiar sound of bat against ball beyond the wall, one Wednesday afternoon Gunner Brown climbed the wall to be faced with the company sports ground of the Imperial Paper Mills (IPM) and cricket net practice. The exercise was repeated a following Saturday with a match in progress and yet again a man short led to Brown making up the numbers of the IPM team, where he suitably impressed so as to stay for the rest of the season.

Brown played cricket and football for his regiment. He also played basketball and hockey while in Milton Barracks.

Outstanding fast bowlers are always at a premium, especially in Kent without a great tradition, so one as promising as Brown soon became well known in the Gravesend area. Once National Service was over, Brown was to be found at Eltham where would-be Kent cricketers went for coaching and from where he was recommended for a trial at Canterbury.

There Brown bowled in the nets to members of the First Eleven including Bob Wilson who, battered after just three balls, did not need much convincing as to his talent. This was at the precise moment that Colin Cowdrey and Les Ames had come together to manage Kent's affairs, and mindful that technically Brown was still on Nottinghamshire's staff, they wrote asking for his release to sign for Kent. Trent Bridge jumped the gun and sought to re-sign him. By now, however, Brown was decidedly out of love with the Midland County. They had not asked after him at all during his National Service and with a good job on offer at Bowaters, a football career possibly opening up at Gravesend and Northfleet (now Ebbsfleet United), and, not the least important, a Gravesend girl, a new wife. His future really was now in Kent.

In May 1957 his Kent career began with a Second Eleven game at Lord's no less. He took five wickets and was promoted to the first team at Fenner's against Cambridge University. He took two wickets. That season he played nine first-team games interspersed with 11 matches in the Second Eleven. He came away with 27 first-class and 36 Second Eleven wickets. They were consistently taken without any major performances. Kent, in their Annual Report, noted 'Brown, a new fast bowler, showed considerable promise and he should establish himself in the County side before very long.' *Wisden* referred to him as 'a bright prospect.' He was awarded his Second Eleven cap.

In 1958 Brown established himself as a regular in the side. He played 21 matches taking 48 wickets (avge.26.62) He took his first five wicket haul – ironically at Trent Bridge against his home county.

A heel injury in 1959 cost him six weeks of the season and with the hard dry wickets of very dry season, Brown was sorely missed. Returning to the side, he bowled better and better and at Folkestone against Nottinghamshire (again) had the best performance of his career to date. In one spell he took four wickets

in five balls and nine wickets all told in the match as Kent won by an innings. His season total was 61 wickets (avge.26.29).

This was up to 80 wickets in 1960, but the Kent Annual Report noted 'There were occasions when he looks exceptionally good and others when he sinks to an ordinary level. He has a tremendously long last stride with an enormous drag which means he must land some four feet behind the crease in order not to be no balled. It is the drag which sometimes throws him out of rhythm.' With a very helpful wicket to assist him, Brown was a key bowler in Kent's 'match over in a day' game against Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells. Kent's total of 187 proved sufficient to win by innings. The visitors could only muster 25 (Brown 6 for 12) and 61 (Brown 3 for 22).

David Halfyard had become main Kent wicket-taker. In 1961 he took a hundred wickets for the fifth successive season, while Brown, if overshadowed, still took 81 at 27 apiece. He was awarded his county cap and to general delight, if surprise, found himself selected for the MCC tour to India and Pakistan that winter. A number of England regulars had, as they often did then, declined to tour the sub-continent, and perhaps the Tyson effect, taking a fast bowler on the basis of promise to be proven, dictated the thinking.

Brown did not disgrace himself. The wickets gave not the slightest encouragement to bowlers while batsmen preferred just to keep down runs and wait for mistakes. He played in two Tests, one each in Pakistan and India, taking 3 for 27 in the second innings of his first game, including Hanif Mohammad among his victims. This was his only success.

Ending the tour in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), in a non-first-class match against an Up-Country Eleven, Brown took four wickets in four balls. Oddly, *Wisden* muddled up their Browns. In all their scorecards of the tour Brown is referred to as A.S.Brown, the Gloucestershire bowler.

Returning home for the 1962 season, Brown topped the Kent bowling averages with 55 wickets (avge.22.07). But he missed nine matches through injury. 18 of these wickets were taken in a remarkable Maidstone Week - against Leicestershire (1 for 84 & 5 for 33) and Lancashire (7 for 43 & 5 for 69). The Kent hierarchy were still complaining about his 'fearful long drag' causing him to lose rhythm and with it pace and direction. Sometimes 'he looked like an England prospect, too often very mediocre.'

Seemingly as a retort, Brown came back in 1963 with 86 wickets leading the pace attack with Halfyard, for the moment at least, recovering from a serious car crash. Kent remarked that Brown had 'conquered the new no ball rule far better than visualised.' But, with a sting in the tail 'he has never quite fulfilled the high promise that he showed three or four years ago.' Nevertheless, he had his moments. At Nuneaton, Warwickshire batted for a second time with a lead of 84 on first innings. Thereupon Brown captured a wicket in each of his first five overs. At this stage his analysis was

4.4-1-6-1. He finished with 8 for 47, which was and remained his career best figures. Kent won without losing a wicket.

In 1964 Brown broke down in pre-season training with cartilage trouble which needed an operation. He did not play in a single match.

Brown came back fully fit for 1965 and had the most successful season of his career, spearheading the attack with 116 wickets, (avge.19.04), the only time he reached three figures. He had, contemporary reports noted, 'lost a little in pace, but had greater accuracy with the ability to move the ball off the seam, especially with the new ball and was a dangerous threat to opposition batsmen'. There were two seven wicket hauls. His home county suffered again with 7 for 45 at Trent Bridge, while he had another success at Maidstone with 7 for 65 and eleven wickets in the match against Essex.

After such a successful season, Brown failed to produce that form in 1966. He even lost his place in the middle of the season. Just 42 wickets were taken from 13 matches. To date, his batting had been very much tailender. In 1965, for instance, he reached double figures just twice in 34 innings. So it was all

the more remarkable when early in the following season against Middlesex at Gravesend he took part in a last wicket partnership of 94 with David Sayer, of equal batting prowess. Brown was left 52\*.

1967 was not a great season either. He alternated with Sayer as support to Graham and took just 25 wickets. Again, there was a batting success. In the Championship deciding match against Yorkshire in Canterbury Week, he scored 33 including 4,6,4,4 off successive balls from Fred Trueman. In the Gillette Cup he bowled well in the semi-final against Sussex taking 3 for 17 off 8.3 overs and it was he rather than Sayer who played in the Kent's final triumph against Somerset, conceding just 20 runs in 9.5 overs.

Shepherd apart, none of Kent's pace attack was particularly outstanding in support in 1968. Four quick wickets against Essex at Maidstone (yet again) wrapped up victory. There was another unexpected batting performance when 81 ('by fantastic hitting') in a 158 run partnership with Alan Ealham ensured a Kent victory against Glamorgan at Folkestone.

*Wisden* reported on 1969 that Brown had moments of success and 'often bowled better than the figures suggest.' Still, it was only 21 wickets in 12 matches. In the first season of the Sunday League, he did have one notable success in his very first game taking 4 for 17 against Warwickshire at Maidstone.

1970 transpired to be Brown's final season. Kent reported 'he bowled well at times but seldom finished with any devastating figures as fast bowlers on occasion do.' In his penultimate match he made his third and final fifty, 52 out of 64 in 32 minutes at Hove. His last first-class match was in Canterbury Week, while his very last match was a Sunday League game at Bournemouth in September.

He did not play in the Surrey game that won Kent the County Championship but does appear on the famous photograph taken at the Oval of the successful Kent squad. He and David Sayer were granted a joint testimonial in 1971.

Brown enjoyed more success against Nottinghamshire, his birthplace, than any other county, 63 wickets (avge.16.33). Others with 50 or over were Worcestershire 56 wickets (avge.18.33), Sussex and Yorkshire both 51, averaging 29.43 and 25.17 respectively and Essex 50 (avge.22.10).

Players dismissed most frequently by Brown were 8: N.W.Hill, A.S.M.Oakman, C.J.Poole, 7: J.R.Gray, M.R.Hallam, G.Millman, P.H.Parfitt, P.J.Sharpe, B.Taylor, R.T.Virgin, Among other prominent batsmen dismissed were K.F.Barrington (5), E.R.Dexter (3), A.Jones (3), D.Kenyon (5), R.E.Marshall (6), C. Milburn (3), D.E.V.Padgett (5), W.G.A.Parkhouse (3) J.M.Parks (5), K.G.Suttle (5), K.Taylor (6).

More than many of the pace bowlers of his period, over 30% of Brown's dismissals came by hitting the stumps. 7% were lbw and with the addition of 14 caught and bowled and two hit wicket, a little over 40% of his wickets came without the aid of the field. A little over 35% of his victims were caught by fielders other than the nominated wicketkeeper or by the bowler himself and 24% were caught by the nominated wicketkeeper. In 1965, his first season, Alan Knott took 30 catches from his bowling.

Paralleling the cricket was Alan Brown's career as a Kent non-league footballer, one of the last to successfully manage the two. He never really aspired to anything higher, although league clubs were interested – notably Arsenal early on and Gillingham.

The arrangement that decided his cricket would be in Kent still held. He joined and first played for Gravesend and Northfleet in 1957/58. Initially a centre-half, his form was transformed moving up to centre-forward. In four seasons (1957/58-1959.60 & 1967/68) he scored for the first team 22 goals in 43 matches; at all levels he scored 106 goals for the club. In form he was a prolific marksman operating with great pace and powerful shooting. From Stonebridge Road his career progressed to Margate (1960/61 - 28 goals in 35 appearances), Canterbury City (1961/62 & 1962/63 – 5 goals in 13 appearances in the first season). Deal Town (1963/64 – top scorer), Bexley (1965/66), Canterbury City

(again 1967/68), Whitstable Town 1968/69 (3 goals in 6 appearances before he promptly retired) and out of retirement one season (1969/70) returning to Deal Town, where that season he was the top scorer.

Alan Brown married a Gravesend girl Janet (Jan) Arlett in 1957. They had three children (2 girls and a boy). Sadly, Jan died in 2007 after many years of poor health, just days after their golden wedding anniversary. Following retirement from cricket, Brown was employed in both the then major local industries - paper, a salesman for IPM and cement, a manager at APCM. Finally, he worked for the Post Office.

#### *Further Reading.*

Robertson, David, Milton Howard & Carlaw, Derek, *Kent County Cricket Club, 100 Greats*. Tempus Publishing Ltd., 2005.

*Howard Milton.*

#### **Iain Parry Campbell. (No. 621).**

*Born:* 04. 02.1928, Purley, Surrey. *Died:* 31. 05.2015, Taupo, New Zealand.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent. 1946.

Educated: Canford School & Trinity College, Oxford.

Parents: Kenneth Charles Campbell & Ednor Gaynor Campbell (née Parry).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	1	0	0	0*	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	22	36	4	482	60*	15.06	0	1	25/16

##### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Few schoolboy sportsmen have made a bigger impact than Ian Campbell at Canford. He captained his school at athletics, cricket, hockey, Rugby, squash and tennis. He is even reputed to have excelled at shove-halfpenny.

It was at cricket that he made the greatest impact and for while great things were predicted for him. First chosen for the eleven in 1943, in 1945 he hit 215 against Downside and scored 1,027 runs (avge.79.00) but it was in the following year when he combined wicketkeeping with the captaincy that his feats became positively Bradmanesque. With the next highest aggregate 206, he scored 1,277 runs (avge.116.09), including two double centuries, 237 in 106 minutes against Old Cambodians, 222\* in 150 minutes v Marlborough, plus three other hundreds and five half centuries. He was selected for Public Schools v a Lord's Eleven in 1945 and for Southern Schools v the Rest at Lord's and Public Schools v Combined Services in 1946, as captain in the latter fixture.

In August 1946 he made his debut for Kent but with the first three batsmen, Leslie Todd, Jack Davies and Leslie Ames, all scoring centuries, the declaration came before he could get off the mark. *The Cricketer Annual* in 1946 retained high hopes. 'Campbell should win his spurs. The lustiness of his hitting for Canford is just what Kentish crowds relish'.

Commissioned, he played for the Army and for Combined Services in 1947 and in 1949 went up to Oxford where he was awarded his Blue in 1949 and 1950. Chosen as wicketkeeper in 1949 in preference to the Soccer Blue John Tanner by virtue of superior batting potential, in fact he never approached the

run getting feats of his schooldays and although he played five matches for the University in 1951, he lost his place at Lord's to Philip Whitcombe.

In 1951 Campbell toured Canada with MCC and made his last first-class appearance in 1954 for MCC v Ireland in Dublin. He played for Band of Brothers, I Zingari and West Kent while in other sports he won a Blue and an England cap at hockey and played Rugby for Kent and London Counties. A teacher by profession, he taught at King's College, Worcester, Rugby School and Cranleigh School where he was master-in-charge of cricket. He later taught in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and in 1973 was appointed Headmaster of King's College, Auckland, New Zealand. He retired in 1988.

### **Stephen Capon (No. 643).**

*Born:* 25. 04. 1927, Snodland. *Died:* 03.03. 2017. Bristol.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1950.

Educated: Rochester Mathematical School.

Parents: Joseph Capon & Victoria Annie Capon (née Nash)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	0	4	4	4.00	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	156	2	98	0				

A regular opening bowler on the quick side of fast-medium for Mote Park, Stephen Capon made his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven, v Hampshire Second Eleven at Broadstairs, four days after opening the bowling for his club against Kent Club & Ground. Hampshire declared at 330-6 (A.G.Holt 127\*), Capon bowled 36 overs for 2 for 112 and Kent lost by an innings. His second appearance was more encouraging – 4 for 52 and 4 for 40 v Wiltshire at Aylesford but his first and only first-class match in the following week was again hard going. On a typical Trent Bridge pitch of the period, he bowled 26 wicketless overs as the home side totalled 407 with centuries from Charlie Harris and Fred Winrow.

He made five further Second Eleven appearances between 1950 and 1955 as well as playing a number of games for Kent Club & Ground. As well as playing for the Club & Ground against Mote Park, he also played for Mote Park against Kent Club & Ground.

The son of a plumber, on leaving school, Stephen Capon worked in Kent County Council, Architects' Department. In Maidstone in 1952 he married Nancy Gray who survives him.

### **Anthony Waldron Catt (No. 660).**

*Born:* 02. 10.1933, Dormansland, Surrey. *Died:* 05.08.2018, Rondebosch, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent.1954-1964. Kent Cap 1962. Second Eleven Cap 1955.

Educated: Town Ramparts Secondary Modern School, Ipswich.

Parents: Joseph Waldron Catt & Dorothy Louisa Catt (née Last)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	126	199	35	2862	162	17.45	1	8	246/31
<b>Overall</b>	138	218	37	3123	162	17.25	1	9	284/37



### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	18	2	2	0				

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	0	20	18	10.00	0	0	0

### Bowling

Did not bowl

In the days when an England wicketkeeper had reasonable expectations of a long run in the Test team, life could be difficult for his deputy to become properly established in the county side. Doubly so if, as in the case of Tony Catt, his county had a third 'keeper of at least equal ability.

The son of the 'domestic chauffeur' at Stanborough Castle, Dormansland, Catt was on the MCC staff in 1954 when he came to Canterbury for a trial. The result was an immediate engagement as additional cover for Godfrey Evans. With Derek Ufton still busy with Charlton and despite the absence of Second Eleven or Club & Ground experience, Catt made his first team debut in the opening game of the season where a competent display behind the stumps and scores of 26\* and 21\* brought half a dozen more first team appearances – four more than Ufton the established Evans deputy. For much of the next decade the two contended for the position.

Gifted with some of the Evans ebullience, in eight appearances in his second season he hit 88\* in a losing cause against Essex at Clacton and rather less satisfactorily allowed 48 byes at Northampton while suffering from what was officially stated to be sunburn but is rumoured to have been the mother and father of hangovers. Ufton generally gained preference until 1958 when he was appointed Second Eleven captain. In 11 games that year Catt caught 22 and stumped four. In 1959, Evans' final season, Catt retained his place as deputy but in 1960 when the number one post was there for the taking, he lost form and Ufton again supplanted him.

In June 1962 Catt got back to the first team for what proved to be his best season. Stockily built and a good hooker and cutter, Catt had often looked a class batsman but despite his 88\* at Clacton and 201 for Kent Second Eleven against Essex at Gravesend in 1959, up to 1962 he had under-achieved with only one other first-class half-century to his credit.

In 1962, in addition to 52 dismissals he scored 905 runs (avge.30.16) including a brilliant 162 against Leicestershire at Maidstone. Sent in as night watchman, he batted 225 minutes, hit 121 before lunch with 2 sixes and 24 fours, sharing a second wicket partnership of 177 with Peter Richardson (77). Richardson was his partner in two further century partnerships later in the season when he was briefly promoted to opener.

With Ufton retired, Catt had an excellent season with the gloves in 1963 (ct. 65/st. 13) but could average only 15 and, although he began well in 1964, that year saw the arrival of Alan Knott. By the end of the season the future clearly belonged to the younger man. As Bob Arrowsmith put it in his 1971 *History of County Cricket*. Kent 'a good wicketkeeper has no chance against a great one' and at the end of the season Tony Catt emigrated to South Africa. Between 1965 and 1968 he made twelve first-class appearances for Western Province.

In 1965 he married Jennifer Ann Skinner in South Africa. There were two sons.

**David Graham Clark (No. 612).**

*Born:* 27. 01.1919, Barming. *Died:* 8. 10. 2013, Lenham.  
 Right-handed batsman.  
 Kent: 1946-1951. Cap 1949.  
 County captain 1949-1951.  
 Educated: Rugby School.  
 Parents: Henry Charles Clark & Gladys Clark (née Friend)

### **First Class Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	75	133	9	1959	78	15.79	0	10	46

### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	52	0	44	1	44.00	1-19		

David Clark had considerable success as a batsman at school but, with six years of war and a spell as a POW intervening, at first-class level his record is relatively modest. As captain of Kent, he won praise for his leadership at a difficult time in their history, but his greatest contribution was as an administrator. He was Kent President in 1990, Trustee 1975-78 and served on the General Committee for 25 years, as Chairman from 1970 to 1974. He was on the Young Players Sub Committee from 1949 to 1958 and chaired the Cricket Sub Committee from 1958 to 1969, returning for three more years from 1975.

He served MCC as President 1977-78, Treasurer 1981-86, Trustee 1986 and for almost 30 years as a committee member. In 1966 he chaired an MCC Sub Committee set up to examine the future of county cricket and produced what came to be known as the Clark Report. He managed two MCC tours, to India 1963/64 and Australia & New Zealand 1970/71. While on the former he established a highly successful working relationship with the captain Mike Smith, in 1970/71, although Ray Illingworth's team won the Ashes, captain and manager were not – and with hindsight were never likely to be - *en rapport*.

The son of a 'concentrated food manufacturer' (best known for custard), David Clark was in the Eleven at Rugby in 1937, scored 129 v Marlborough and was picked for Lord's Schools v the Rest at Lord's. He made his Second Eleven debut against Surrey at Folkestone in 1938 and in the following season hit his only Second Eleven century, 113 v Sussex at Ashford.

Commissioned into the Royal Army Service Corps in 1940, he served with the First Airborne Division in North Africa and in the invasion of Sicily where he was fortunate as, although he was with the glider-born element, he landed safely. Many of the gliders were released early and landed in the sea. In 1944, as second-in-command HQ RASC, First Airborne Division, he took part in Operation Market Garden. Wounded and captured at Arnheim, he spent the remainder of the War in Oflag 1X, Spangenberg, Hesse.

Repatriated in 1945 with the rank of Major he made his first-class debut on the 18th May 1946 against Yorkshire at Canterbury. He played three matches that season and three in 1948, in the first of which, against Surrey at Rectory Field, he led the side and scored 29, his highest score at that stage.

In 1949, on the retirement of Bryan Valentine, he was offered, and with, considerable reluctance accepted, the captaincy. A successful farmer at Sandway near Maidstone, Clark had captained Kent Young Amateurs before the War and the Mote from 1946 to 1948, but he, like many others, thought Leslie Ames the obvious choice. Clark had indeed played twice under the latter's leadership. Ames however could not accept the Committee's insistence that he relinquish his professional status and Clark agreed to a three-year term with the primary aim of building for the future.

With much of the pre-war team retired or about to and new talent slow to emerge, it was a bleak period for Kent cricket but Clark's record, played 69, won 14, tied one, lost 33 drawn 21 was reasonable in the circumstances and better than both his immediate successors.

Setting a good example in a moderate fielding side, he batted courageously, on occasions opening. His most successful season was 1950 – won 6, lost 12, 748 runs (avge.17.39) – but some of his best efforts were in the following year, 58 in an opening partnership of 102 with Arthur Fagg (107) v Leicestershire at Gravesend. 73 v Surrey at Blackheath and 78 at The Oval.

On relinquishing the captaincy at the end of 1951, he subsequently confined himself to club cricket. He did however captain his own team against the 1951 South African tourists at Mote Park, leading a mainly Kentish side including Colin Cowdrey and Hopper Levett but also including Bill Edrich and Hubert Doggart.

In 1986 Clark became the first MCC Treasurer to resign. The cause was the dispute, too involved to relate here, over the respective roles of MCC and the TCCB. Sadly, this found him on the opposite side of the line to the future Lord Cowdrey whose career he had done so much to further.

He played for the BaBes (Band of Brothers junior section) 1935-37 and was a prominent and influential member of BB, as well as captain of the Mote from 1946 to 1948 and in 1953. He was President of BB from 1982 to 84 and a Trustee.

Although for many years a major figure in the world of cricket, he devoted much of his life to farming while still finding time for his other sports, skiing and golf. At the time of his death, he was Kent's oldest capped player.

#### **Grahame Selvey Clinton (No. 710).**

*Born:* 05. 05.1953, Sidcup.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent.1974-1978.

Educated: Chislehurst & Sidcup Grammar School.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	32	50	3	1142	88	24.29	0	7	10
<b>Overall</b>	270	450	53	13118	192	33.04	20	73	96

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	12	0	9	2	4.50	2-8		
<b>Overall</b>	160	2	201	4	50.25	2-8		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10	9	0	152	66	16.88	0	1	4
<b>Overall</b>	185	170	14	5264	146	33.74	4	33	34

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	32	2	12	0				2.25

One of several Kent players who during the latter half of the 20th century left for successful careers with other counties, Grahame Clinton was a gritty, opening batsman with a strong defence, essentially an accumulator. Clinton played club cricket for Blackheath and progressed through Kent Schools and ESCA, touring West Indies with England Young Cricketers and India with ESCA. He made his debut for Kent Club & Ground in 1970, for the Second Eleven in 1971 and topped the Second Eleven averages in 1972. In 1974 he played for the first team, batting number nine against Pakistan at Canterbury.

Clinton averaged over 50 for the Second Eleven in 1975 with three centuries and was by common consent unlucky not to gain a first team place. His form dipped in 1976 but in June 1977 he won a regular place at the top of the order in Kent's Championship winning side. With 828 runs (avge.30.66) including seven half-centuries, he looked set for a long career with Kent, but it was not to be. Beset by injury, he played only six games in 1978 and at the end of the season signed a two-year contract with Surrey.

In the event he remained a regular as one of Surrey's opening pair until 1990. Although still injury prone, he passed 1,000 runs seven times and four times averaged over 40. In 1979/80 he played for a season in Zimbabwe and subsequently coached at both The Oval and St Lawrence. He later became master-in-charge-of cricket at Colfe's. His son Richard played for Essex and Surrey and his nephew Paul for Oxford University.

#### **David John Constant (No. 688).**

*Born:* 09. 11.1941, Bradford-on-Avon, Wiltshire.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent.1961-1963.

Educated: Grove Park Secondary School.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	8	14	2	132	49*	11.00	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	61	93	14	1517	80	19.20	0	6	33

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	75	3	36	1	36.00	1-28		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	1	1	0	5	5	5.00	0	0	0

##### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Best known as one of the leading umpires of his time, albeit one with a reputation for mild eccentricity, David Constant captained Kent Schools and London Schoolboys and had his first trial for Kent in 1955. After a brief spell on the Lord's ground staff, in 1958, on the recommendation of George Pope, he joined Kent. He played his first game for Club & Ground in the following year and made his Second Eleven debut against Surrey at The Oval in May 1959. He scored 50\* in his second match but did little

else that year. In 1960 he amassed over 700 runs and when Kent won the Second Eleven championship in 1961, he was the most consistent batsman in the side.

Described in the Cricket Sub-Committee report as having shown ‘tremendous improvement’ he scored over 1,000 runs with one century and eight half-centuries and earned a chance in the first Eleven for the final three matches of the season. His debut, one and 0 against Northamptonshire at Dover, was not encouraging but on his second appearance he contributed a valuable 49\* on a difficult wicket at Bath. Although he continued to score in Second Eleven cricket, at first-class level this early promise was unfulfilled with a top score of 14 over the next two seasons. Although again leading scorer for the Second Eleven in 1962 and second highest in 1963, at the end of the 1963 season Constant was one of four players not re-engaged.

After a short stay with Gloucestershire, during which he played two Second Eleven matches and in 1965 married the daughter of Gloucestershire’s long-serving seam bowler George Lambert, he moved on to Leicestershire where he made 53 first team appearances between 1965 and 1968. Eventually he became disenchanted with an excess of Second Eleven cricket and twelfth man duties and, following a talk with Leicestershire Secretary Ken Turner and a heart-to-heart with friend, former teammate and current umpire David Halfyard, he applied to MCC for admission to the umpire’s list.

Appointed in 1969, he was at the time the youngest appointee since Frank Chester in 1922. In 1971 he was elevated to the Test Match panel and when he retired in 2006 he had officiated over more seasons than anyone before or since. Altogether, he stood in 657 first-class matches including 36 Test matches, as well as in 648 List A matches.

Away from cricket, he was bowls (outdoor) champion for Gloucestershire and bowls champion (indoor) for Somerset.

### **Geoffrey William Cook (No. 677).**

*Born:* 09. 02.1936, Beckenham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off break bowler.

Kent.1957. Second Eleven Cap 1956.

Educated: Dulwich College & Queen’s College, Cambridge.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	5	1	89	51*	22.25	0	1	1
<b>Overall</b>	47	77	11	1858	140	28.15	3	12	26

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	66	3	36	0				
<b>Overall</b>	4843	224	2309	64	36.07	4-45		

Described in *Wisden* as ‘mature far beyond his years’, Geoffrey Cook headed the Dulwich batting averages in four of his five seasons in the first Eleven. He was picked to represent Southern Schools at Lord’s in 1954 and 1955.

Going up University in 1957, despite playing in eleven matches he failed to achieve his Blue in his first season but, batting number nine against Lancashire at Aigburth, he scored 111, his maiden century, adding 200 in 150 minutes for the ninth-wicket with Colin Smith (87).

Awarded his Blue in 1958 he scored 111\* against Oxford, sharing an eighth wicket partnership of 289 with Gamini Goonesena (211). In the following year he was his side’s top scorer in the University match

with 71, putting on 95 in 95 minutes with David Green (70). During his time at Cambridge he played alongside John Pretlove, Roger Prideaux and Chris Howland and against David Sayer.

Kent were aware of Cook's talent. He played for Kent Young Amateurs from 1952 to 1954 as well as for Band of Brothers. In 1954, the year in which he scored 810 runs for Dulwich (avge., 81.00), he made his Second Eleven debut against Wiltshire on the Marlborough College ground and played a handful of games in 1955 and 1956 with a top score of 77 v Royal Engineers at Ditton in the latter year. At the end of the Oxford Summer Term in 1957, he was given four games in the first Eleven but, apart from a very impressive 51\* against the much-feared Derbyshire seam attack, he only once reached double figures.

Thereafter medical studies at Guy's Medical School restricted his cricket but he toured East Africa with MCC in 1958 (non-first-class) and played five games for Kent Second Eleven in 1959. From 1967-1970 he played for Berkshire. He appeared in two first-class matches in 1961 both against his old university, for Free Foresters when he scored 140, and for Col.L.C.Stevens' Eleven. On qualifying, he practised as a GP.

### **Christopher Stuart Cowdrey (No. 715).**

*Born:* 20. 10. 1957, Farnborough.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent.1976-1991. Cap 1979.

County captain 1985-1990.

Tests: Six for England (one as captain), ODIs: Three for England.

Educated: Wellesley House, Broadstairs & Tonbridge School.

Parents: Michael Colin Cowdrey (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge) & Penelope Susan Cowdrey (née Chieseman).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	280	430	64	11869	159	32.42	21	56	274
<b>England</b>	6	8	1	101	38	14.42	0	0	5
<b>Overall</b>	299	452	68	12252	159	31.90	21	58	295

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	13262	426	7216	181	39.86	5-46	2	0
<b>England</b>	399	2	309	4	77.25	2-65	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	14523	454	7962	200	39.81	5-46	2	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	313	279	45	6518	122*	27.85	2	41	101
<b>England</b>	3	3	1	51	46*	25.50	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	334	300	47	6846	122*	27.05	2	42	108

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7212	46	5514	188	29.32	5-28	1	4.58
<b>England</b>	52	0	55	0	27.50	1-3	0	6.34
<b>Overall</b>	7740	48	5979	204	29.30	5-28	1	4.63

For Chris Cowdrey, the family name, if not quite a poisoned chalice, was certainly something of a millstone around the neck. Not only was he, like many other offspring of famous parents, obliged throughout his career to endure the inevitable comparisons - significantly, he chose for his autobiography the title '*Good Enough?*'. Worse perhaps, some viewed the name as cricket's equivalent of the silver spoon in the mouth and the captaincy, when it came, as a sort of family inheritance. On his own admission, all this influenced his cricket. Quite early on he determined to evolve his own technique and approach to the game rather than attempt to match his father. When he assumed the captaincy, there were the inevitable schisms to cope with, both on and off the field'. The detail will be found in Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell's *Trophies & Tribulations* (Greenwich Publishing, London, 2010).

Although his Test record is unimpressive, at county level he did enough to suggest that his surname was irrelevant. An aggressive batsman with a wide range of strokes, he was particularly strong on the leg-side, excelled in the shorter game and showed little sign of the introspection which sometimes afflicted his illustrious parent. His bowling often looked ordinary, but he had a knack of picking up important wickets. As an all-round fielder he had few equals.

If he lacked consistency and never looked likely to match his father as one of the cricketing greats, it is perhaps worth noting that his 23 centuries for Kent included hundreds against bowlers such as Curtly Ambrose, Ian Botham, Sylvester Clarke, Michael Holding, Devon Malcolm, Malcolm Marshall and John Snow.

As a schoolboy cricketer, Chris Cowdrey lost nothing by comparison with anyone. At Wellesley House he was nine when chosen for the First Eleven and at Tonbridge he headed the batting averages in every season from 1972 to 1975. In 1973, against Clifton at Lord's, he hit a hundred before lunch and in 1974, his first year as captain, he was top of the bowling averages as well. In the second year of his captaincy, he averaged over 80 and won the Cricket Society's Wetherall Award for the Leading allrounder in English Schools Cricket.

Aged 15, he made five appearances for Kent Second Eleven in 1973 with a top score of 25 and in the following year, in addition to further experience with Kent Seconds, he appeared in two Under 19 Test matches against West Indies. After being run out without scoring on debut, he made useful runs against an attack headed by Wayne Daniel.

In 1976 Cowdrey joined the Kent staff and in May registered his first Second Eleven half-century, 87 (run out) at The Oval. Shortly afterwards came his first team debut, v Yorkshire at Scarborough in the John Player League. It was an uneventful start; he did not bowl and was not required to bat. Jim Swanton, by then something of an *eminence grise* in Kent cricket, tried hard but without success to persuade captain Mike Denness to field father and son in a match but, before the end of the season, Cowdrey junior was captaining England Young Cricketers on their tour of West Indies. In the only 'Test' match, at Port of Spain, he scored 48 and 69.

In the following year Cowdrey was chosen against the Australians in Kent's opening game of the season. Play was restricted to two and a half hours on the first day and two hours 40 minutes on the last, but he managed seven overs and his maiden first-class wicket, Doug Walters. The next match was his Championship debut at Lord's against Middlesex but only 41 overs were bowled and he did not get to the wicket. Left out of the next match at Bristol, his debut as a batsman was not until the third match of the season, at Derby when, opening the batting, he scored 14 and 35. On his next appearance, against Middlesex at Dartford, he helped rescue Kent from 127-7 with a partnership of 76 (Cowdrey 66, John Shepherd 34).

Seven days later came his first hundred for Kent and an important one. Opening the batting at Canterbury in a Quarter Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup, he won the Gold Award with 114 in 160 minutes and in a fourth-wicket partnership with Alan Ealham (94\*), 146 were scored from 20 overs.

Strangely as some thought, he was left out of the team for the Final. His maiden first-class hundred came in August of the same year, 101\* in 160 minutes with 15 fours at Swansea.

In 1979 Cowdrey did enough to gain his County Cap and was a fairly regular member of the first team but did not score another hundred in first-class or List A cricket until 1983. He came close in 1981 with 97 v Sussex at Eastbourne but this was the only year in this period in which he averaged over 30. Meanwhile, he had been gaining experience of cricket overseas with DH Robins' Eleven, to Sri Lanka & the Far East in 1977/1978 and, as captain, to Australia & New Zealand 1979/1980.

In 1982 the Kent committee took the unusual step of appointing Cowdrey and Chris Tavaré joint vice-captains to Asif Iqbal. In practice, Tavaré's England commitments resulted in his leading the team in only four matches (won one, drawn two, lost one) as against Cowdrey's ten (won two, drawn six, lost two) and it came as a surprise to many when Tavaré was appointed captain for 1983. Buoyed perhaps by tentative offers of the captaincy from at least one other county, Cowdrey had reputedly expected to be appointed but, according to the Ellis/Pennell book referred to above, the committee considered that he was not yet an automatic choice whereas Tavaré was firmly established with both Kent and England.

Thanks to a Whitbread Scholarship, in the winter of 1977/1978 Cowdrey had experienced cricket in Australian conditions with Cumberland CC and in 1982/83 he was back for a full season of Grade cricket, returning a hugely improved player.

For Kent he headed the averages with 1,364 first-class runs (avge.56.83), five centuries. Against Yorkshire at Abbeydale Park, 228 were added for the sixth-wicket. (Cowdrey 113, Eldine Baptiste 136\*). In the NatWest Trophy, his 122 v Essex at Chelmsford earned him a Man of the Match Award and in the Semi-Final against Hampshire at Canterbury he took 4 for 36, his best figures in limited-overs cricket to date.

Now joined in the side by brother Graham (*q.v.*), Cowdrey again reached his 1,000 runs in 1984 but, handicapped by injury, his average dropped back to the low thirties. He did, however, play probably the best innings of his career when captaining against Essex on an unpredictable pitch at Colchester.

After asking the home team to bat first and seeing them dismissed for 90, he came in with Kent 15 for 3. Despite a cracked knuckle and a cut finger, he scored 125\* out of 186 in four hours with sixteen fours. To this he added match figures of 3 for 16 off 11.4 overs as, half an hour after lunch on the second day, Essex went down by ten wickets.

In the winter he toured India with England and played in all five Test matches. His top score was only 38 and his four wickets were expensive, but he had the distinction of clean bowling Kapil Dev with his fourth ball while still wearing shin pads and box. He was omitted from the first three of the five One-Day Internationals but in the fourth played his best innings of the tour, 46\* off 42 balls.

Cowdrey returned to county cricket as captain. It was not a comfortable inheritance. The committee's decision to replace the quiet, cerebral and well-liked Tavaré, who had taken Kent to two successive NatWest Finals and a creditable fifth place in the Championship, with the more outgoing, charismatic Cowdrey was not one likely to promote dressing room harmony. Cricket Manager Brian Luckhurst was not even consulted. Not by nature much given to hyperbole, in his autobiography *Boot Boy to President* (KOS Media, Chartham, 2004) Luckhurst describes the changeover as 'without doubt the worst decision that the county has made since the war'.

Hampered by injuries and cold, dreary weather, it was a disappointing start for the new skipper. The first Championship win did not come until the third week of June and, a mid-season rally notwithstanding, the team finished ninth in the table. In the John Player Sunday League, Kent were top of the table with a six point lead at the beginning of July but eventually finished tenth, while interest ended at the Semi-Final stage of the Benson & Hedges Cup and the Quarter Finals of the NatWest Trophy.



On a personal level, the season began well with 159 & 95 against Surrey at Canterbury in the second game of the season, a half-century in the next match, at Cardiff in the Benson & Hedges Cup, and 95 in the next Championship fixture, v Middlesex at Lord's. There followed a run of low scores in mid-season including a pair at Leicester and he missed five Championship matches through injury, but a prolific Folkestone Week - 62 v Derbyshire and 131 & 39 v Hampshire - saw him to his 1,000 runs for the third successive year.

It was a transitional period for Kent and, with the notable exception of 1988, Chris Cowdrey's six-year spell as captain was not on the whole a memorable one. Kent came close to silverware in 1986 when they lost to Middlesex by two runs in the Benson & Hedges Final. They had suffered the worst of the weather and their later batsman faced light that was failed rather than failing, but Kent had contributed to their own misfortunes by a funereal over rate.

In 1988, against all predictions, Kent finished Championship runners-up, a mere one point behind Champions Worcestershire and their highest position since winning the Championship in 1978. The season started badly with three heavy defeats but, after a straight-talking team meeting oddly reminiscent of 1970, the side embarked on a run of six successive victories and led the table for much of the season.

As captain, it was Cowdrey's finest hour. While new 'cricket adviser' John Inverarity deserves credit, critics agreed that much of the improvement was due to Cowdrey's leadership, especially in the field where he broke his own record with 33 catches and, leading by example, saw Kent acknowledged as one of the best fielding sides in the country. Although missing three matches due to Test match calls and injury, he scored 1,000 runs in all matches and had his best season with the ball - 39 Championship wickets (avge.28.71) plus another eighteen in limited overs cricket.

Success with Kent attracted wider attention and Cowdrey was unexpectedly called up to captain England in the fourth and fifth Test matches against West Indies, at Headingley and The Oval and on the planned winter tour to India. He was the third captain used so far during the series. Chairman of selectors Peter May, who also happened to be Cowdrey's godfather, explained that 'We believe Cowdrey's style of leadership is what is now required'. With England two-nil down and seemingly outclassed, to bring in as captain a player untried at this level against the strongest attack in the world seemed odd to put it no stronger and some further elucidation might have been appropriate. In the event, England lost by ten wickets (Cowdrey lbw b Marshall 0, b Walsh five, 0 for 8 & 0 for 13).

Shortly before the Oval Test match Cowdrey suffered a leg injury and was obliged to cry off to be replaced by captain number four, Graham Gooch. Gooch was subsequently picked to lead the side to India, a tour eventually cancelled due to the chosen captain's South African involvement. Cowdrey received no further official communication on the captaincy and, in his own words 'I am deeply hurt that no one has bothered to tell me where I went wrong and why I am no longer considered the right man to captain England'. The headline to an article which appeared under his name in *The Sun* expressed his feelings rather more forcefully - 'England can stick tour job'. The paper obligingly paid the resultant £500 fine.

The team's improvement was short-lived. Kent finished 14th in 1989 and 15th in 1990 and made little impact in the three limited-overs competitions. Although according to his own account increasingly disillusioned with cricket, in 1989, his benefit year, Cowdrey had his best season with the bat since 1983, with 1,169 runs (avge.38.96). His two centuries included 146\* from 172 balls at The Oval when Kent chased, and almost reached, an improbable (at the time) target of 265 from 59 overs. Against Dorset at Canterbury in the NatWest Trophy the Cowdrey brothers added 102 for the fifth-wicket from 38 balls. (Christopher 69\*, Graham 34\*).

Cowdrey had played for Avondale CC, Cape Town in 1983/1984 and any further Test cricket ambitions were extinguished when, in the winter of 1989/1990, he toured South Africa under the captaincy of

Mike Gatting. It was an ill-timed venture, dogged by death threats, pitch damage and ultimately called-off.

In 1990, although missing eleven first-class matches Cowdrey again batted well with 733 runs (avge.40.72). His three centuries included his last, 107\* v Northants at Wantage Road, scored in 148 minutes with 1 six and 17 fours. In early August he announced his intention of relinquishing the captaincy at the end of the season.

As so often seems to happen with Kent, Chris Cowdrey left the County on a sour note. In the first match of the 1991 season, against Hampshire at Southampton, he hit 97 in a fourth-wicket partnership of 224 with Mark Benson (257) but he appeared in only two more championship matches. In the Benson & Hedges Cup he played a typically robust innings of 57\* against Sussex at Canterbury, his last half-century for Kent, but was left out of the side for almost half of the limited-overs fixtures and hardly bowled at all. At the end of the 1991 season he signed a one-year contract with Glamorgan.

Cowdrey joined Glamorgan primarily to play limited-overs cricket but, after beginning well in the Benson & Hedges competition his form faded and in thirteen List A matches he scored only 217 runs and claimed only eight wickets. He scored 50 in his final first-class match, against Oxford University in the Parks.

Post retirement, he continued to play for sides such as Sir J Paul Getty's Eleven, Lashings and Lord's Taverners. His last appearance for the latter was in 2009. In 1995 he took part in the Masters Tournament in India. Away from cricket he has extensive business interests, mainly in the field of corporate hospitality, property and the media.

As often happens when players have ended their careers with Kent amid varying degrees of ill-feeling, Cowdrey's breach was short-lived. He served on the General committee from 2001 to 2006 and was appointed Club President in 2023. In 1989 he married Christel Margarets Holst-Sande. They divorced in 2013. They had twin sons of whom Fabian made 10 first-class, 25 List A and 35 Twenty 20 appearances for Kent between 2013 and 2016.

#### *Further Reading:*

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Robertson, David, Milton Howard & Carlaw, Derek *Kent County Cricket Club, 100 Greats.* Tempus Publishing Ltd., 2005.

Tennant, Ivo. *The Cowdreys: portrait of a cricketing family.* Simon & Schuster, 1990.

#### **Graham Richard Cowdrey (No. 735).**

*Born:* 27. 06.1964, Farnborough. *Died:* 10.11.2020, Scarborough.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent.1984-1998. Cap 1988.

Educated: Wellesley House School, Broadstairs, Tonbridge School & Durham University.

Parents: Michael Colin Cowdrey (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge) & Penelope Susan Cowdrey (née Chieseman).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	179	284	29	8858	147	34.73	17	46	97

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1206	37	872	12	72.66	1-5		

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	261	230	33	5142	105*	26.10	3	24	80

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1279	19	920	35	26.28	4-15	0	4.31

The youngest son of one of the County's greatest ever, Colin Cowdrey (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge.), Graham Cowdrey was a considerable cricketer in his own right, even if he did not quite live up to what many considered his potential. In his early days some detected echoes of his father's technique but Graham developed into very much his own man, an aggressive, hard-hitting, middle order right-hand batsman, capable of destroying any bowling attack, with a method founded mainly on the power of his not always strictly textbook driving, especially through and over mid-off and mid-on. On the leg side, he could be devastating on anything short.

Nevertheless, as is sometimes the case with a famous father, Graham found the Cowdrey name something of a millstone. Some, including Graham himself, came to think he would perhaps have been happier with another county. With a technique tailor made for limited-overs cricket, there was a tendency to pigeon-hole him as a one-day cricketer but, with almost 9,000 first-class runs and 17 centuries, he was rather more than that. In the Championship he should certainly have made more runs but at the time there was pressure for places in the middle order and in his 13 years he only played four full Championship seasons. He played many high quality innings but the fact remains that at times consistency eluded him and in slightly over 50% of his completed innings in what we would now term red ball cricket he was dismissed for scores ranging from 0 to 19.

In the best family tradition, he started early, excelling at Wellesley House where he averaged 85 in his final year, and in 1979 commenced the first of his four years in the Eleven at Tonbridge. In that year he was a member of the Tonbridge Under-15 Eleven who won the Lord's Taverners/*Cricketer* Colts Trophy. In 1980 he headed the School averages and again in 1981 when he scored 731 runs at 45.68 and took 32 wickets. Chosen for HMC Southern Schools v The Rest at Eastbourne he hit 58 (retired)) with 4 sixes and 6 fours. Unbeaten as captain in his final year, he was leading scorer with 691 runs (avge.49.35) and led the bowling averages with 29 wickets at 11.44. Selected as skipper for HMC Southern Schools, he scored 117 v The Rest at Eastbourne.

Beyond school cricket, in 1981, before his 17th birthday, he made his first appearance for Kent against Hampshire at Tonbridge School in the Under-25 Warwick Pool 40-over competition. A strong Kent side included Derek Aslett, Eldine Baptiste, Simon Hinks, and Laurie Potter. In the following year he made his debut for the Second Eleven and on the second of three appearances scored 112\* against Surrey Seconds at Orpington, sharing a third- wicket partnership of 204 with Hinks (128). Admittedly there were a remarkable 11 other centuries (and six 90s) scored for the Seconds that year but, a little oddly, Colin Page did not mention Cowdrey's innings in the end of season Second Eleven Report nor does his name appear in the season's averages in the Kent Annual or in *Wisden*.

Cowdrey began the 1983 season with two half-centuries for Durham University and shortly afterwards went on to establish himself with Kent Seconds, finishing second in the averages with 563 runs (avge.40.21) with a highest score of 98 at Leyton. He was second in the averages in the Warwick Pool Under-25 One- Day competition and in August was chosen for one Under 19 ODI against Young Australia at Lord's followed by an Under 19 Test match at Trent Bridge.

To quote Colin Page's Second Eleven Report in the 1985 Annual, Cowdrey was 'undoubtedly the star batsman' in 1984 with 1,001 runs (avge.41.70) in 14 matches with four centuries and six half centuries.

In August 1984 Cowdrey made his first-class debut, against Sri Lanka at Canterbury. Caught for seven in his only innings, the bowler was Aravinda de Silva who had been caught by Cowdrey for 59 in the Sri Lankan innings. The two would meet again and become close friends in 1995 when de Silva had his memorable season with Kent.

Second Eleven captain for the whole of the 1985 season, despite a lean spell at the end of May, Cowdrey scored four hundreds, finishing with 1,300 runs (avge.52.00). His last five innings were 86, 24, 40, 105 and ended with 255 (out of 400 for 9 declared) against Glamorgan Seconds at Sittingbourne. He also captained the Under-25 side to the Final of the Warwick competition, hitting two half-centuries, but missing the Final due to first-team duties.

In early August Cowdrey had been chosen for his Championship debut against Glamorgan at Swansea and, after the end of the Second Eleven season, he was given a run of five first team matches which brought him two first-class half-centuries, 51 in 171 minutes against the Australians, and 53 against Worcestershire at New Road. He also played two matches in the John Player 40 over competition.

Picked for the first team from the beginning of 1986, it began promisingly in the Championship with 59 at Grace Road and 75 v Northants at Canterbury, but by the end of May the runs were beginning to dry up, at least in first-class cricket. With the single exception of a fine 61 (top score) at Gloucester, from the second week of June to the end of the season, in sixteen innings his highest score was 16.

In limited overs cricket, especially in the Benson & Hedges Cup, it was a rather different story. Against Surrey at Canterbury, he struck 65 (7 fours, 2 sixes), adding 127 in 16 overs with his brother (89\*) and at Southampton 60\* where, with Baptiste (25\*), 88 were hit from the last ten overs. In the Quarter Final, against Derbyshire, the Cowdrey brothers scored 56 in seven overs of which Graham contributed 34. In the Final against Middlesex, played throughout in damp and dismal conditions and ending in heavy rain and appalling light, with Kent 72 for 5 and facing defeat, Cowdrey junior was top scorer with 58 from 70 balls before mishitting a full toss with 20 runs needed. Steve Marsh and Graham Dilley required 16 from the last over and failed by two.

Cowdrey played five first-class matches in 1987. In the last, at Derby, following 68 in the first innings, in the second he was hit by his first ball from Michael Holding, leaving him with a broken jaw and with five of his teeth lying on the pitch. Up to that point, although in and out of the Championship side, he had been ever present in List A matches and had contributed over 500 runs. Surprisingly, the injury did not quite end his season. In September he had recovered sufficiently to take his place against Warwickshire in the Refuge Assurance League at Canterbury but rain prevented play. Following his injury, Cowdrey continued to score runs against quick bowling but general opinion seems to be that he was never quite the same batsman afterwards.

1988 was a memorable year, with Kent missing first place in the Championship by one point and the introduction of a mixture of three-day and four-day county matches. The first of the latter, against Essex at Chelmsford, was at the time a record for the number of runs scored in a championship match, 275 from Graham Gooch and hundreds from Derek Pringle and Mark Benson. On the fourth day Kent were still 94 in arrears with four wickets remaining when Cowdrey was joined by Marsh. Together they brought the number of centuries up to five, adding 222 and, both scoring maiden centuries, Cowdrey 145, Marsh 120.

He was awarded his cap but, once again, famine followed feast. In his next 14 innings his top score was 20\* and, although the second half of the season was better with four half-centuries his final record, 830 runs (avge.28.62) including three ducks and another 14 scores under 20, was disappointing. In List A matches he batted usefully with two century partnerships in the Refuge Assurance League. There was

an unexpected bonus. He had on occasions in the past proved a useful bowler in limited overs cricket but this year he was second in the List A bowling averages with 17 wickets at 20.41.

Despite a winter spent playing and coaching in Australia, Cowdrey struggled for form for much of 1989, reserving his best for his last first team game of the season. Against Leicestershire at Folkestone in the Refuge Assurance League, he led a recovery from 56 for 4, with 102\* in 76 balls, the last 50 coming from 17 balls. Marsh rated this as among the finest one-day hundreds he had ever seen.

Earlier in the season, also against Leicestershire, he had registered his second Championship hundred, a rather different piece of cricket, 108\* in a little over five hours, evidence that he could graft when he had to. This was one of only eight Championship matches he played that year. Helped by five not outs, he led the List A averages. In nine appearances for the Seconds he hit three centuries. He even recorded two for the Club & Ground.

The 1990s brought a change. While consolidating his position in limited-overs cricket, in first-class matches he exceeded 1,000 runs in each of the next three seasons, gaining a regular first team spot and achieving the level of consistency which previously eluded him. From the start of 1990, not until his 18th innings was he dismissed for single figures. The season proved his most prolific, 1,576 runs (avge.47.75), with three centuries. He shared in seven century partnerships including 268 for the third-wicket against Essex at Maidstone (Benson 159, Cowdrey 116) and 258 for the fourth at Grace Road (Hinks 163, Cowdrey 135).

Chris Cowdrey had resigned at the end of the previous season and under the new skipper, Mark Benson, it was another successful season for the younger Cowdrey with 1,175 runs (avge.39.16), again with three hundreds. Once again there were two double-century partnerships, both with Neil Taylor, 217 for the second-wicket at Grace Road (Taylor 150, Cowdrey 90) and 206 for the third-wicket at Hove (Taylor 203\*, Cowdrey 78). Possibly his best innings was against West Indies. Having declared twice, the visitors set Kent 342 in 70 overs. Against an attack including Courtney Walsh and Patrick Patterson, the score was 80 for three when Matthew Fleming joined Cowdrey. Together they added 192 from 34 overs when Fleming left for 116. Cowdrey was out, caught off Patterson, for 104 at 327-8, having faced 172 balls and hit nine fours. Kent lost by four runs with two balls to go.

In List A matches his three half-centuries included 70\* in 48 balls against Leicestershire at Canterbury in the Benson & Hedges when, with Marsh (21\*), 76 came from six overs.

In most respects 1992 turned out to be Cowdrey's best first-class season, ending with 1,291 runs (avge.51.64), once again with three hundreds. Against Yorkshire at Canterbury, he hit 127 with 15 fours and 5 sixes, adding 235 for the sixth-wicket with Marsh (125). With his score at 85\*, he hit 6, 6, 4, 4, 4 from the next five balls. In the next match, at Hove, he scored 62 in a fourth-wicket stand with Carl Hooper of 120 in 25 overs, Hooper going on to 121. When Kent fed Sussex gift runs on the last day (Neil Lenham 222\*), Cowdrey's analysis was something of a collector's piece - 36-6-147-1.

There followed successive centuries, against Gloucestershire at Bristol and Durham at Gateshead and, although he was less prolific in the latter part of the season, there were Championship half-centuries against Lancashire, Middlesex 76\* & 60 and Warwickshire.

Apart from 56 at The Oval in the Sunday League, Cowdrey had a fairly low key List A season, in all one-day competitions averaging a modest 16.39.

Cowdrey found runs hard to come by in Kent's pre-season tour of Zimbabwe in 1993 and, what with injury and fluctuating form, in the season proper he was picked for only a dozen first team matches. His one century, 139 v Northants at Canterbury at the end of August occurred when, having been given out caught at the wicket off Curtly Ambrose, he was recalled by Harold Bird when he had almost reached the pavilion gate. Apart from that, his 51 against the Australians was his only other score over 50. Playing in 17 of Kent's 21 List A matches, he often batted at seven, or on a couple of occasions lower

and hit only one half-century but in six Second Eleven matches he headed the averages with 705 runs (avge.78.00) with three centuries and three half-centuries.

In 1994, when Cowdrey played one of his most memorable innings, it was only his third first-class game of the season. Earlier, he had attracted the attention of those who followed Kent closely with 178\* (5 sixes and 23 fours) for the Seconds at Taunton but, chosen against the South Africans, he was only there thanks to Fleming's late withdrawal. Faced with Allan Donald and former Kent teammate Fanie de Villiers, Kent were 62 for 5 when Cowdrey arrived at the wicket. Adding 93 with Marsh (57) and 110 with Dean Headley (46\*), he scored 114 from 213 balls with 3 sixes and 15 fours, the innings turning out to be the major factor in Kent's first victory against the tourists since 1924.

Unfortunately, the runs were still not coming regularly and after a half-dozen more first team appearances he lost his place although he was back again before the end of the season. He finished with 470 runs with a respectable average of 31.33, with two half-centuries to go with his hundred. In List A matches he played 16 of the scheduled 23, notably at Wantage Road in the AXA Equity & Law League in which his 82 contained 3 sixes and 9 fours.

In a very mixed 1995, Kent won the Axa Equity & Law League, reached the final of the Benson & Hedges Cup but finished bottom in the County Championship. For Cowdrey, it was one of his best seasons and there have been suggestions that the arrival of Aravinda de Silva was the catalyst for the remarkable spurt of form in his cricket. Whatever the reason, although he did not gain a regular first team place until July, he compiled 930 runs (avge.44.28) with two centuries and six half-centuries and finished second to de Silva in the averages. Regularly selected for the shorter game, he had his best season ever, 767 runs (avge.42.61) with two hundreds and three half-centuries.

Warming up with 71 and a century partnership with Benson v Gloucestershire at Canterbury, there followed 53\* and a century partnership with Taylor at Trent Bridge and 41 & 48 against Cambridge University at Folkestone. The next fixture was Derbyshire at Mote Park. Coming together at 54 for 3, de Silva and Cowdrey added 368 from 80 overs (de Silva 255, Cowdrey 137), at the time the highest partnership for any Kent wicket. It remains the highest for the fourth. There was a duck in the second innings but among subsequent innings were 94 & 77 at New Road, 98 from 87 balls v Surrey and 103 from 148 balls v Champions Warwickshire, both at Canterbury.

In his second appearance in the Axa Equity & Law League, against Leicestershire at Canterbury, he hit 92\* followed by 105\* from 62 balls at Southampton, 80 at Trent Bridge and 101\* at Lord's. In the Benson & Hedges Cup his top score was 28 up to the Final at Lord's where, against Lancashire, there was drama and eventually huge disappointment for the Kentish faithful. The Red Rose county having totalled 274 for 7, Cowdrey joined de Silva at 81 for 3. Together they had added 61 when Cowdrey, 25\*, sweeping at full stretch, was given out lbw by umpire David Shepherd. With DRS we are now quite accustomed to seeing batsman given lbw when well down the pitch but at the time there was a great deal of controversy. Although not everyone agreed, Cowdrey himself thought it 'an atrocious decision' and most of Kent's following both sides of the Medway seem to have agreed with him.

In a disappointing National Westminster Bank Trophy, Cowdrey hit 6 sixes in his 65 against Staffordshire at Stone and in the Tetley Bitter Festival Trophy match against Durham at Scarborough scored 145 (4 sixes and ten fours), reaching his hundred from 79 balls and taking 24 from one over from James Boiling.

Despite having begun well with 52 v Lancashire at Canterbury, 45 & 41 at The Oval and being one of three centurions in Kent's 590 at Ilford, 1996 was a disappointing season for Cowdrey. At Ilford, in May, he shared with Hooper a fourth wicket-partnership of 224 in 49 overs (Hooper 155, Cowdrey 111) at and hit two more half-centuries in June, but again along came a barren patch and by July he was out of the side until the last first-class game of the season. In limited-overs cricket he missed only one of the 25 matches, posting three half-centuries but overall averaged in the low 20s.

In his benefit year, Cowdrey started the championship consistently if not spectacularly with scores of 36, 29, 28, 40 and 28 but a torn hamstring in a one-day match on 1st June kept him out until the end of July.

Back in the Championship side he hit his last century, 101 (12 fours) at Taunton but in his remaining six first-class innings he only once passed 20, 33 in his final first-class innings. In the shorter game he passed 500 runs for the third and last time, 554 runs (avge.36.93). In the Benson & Hedges at Bristol, he put on 102 for the third-wicket with Nigel Llong (48), finishing with 77, his personal highest in the competition. Injury kept him out of the Semi-final and Final; he also missed the NatWest Bank Trophy.

Often at his best in the 40 over format, in the AXA Life Sunday League he pulverised the Surrey attack at Canterbury with 82 from 46 balls (5 sixes, 7 fours) and repeated the performance at Trent Bridge with 81\* from 43 balls with four sixes and six fours. Having returned much too early in mid-June, he suffered a recurrence of the hamstring trouble while hitting 46 at Darlington but, back again in August, against Essex at Canterbury, he again reached 80, a more sedate innings from 79 balls.

An extremely popular beneficiary, the year raised a record £303,000. Nevertheless, offered only a two-year contract in 1997, before the 1998 season was over Cowdrey's career had ended on a sad note. He was not selected for a single first-class match and in 17 limited-overs fixtures his top score was 17. By mid-season he had decided cricket was no longer for him and took the decision while driving back from a Second Eleven game at Taunton. His highest score in a match of any significance had been 26 in a one-day friendly with South Africa at Canterbury and his very last game for Kent on August 11th had been in another one-day friendly, against Sri Lanka, appropriately captained by his friend de Silva.

Beginning with his father's debut in 1950, his son's departure ended a period of 48 years of a Cowdrey in the Eleven. It was not however quite the end of the dynasty. Graham's nephew Fabian (son of Christopher) played for the county from 2013 to 2016.

A long term member of Christians in Sport, Cowdrey was highly regarded as a man of wit, charm, and great generosity, known to most of his friends as 'Van' after his devotion to the music of Van Morrison. As well as his musical interests, he was a devotee of horse racing with extensive knowledge of the subject. He jointly owned a racing filly with Fleming, Marsh, Igglesden and McCague. In 1993 he married the well-known amateur jockey Maxine Juster who became assistant to the racing trainer Lady Herries, second-wife of Lord Cowdrey. There were three children, first a son and then twins, a son and a daughter.

He had a variety of business interests including writing for *The Racing Post*, running a fund-raising company and working as cricket specialist for spread betting companies, Sporting Index and Canter Index. In later years he was a cricket liaison officer for the ECB. Following the break-up of his marriage, his last few years were marred by a variety of difficulties including heart problems. He died in a hospice, cause of death sepsis.

#### *Further reading.*

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#### **Michael Colin Cowdrey CBE (Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge). (No.647)**

*Born:* 24.12.1932, Ootacamund, India. *Died:* 04.12. 2000, Angmering Park, Littlehampton, West Sussex.

Right-hand batsman, right-arm leg break bowler.

Kent.1950-1976. Cap 1951.

County captain 1957-1971.

Parents: Ernest Arthur Cowdrey & Kathleen Mary (known as Molly) Cowdrey (*née Taylor*).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	402	651	85	23779	250	42.01	58	128	406
<b>England</b>	114	188	15	7624	182	44.06	22	38	120
<b>Overall</b>	692	1130	134	42719	307	42.89	107	231	638

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1905	29	1285	27	47.59	4-22		
<b>England</b>	119	0	104	0				
<b>Overall</b>	4876	95	3329	65	51.21	4-22		

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	81	72	11	1921	116	31.49	3	12	37
<b>England</b>	1	1	0	1	1	1.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	88	79	11	1978	116	29.08	3	12	39

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	59	1	43	3	14.33	1-0	0	4.37

Michael Colin Cowdrey was born on the Indian tea plantation managed by his father high in the Nilgiri Hills, a hundred miles to the north of Bangalore in a district known as Ootacamund. In England, the Cowdrey home was Sanderstead, south of Croydon in Surrey, once a village but now swallowed up in London suburbia.

Colin Cowdrey's great-grandfather, Sam, was the estate owner of Sanderstead Court Manor and from 1895 to 1907 was captain of Sanderstead Cricket Club. Indeed, there were sufficient cricketing Cowdreys, family rumour would have it, for an eleven of the ilk to make up the whole village team. (Local club records have not survived to confirm.)

Cowdrey's father was a cricketer of some ability who had played for Surrey Second Eleven and Berkshire. In India in 1926/27, he played in a one-day match for the Europeans against the M.C.C. tourists, top scoring with 48. (*Wisden* refers to him as 'E.Cowdray'.) He also played in one first-class match for the Europeans in the Bombay Quadrangular Tournament in the same season. Cowdrey's mother had been a good tennis and hockey player, who in later life back in England was a stalwart of the Red Cross in the Bromley area for which she was awarded the British Empire Medal.

The story goes that the cricket fanatic Ernest gave his only child his very distinctive initials quite deliberately, not the least because the baby had barely drawn breath before his name was down for membership at Lord's. In his autobiography Cowdrey was not so sure, as he admitted he never once discussed the matter with his father. Whatever, the elements of the game were instilled from an early age when house servants served as 'net' bowlers to refine the young Cowdrey's skills. That is until aged five, when his parents transported him back to England for school. *En passage* they were overtaken by the *SS Strathmore* bringing Bradman's 1938 Australians, an event marked with some awe by Cowdrey senior.



Taking up residence with his maternal grandmother in the family home Sanderstead, he was enrolled at Homefield Preparatory School, Sutton. His parents returned to India where, with the intervention of war, they were to remain parted from their son for seven years.

At Homefield Cowdrey came under the influence of the autocratic Charles Walford whose 'Victorian values' did much to influence the moral development of his young pupil. It was not entirely a happy time, as Cowdrey admitted. But he was soon making his mark as a cricketer. Aged seven he scored his first century, or at least believed he had. But when a recalculation showed he had been dismissed seven runs short, Walford as a consolation drew the attention of the fact to Jack Hobbs. The great man replied with a much-treasured letter and an autographed bat.

His stay at Homefield was interrupted for a short period when fear of the attraction of nearby Royal Air Force airfields to German bombers decreed his removal to Holyrood House in Bognor Regis (on reflection just as vulnerable with RAF Tangmere nearby). Returning to Homefield in 1942 he stayed there until 1945. The complexities of the Cowdrey character were clearly formed at this time. Certainly, any tendency for self-expression and exhibitionism were stifled by the Spartan Walford. It is a revealing admission in his autobiography that only on leaving the latter's care did he realise he was a very good cricketer, a realisation coming about from a period at the Sandham-Gover School during the winter of 1945/46.

The potential was apparent the moment he went to Tonbridge School, although at this stage his leg break and googly bowling was attracting as much attention as his batting. He rose immediately to the First Eleven at just 13 finding himself almost certainly the youngest player ever to appear in a competitive match at Lord's. He scored 75 and 44 and took 3 for 58 and 5 for 59 helping his *alma mater* to a close two run win over Clifton. For the next four seasons he re-wrote the Tonbridge record books scoring almost 3,000 runs.

There was no family connection with Kent. His home county was Surrey and other relatives lived in Leicestershire. Indeed, his success in that early Lord's match had attracted the attention of the Oval authorities and he had a few unhappy matches with the Young Amateurs of Surrey in 1946.

However, the key factor was Tonbridge and had not a technicality over his entrance date arisen, he could have gone to Marlborough, his father's first choice, and the history of Kent cricket in the post-war years would have been seriously different. But at Tonbridge, under the influence of ex-Kent County cricketer C.H.(John) Knott, the Kent connection was forged and in 1948 he appeared with some success for the Young Amateurs of Kent, making scores of 159, 85 and 79 not out. The following season he appeared three times for Kent Second Eleven. Derek Ufton recalls their paths crossing for the first time batting together in one of these matches at Torquay. Cowdrey, he found, was in complete ignorance of what an amateur cricketer was as regard match payments and dressing rooms, while he, Ufton, was sternly rebuked by the Manager for addressing Cowdrey by his forename rather than 'Mr. Cowdrey' or 'Sir'. The youngster progressed finally to the full county side in 1950.

Cowdrey began that season still a pupil at Tonbridge School where he scored 1,033 runs at 79 and took 47 wickets at 14 that summer. He also played representative schools cricket, scoring a century at Lord's. Kent, at a time when promising young players were short (nine new players were tried in 1950, most of whom did not progress), failed to persuade Tonbridge to release Cowdrey for one early season match. However, free of scholastic commitments, he was tried in the last four county games of the season.

In terms of figures, it was not a conspicuous success, but the conditions and the quality of the bowling were against him. A debut at Derby and Gladwin and Jackson did not make for the easiest of starts. Then to face the same pair again in the next match and the guiles of Alf Valentine in a third meant *Wisden* could nevertheless remark on a 'promising debut'.

1951 was a full season of county cricket before going up to Brasenose College, Oxford University. Cowdrey advanced, finishing fourth in the Kent averages. The Kent Annual Report noted he 'showed

considerable promise' and that he 'should have a great future'. Kent had a very poor season. Indeed, Cowdrey's development was the one redeeming feature. *Wisden* noted he was 'the most reliable batsman in the side after Fagg'.

His advance was rewarded by his becoming youngest- ever recipient of a Kent County Cap. He narrowly missed a first hundred for Kent with a mature 90 during Canterbury Week. But for the Free Foresters against his upcoming student home in early June he scored a big maiden century (143 -23 fours, 3 sixes) heralding an invitation to play for the Gentlemen at the end of season Scarborough Festival. There, another century (106 – 8 fours) against the likes of Alec Bedser and Roy Tattersall, not known for relaxing in such convivial surroundings, made a very firm impression, not the least upon Len Hutton who was to play such a significant part in his early career.

In his first season at Oxford, he headed the University averages. However, overall Cowdrey perhaps did not quite live up to the promise of 1951. This was in no small part due to the fact that for both Oxford and Kent he played in two weak sides. For Kent, he scored only two fifties in 15 innings before playing two fine innings at Canterbury late season – a maiden century, 101 (15 fours) for Kent against the Indian touring team, and 85 against Yorkshire.

1953 was the season in which Cowdrey's high promise was confirmed. In all he scored just short of two thousand runs in as *Wisden* noted 'such impressive style that his admirers have much confidence that he would reach greater heights'. For Oxford he averaged over 51, 18 points clearer of everyone else, scoring a 154 (22 fours) at the Oval against Laker and the Australian left-arm spinner John McMahon and 116 (16 fours) in the University match, just failing to prevent a Cambridge victory. Two notable fifties for the Gentlemen of England against the Australians at Lord's where Lindwall, Miller and Johnston could admire at first hand his skill, 'emphasised his exceptional ability' (*Wisden*).

Cowdrey headed the Kent averages for the first time. Although a Championship century still eluded him, he scored a notable 81 on a testing wicket at Loughborough, when, in a captaincy crisis, he led Kent for the first time aged only 20 (another Kent record). As if to emphasise his advance, another end of season century, 100 (1 six, 14 fours) at Scarborough in a big partnership with his great contemporary, Peter May, heralded a significant future for English cricket. His award as the Cricket Writers' Young Cricketer of the Year was well earned.

The following very wet season was perhaps a big factor in Cowdrey not reaching the heights of 1953. As captain of Oxford University his leadership impressed, despite the side not winning a match (indeed Cowdrey was never on the winning side in any match during his time at Oxford.) He scored impressive centuries for the University against his own County, 112 (17 fours) and Sussex 140 (20 fours) but for Kent he 'rarely did himself justice with the bat' (*Wisden*). A Championship century yet again eluded him, 95 during Canterbury Week being the nearest.

It was then something of a surprise that he should find himself included on the winter Ashes tour, not the least as it followed a poor run for Kent. His selection as 12th man in the final Pakistan Test at the Oval was not a happy experience, being unwell. Again, he captained Kent as stand-in for Wright in the last three matches of the season.

If eyebrows were raised at Cowdrey's selection for the tour, the doubts were dispelled from the moment he stepped off the boat at the stop-over in Colombo where a good score presaged a run of form that rarely knew failure. He emerged as one of the tour's great successes. His batting in the early matches ensured a place in the Test team. Notable were the two centuries, 110 (18 fours and 103 (13 fours, 1 six) in the match against New South Wales, the best state opposition in Australia.

The second innings hundred was made opening and raised for the first time his potentiality to go in first, an issue which was to plague his Test career. Failure in the next match in that position postponed further consideration. 40 in a difficult first Test was followed by a remarkable maiden Test hundred at

Melbourne. Against the full might of Lindwall and Miller, he faced a score of 41 for 4 and scored 102 (14 fours) out of 160 in 3¾ hours.

The hundred was arguably a turning point in England retaining the Ashes and possibly the finest of the 22 such scores he made for his country. If overall his average was not spectacular, the fact that he scored runs often in adversity should be borne in mind. According to the noted Australian writer Ray Robinson, his 'batting was as solid as his build'. One or two remarkable catches confirmed a growing reputation as a slip fielder.

Cowdrey did not return to Oxford for his final year preferring to concentrate on his cricket. But these impetuses to his career was upset by a fractured 1955 season. First, he was called up for National Service in the Royal Air Force, a two-week sojourn ended by discharge because of a congenital foot problem, a weakness which raised a national debate on his perceived favoured treatment. The consequent belated start to the season was made up for by a very rich vein of form including at last his first Championship hundred, a brilliant 139 (21 fours, 2 sixes) at Tunbridge Wells with Tyson in opposition. As if to make up for this omission, he then made two hundreds, 115\* (15 fours) and 103\* (13 fours and 1 six) in the same match against Essex at Gillingham. But a hand injury then hindered the rest of his season.

Fit for only one Test, he hit a troubled 50 in 4 hours in the first of a number of difficult encounters with Adcock and Heine (In 17 innings against South Africa, Adcock dismissed him on nine occasions.) Despite his reduced season, the positive impression of the winter tour lived long enough to justify his being named one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year.

The following winter Cowdrey captained a team of Test and county players managed by E.W.Swanton to the West Indies, a tour motivated to overcome the legacy of the problems of the M.C.C. tour two years before. It provided Cowdrey with his first experience of the Caribbean, where he always performed so well. He proved an excellent captain and, no doubt prompted by the selectors, scored consistently opening the innings.

For all the strengths of English Test cricket in this period, the problem of a reliable opening partnership remained and in 1956 Cowdrey was called upon to fill the position to which he had an almost pathological dislike, against the visiting Australians. His ability to see the ball early, his impressive concentration and his skill against the quickest attack seemed to fit the bill. He took part in two big century opening partnerships with Peter Richardson but overall, the outcome was mixed, 244 runs (ave.30.50) including 81 in the first Test at Trent Bridge and 80 in the fourth at Old Trafford but three single figure scores. *Wisden* in particular noted that he 'rarely did himself justice going in first', while Bill Bowes in *The Cricketer* felt that 'there was no evidence that England had solved their troublesome problem'.

Performing the same role at the selectors' request for Kent clearly affected his form there. Very few people in his home county thought that Cowdrey was at his best opening the batting. Although he scored a thousand runs for Kent alone for the first time, 421 were scored before the end of May, helped by 204\* at Fenner's (not opening); he made only one hundred in that position, a splendid 197 (23 fours, 2 sixes) at Stourbridge. Otherwise only 121 (20 fours) down the order against Lancashire in Canterbury Week, when the two counties were at opposite ends of the table (Kent the lower), revealed his true form.

To South Africa that winter and selected as an opener, Cowdrey remained unhappy in the role and despite an early big hundred 173 (21 fours) at Bloemfontein, his role was reviewed, and he went down the order. Overall, Cowdrey had a moderate time and in many ways the impression affected subsequent assessments of his play. As *Wisden* noted not for the last time, there were 'days when he looked like the highest class and other days he was tied down completely'. He struggled against the speed of Adcock and Heine and notably the spin of Tayfield, scoring one Test century, 101 (1 six, 9 fours) at Cape Town. One positive aspect was his development into a first class slip field with splendid anticipation.

Cowdrey was appointed Kent captain and the Kent Annual Report was encouraged by the result. 'He instilled a more determined and confident attitude into the county team'. An opinion shared by *The Cricketer*. 'His example, either when batting or in the field, was inspiring and he gave the other players just the right kind of guidance and encouragement.' His appointment was marked by a splendid innings victory at Lord's although no other positive result followed for two months.

The home crowds finally saw him in prime form for the Test matches against West Indies, beginning in the first game at Edgbaston. His first home Test century, 154 (16 fours) in the world record partnership of 411 (in 8 hours 20 minutes) with Peter May was a triumph of technique against the threat of Ramadhin. Followed by 152 (14 fours) at Lord's, he scored 708 runs in all matches against the tourists. He was less impressive for Kent. Although he scored over 1,400 runs, he played only one innings of any note, a magnificent 165 (26 fours) at Trent Bridge.

1958 was a mixed season, which began well with a period of good form with few failures, ended in contrast with the one of the poorest runs of his whole career, just 197 runs in 12 innings. A wet summer did not help. The Kent Committee remained happy with his leadership. 'He led the team with a great deal of skill and had the happy knack of gaining the side's confidence'.

Kent rose in the Championship from 14th to 8th. *Wisden* was not quite so sure. 'His caution at times did not help his side press home promising positions'. In Tests he made three fifties in just four innings against a very weak New Zealand side, a side so weak that, for selectorial reasons, Cowdrey was dropped for one Test.

Cowdrey's tour of Australia the following winter was his first as vice-captain. It was a disappointing one. The Ashes were well, and surprisingly easily, lost. It was a tour bedevilled by controversy – throwing and umpiring - with Cowdrey particularly suffering from the latter. Cowdrey and May carried the batting in Tests, Cowdrey topping the Test batting averages, 391 runs (avge.43.44), despite scoring only one hundred, 100\* (7 fours) and a fifty. At times it was dour stuff – his century at Sydney took six hours and was the slowest in Ashes history. Overall, he scored over a thousand runs on the tour and if his form, which promised well at the start slipped, he was nevertheless one of the few players to emerge with credit.

1959 was a very dry summer of good wickets which saw Cowdrey in supreme form in the early months. There were memorable innings at Gravesend where he scored 198 (30 fours) against an attack that included Test players in Statham and Greenhough, and a Kent best of 250 (2 sixes 35 fours) against Essex at Blackheath. Later on his form slipped, probably the result of staleness after the long winter tour. For England the highlight was his 160 (14 fours, 4 sixes) at Headingley, scored with effortless ease. However, again the opposition, India, was very weak and the selectors felt confident to drop him for the Old Trafford Test. But with May reporting ill, Cowdrey retained his place and was captain of England for the first time. The match was notable for his declaring his intention not to enforce the follow-on before the decision was needed and, in so doing, prolonging the game.

Cowdrey's predilection for the West Indies was given full play in a wonderful tour of 1959/60 – scoring over a thousand runs, including five centuries, two in Tests. He was back to opening and initially the strategy looked doubtful as he failed in the early matches. But a determined seven-hour century, 114 (11 fours) at Sabina Park was a turning point and thereafter the growing threat of the West Indies fast attack of Hall, Watson and Gilchrist was firmly controlled. Cowdrey fashioned a splendid opening partnership with Pullar, and they rarely failed to see off the new ball attack. Going as vice-captain, he assumed the captaincy when May was forced to retire ill from the tour halfway through.

1960, an unhappy season dogged by bad weather, slow scoring and the Griffin throwing controversy, found Cowdrey in equally unhappy form. *Wisden* noted 'he seemed tired and without zest for cricket'. John Arlott reflected that his performance was that of a 'mediocre county player'. For Kent he scored only two hundreds and in his last 11 innings he made only 158 runs.

The series against South Africa, which found him in continued occupation of the England captaincy with May still indisposed, was quickly and easily won. Only in the last innings of the series did he play an innings of anything like his true class – 155 (22 fours) in an opening partnership of 290 with Pullar. This after the visitors led by 264 on first innings. The doubts nevertheless remained over his ability as an opener, where he played all season for England, and yet again had problems with Adcock.

Although Cowdrey scored well for Kent in 1961 – 1,239 runs at 59 – outside Kent matches he was not at his best. The return of Peter May ended his first stint as England captain and apart from 93 at Headingley he did nothing of note in the Tests against Australia. Ill health after mid-July marred his season. A throat infection developed into pleurisy and his season ended prematurely when a relapse struck him during the Oval Test.

There were highlights, not the least the two superb hundreds, 149 (27 fours) and 121 (1 six, 18 fours) for Kent against the Australians in June, the first instance against the Australians in this country. ‘An unending flow of beautifully timed strokes’ commented *Wisden*.

That winter Cowdrey played in the final two matches, one each at Bombay (now Mumbai) and Karachi, of the International World Tour of international class cricketers organised by Ron Roberts.

Yet another period of ill-health played a critical part in Cowdrey’s career in 1962. He began well with 542 runs including two hundreds in his first five matches. 159 (21 fours), back as opener, followed in the Test against Pakistan at Edgbaston. With May retired, the choice fell between Dexter and Cowdrey as his successor with the Ashes tour on the near horizon. Dexter captained in the first two Tests with Cowdrey pencilled in for the next two. An ill-timed illness prevented his captaining in the second of those and with Dexter restored, the opportunity of the tour captaincy was lost. In full health at The Oval, Cowdrey hit an impressive 182 (1 six, 23 fours), his highest Test score. He again led the Kent batting and his early season form returned as he ended the summer with 465 runs in his final three matches.

Vice-captain in Australia again, this actually became Cowdrey’s most successful Australian tour. However, he did not begin promisingly. A wretched start of 67 in six innings, including three successive ‘ducks’ resulted in another review of his role as an opener. The outcome was a move down the order even though it upset the balance of a side, short of specialists in that position. The result was immediate, a career best and tourist record score of 307 (4 sixes, 29 fours) against South Australia in Adelaide, followed by another Test century, 113 (7 fours) at Melbourne which was a vital factor in England’s victory there. For the first time New Zealand saw Cowdrey at his best, 86 at Auckland followed by 128 not out ((10 fours) at Wellington where, despite batting at number eight with a damaged thumb, he set a world ninth-wicket partnership record of 163 (unbroken) with Alan Smith.

Cowdrey’s 1963 season ended prematurely thanks to a broken arm inflicted by Wes Hall in the dramatically tight Lord’s Test. Cowdrey, arm in plaster, pictured going out to bat, prepared to face the final two balls (he actually did not) of a thrilling game is one of the most enduring images of his whole career. For Kent, he played just six matches, enough nevertheless to produce one classic Cowdrey innings, 107\* (21 fours) in just 80 minutes against Warwickshire on the compact Bat and Ball Ground at Gravesend. This when faced with a first innings deficit of 199.

This season saw the start of limited-overs cricket with the Gillette Cup. Drawn against Sussex, Kent was tactically outplayed by Sussex, for whom Dexter had clearly done his homework on how to win this shortened version of the game. Cowdrey had not. Invited to lead the M.C.C. in India, with Dexter unavailable fighting a seat in the General Election, frustratingly for Cowdrey, the arm took longer to heal than anticipated, and M.J.K. Smith was appointed in his stead and another opportunity was gone.

Although his initial participation in the Indian tour was frustrated, Cowdrey actually joined the trip late as vice-captain when the party was reduced by injury and illness. In terms of figures – two centuries in Tests – it was a remarkable rehabilitation from injury. But it was a sterile series, all the matches were drawn and Cowdrey’s hundreds did not, on reflection, aid positive progress. In particular, his 151 (23

fours, 1 six) at New Delhi was scored at a rate that effectively killed what chance England had of winning.

Once again in 1964, Cowdrey led the Kent batting averages, helped by one of the most prolific run of form of his whole career, centred on Canterbury Week. But again, it was an interrupted season. This time a back injury intervened and reduced his Test appearances against Australia to three. He left his one notable Test performance to the end with 93\* at The Oval, although he played his part in Test history by catching Neil Hawke to give Fred Trueman his 300th Test wicket.

Uncertain whether to tour South Africa for family reasons, he initially indicated he did not wish to be considered and although he changed his mind, it was too late.

1965 was the best season of Cowdrey's career. Scoring over two thousand runs, he topped the national averages for the only time averaging 63 in a year when only three players reached over 50 and eight over 40.

Kent too advanced under his leadership to 5th in the table. 196 not out (22 fours, 1 six) at Trent Bridge in an early game and a succession of good scores, including two fifties at Lord's against the New Zealanders, meant his omission from the Test side had to be amended. Test hundreds against both tourists, New Zealand and South Africa, confirmed that decision, while for Kent a further rich stream of runs in August continued a golden season.

The one downside was that with M.J.K. Smith firmly in control of the England captaincy, Cowdrey faced the prospect of a third tour to Australia as the number two to yet another leader. Again, he scored over a thousand runs on an Australia/ New Zealand tour including another fine innings at Melbourne where his 104 (9 fours) there in just over three hours was one of the most fluent innings he ever played. Overall his average of 53.40 was Cowdrey's best-ever for a series against Australia, although he did miss the Brisbane Test through illness. *Wisden* was not so sure on his performance – 'he was his usual contradictory self, but again not accomplishing all that his talents promise'. He scored consistently in New Zealand.

After the best season of his career the previous season, in 1966 Cowdrey now suffered his worst. A miserable year for the weather and poor wickets were factors in a summer which brought him only one first-class hundred and that against a university. Otherwise, it was just five championship fifties and a Gillette Cup hundred against a minor county. On the positive side Kent rose further up the County Championship table to 4th. England were torn apart by the West Indies. The heavy defeat at Old Trafford led to Smith's losing the captaincy and Cowdrey's re-appointment, only for his replacement unceremoniously two Tests later. Despite a 60 and a 90 in the series, he also lost his place as a batsman. As *Wisden* noted 'with resources lamentably weak and the opposition strong' England's failure was inevitable.

Cowdrey entered the 1967 season for the first time no longer an automatic England choice. Thus playing more for Kent than he had done for many years, he played a major part in the county's most successful season since the war – runners-up in the County Championship and winners of the Gillette Cup, the latter where Kent had failed conspicuously previously. Although not a natural limited-overs player, his regal 78 in 18 overs against Sussex in the semi-final of the Gillette Cup was vital. Other notable innings included 150 (18 fours, 2 sixes) against Somerset at Gravesend and a 97 at Lord's described by *Wisden* as 'lyrical'. Eventually England turned to him again in the second Test of the season's second series against Pakistan. But it was as an opener, and he hardly shone. His 16 in 90 minutes at the Oval was another introspective performance. But fate played an unexpected hand. Close lost the England captaincy over his delaying tactics in a county game and Cowdrey, not the immediate choice, regained the leadership for the tour of the West Indies.

At last captain of an official overseas tour, Cowdrey seemed finally to come into his own. The series was won and the team was unbeaten. Cowdrey himself had another successful West Indies trip as a

batsman, starting with a hundred against the President's Eleven at Bridgetown in the first game and ending up as the most effective batsman in the side scoring over 500 in the series including two hundreds. He was generally at his most assertive, mixing an attacking innings at Port of Spain, judging the run rate perfectly to force the decisive victory, with superb defence in the last Test to avoid defeat. *Wisden* referred to his 'ruthlessly brilliant leadership' and his Kent partnership with Les Ames as manager added to the effectiveness of a well organised tour.

1968 started well with successive centuries against Somerset at Gravesend and Essex at Romford, but this could not be maintained with parallel consistency in the Tests against Australia. A poor start derided by *Wisden* as 'supine' again raised issues about his captaincy.

However, at Edgbaston in his 100th Test, Cowdrey celebrated the unique achievement with an equally unique hundred, 104 (15 fours), a vintage innings of cover drives despite being crippled by a pulled leg muscle. His captaincy reputation was restored at The Oval with a 'magisterial' (*Wisden*) display in a tight finish which levelled the series. For Kent, he finished top of the batting averages as the county maintained its runners-up position.

Cowdrey was reappointed captain for the winter tour of South Africa, before the intervention of the 'D'Oliveira Affair' led to its postponement. His part therein, rightly or wrongly, casts a shadow over his whole career. The lack of any minutes and the tight-lipped attitude of all those involved (now all deceased) as to who did or did not select the Worcestershire all-rounder for the tour, together mean we will never know what happened, and particularly Cowdrey's role in the discussions. He was directly responsible for D'Oliveira's selection for The Oval Test, and he seems to have given the player an impression that he would be selected for the tour. But with him and Ames, the manager, the same pairing as took the team to the West Indies the previous winter, there was an issue over D'Oliveira's behaviour in the West Indies. A very convivial and sociable individual, he had a very low alcohol tolerance and such incidents in South Africa would have been catastrophic. Not the least as the South Africans had never accepted teams of colour to the Union, so their attitude of rejection was predictable.

D'Oliveira himself believed Cowdrey supported his inclusion in the side and assigned no blame to him, the pair remaining close friends until death. But Cowdrey was a complex character and decision-making was not always his great strength. Nevertheless, there were ten individuals involved in that selection

The makeshift tour of Pakistan that winter was an ill-starred affair. The explosive political situation boiled over with crowd problems in the Test matches, testing the diplomatic skills of Cowdrey as captain and Ames as manager. If this played to the uncertain side of his character, that was surely forgivable. The highlight on the field was a magnificently determined century, 100 (12 fours) at Lahore, his 22nd and last in Tests. Inevitably the off-field turbulence led to the tour's premature abandonment.

Despite the fiasco of the winter tour, Cowdrey came to 1969 firmly in possession of the England captaincy, only for it to be snatched away from him. Taking a short single in a Sunday League game at Maidstone, he suffered a serious Achilles tendon injury which virtually ended his season and ultimately his final reign as captain of England. As part of his rehabilitation from injury, Cowdrey led two tours to the West Indies prior to the 1970 season. The Rothmans Cavaliers toured Jamaica playing four matches before ending with a first-class match at Sabina Park. Then the Duke of Norfolk's team toured the southern Caribbean, playing eight matches including three first-class games. The latter team included many young England hopefuls and Cowdrey, in scoring three fifties in the first-class matches, was the most successful batsman, reassuring his restoration to full fitness.

Kent's almost miraculous rise from bottom of the Championship on 1st July 1970 to Champions in September was not unconnected with the form of the captain. Cowdrey started the season very poorly with just 152 runs in his first 13 innings culminating in his only Kent 'pair' against Northants at Dover. However, starting with the very next inning, he came back to form with 126 against Sussex and 65 and 106\* against Essex in Tunbridge Wells Week. Not selected for the first Rest of the World 'Test', he was restored to the England side for the second performing reasonably if not spectacularly for the rest of the

series. More significantly Illingworth consolidated his position as England captain with his assertive leadership and effective batting. The season thus ended on a mixed note for Cowdrey. A magnificent century, 112 (10 fours) on a grassy Oval pitch giving the bowlers some help confirmed Kent's first Championship since 1913.

But this was countered by the huge disappointment of being passed over yet again for the England captaincy in Australia, a situation not helped by serious indecision on his part before accepting the vice-captaincy.

Cowdrey's fifth tour of Australia was his most miserable. For a fourth time he was the vice-captain and under a fourth different leader, and one in Illingworth with whom there was a history of difficult relations. Isolated from the side, he completely lost his form. Even his one hundred, inevitably at Melbourne, was so hesitant that it played in part in Victoria's win. In three Tests, he was dropped for the others, he made only 82 runs and in the fifth Test his usually reliable slip catching even let him down as no fewer than five catching chances went astray. It was to quote Cardus a 'grievous' experience. Almost forgotten he had some minor compensation in the sole Test he played in New Zealand, the 54 at Auckland was according to *Wisden* 'a good display'.

Having equalled Lord Harris's Kent record of 15 seasons as captain, Cowdrey indicated 1971 would be his last in charge. It was thus very unfortunate that a severe bout of pneumonia which led to his hospitalisation, ended that historic run in such anti-climax. Equally unfortunate was that the season had begun with a brilliant run of batting form that, just when his England days seemed over, he justified his recall to the England team, although he was subsequently dropped to make way for Boycott.

1972 began with the reward of a C.B.E. in the New Year's Honours List. It now saw Cowdrey in unfamiliar territory – no longer an England player, indeed not even assured of his place in the Kent side. He was generally omitted from limited-overs matches, despite a magnificent hundred, the first in the competition, at Lord's in the Benson and Hedges Cup. In mid-June he hit a period of consistent first-class form, finishing the season with just over a thousand runs.

Often batting well down the order, even as low as seven, the highlight of 1973 was achieving his hundredth first-class hundred, 100\* (13 fours) v. Surrey. Strangely it was at Mote Park, Maidstone where he had failed to reach three figures until his 99th hundred in the innings before. He was still not absolutely sure of his place in the Kent side. The policy of preferring to play younger players and the needs of middle order players to chase bonus points, or late runs in limited-overs games, did not help his cause. After Maidstone, he scored consistently – 'he went from strength to strength' (*Wisden*) – without passing a hundred and even played an effective late innings role in the Benson and Hedges Cup Final.

The following November Cowdrey went to Pakistan to play in one of the two matches played to raise funds for flood relief victims. Cowdrey enjoyed an Indian summer in 1974 scoring five first-class hundreds plus one in the Gillette Cup, finishing top of the Kent batting averages. He began the season still batting down the order and disastrously being hit on the head by Andy Roberts on a spiteful pitch at Basingstoke. A century at Fenner's on his return, batting at three, found him restored to that position and he never looked back. There were by the time the season ended questions as to whether he should be on the tour to Australia.

Although perhaps not too surprisingly not included in the original selection, the England side, battered and bruised by Lillee and Thomson, turned to him after the first Test and he was hastily summoned to participate in a record-equalling sixth tour down under. And it was straight into the line of fire at Perth where he scored 22 in two hours and opening in the second innings, 41. Playing in the remaining Tests in Australia, he averaged only 18, but that did no justice to the determination and sheer courage to face the fury of the Australian attack.



In June 1975 Cowdrey effectively announced his retirement, indicating that not wanting to stand in the way of Kent's developing younger players, he would not play regularly, but he was at the Club's disposal if needed. Again, he found himself batting down the order, too often chasing runs, and again he was not always assured of his place in the side.

There remained one classic Cowdrey *tour de force*, when chasing a serious target to beat the Australians at Canterbury, he scored a truly magnificent 151 not out (25 fours) to give the county side their first victory over the Australians since 1899. If a 'pair' on his last appearance at Lord's was a disappointment, his enthusiasm, according to *Wisden* 'remained undiminished', although apart from a final flourish at Cheltenham, the runs did dry up.

Cowdrey's offer to make himself available to Kent when needed was not taken up save in the 1976 Canterbury Week when the county, bereft of players through injuries and Test calls, selected Cowdrey for one final match. He thus just missed achieving an ambition to appear in the same county side as his eldest son, Chris, who made his debut for Kent in a Sunday League match just six weeks earlier.

Cowdrey's post preparatory school admission as to his capabilities lies at the heart of any assessment of his career. He never really knew how good he was. At his best he was one of the outstanding English batsmen of the twentieth century, yet somehow in any comparison of the great players of that age, Cowdrey has been increasingly forgotten outside Kent. He gathered not one single vote in *Wisden's* Cricketers of the Century (although in fairness neither did his great contemporary Peter May). His career statistics are good but not breath taking. The records that stand to his name are often born of the longevity of his career. He scored 107 first-class hundreds yet only three passed two hundred (none for England) a ratio that compares poorly for example with Walter Hammond, who counted one in five of his centuries passing that figure.

Yet to a generation of cricket followers, notably in Kent, Cowdrey was the master. Most will recall to their dying day, just as fathers and grandfathers did with Frank Woolley, at least one Cowdrey innings played at his superb best. No one played the cover drive more elegantly. No one could meet better short-pitched bowling with such breath-taking hooks. No one caressed the ball with more perfect timing to the boundary. Yet perhaps too often a lack of confidence and indecision would creep in and hamper him in his choice of shots and drive him into periods of introspection obsessed with defence.

It was a career of contradiction. Plump and unathletic on first sight, he was an excellent judge of a quick single and in the slips his lightening reactions brought him countless catches, the ball often characteristically sliding into his pocket before any realisation of its fate. The early promise of a high-class bowler never bore fruit, notably after he came down from Oxford, losing, as he did, control of the ball's flight.

In the pantheon of Kent's heroes Cowdrey's place is assured. Alone of his generation of amateur cricketers, he came upon the county scene when the amateur/professional divide was still entrenched and left it over a quarter of a century later in the vastly different age of players and limited-over cricket. Cowdrey was the last of that more gentlemanly era. For Kent he played for 27 successive seasons, remarkable in itself for an amateur, and excluding those whose careers were interrupted by war, a length of time unique for the county. He captained the county from 1957 to 1971, 15 years, a period equalled only by the founding father of modern Kent cricket, Lord Harris. Indeed, aged just 20, he captained Kent in a county match in 1953, the youngest-ever player so to do, matching his status as a cricketing prodigy of having received his county cap two years earlier, aged 18. Only the aforementioned Lord Harris can match Cowdrey's service to Kent and country as a player and administrator.

In terms of records, Cowdrey stands sixth in the all-time list of Kent run scorers, his career average is actually beaten only by Les Ames of those who scored over 10,000 runs for the county. He is fourth in the list of Kent century-makers. These figures need to be set against the fact for the best part of half of his career Cowdrey played in a Kent side that was at best indifferent, at worst weak. It was also largely

a period of uncovered wickets and there were in the 1950s and 1960s a succession of very wet summers which did nothing to help prolific scoring. Also, it was a career too often interrupted by injury and illness.

For all the questions over his captaincy of England, the same doubts were never so pre-eminent in Kent. For this his shrewd personal appointment of Les Ames as the Kent manager has much to answer. Ames provided the perfect match to the often-diffident Cowdrey, not the least in the firm control of discipline off the field, never Cowdrey's greatest strength. Together they raised Kent from the depths they found in 1957. It took 13 years, not something impatient county committees would tolerate now, but in the remarkable summer of 1970 they brought back the County Championship to the hop county for the first time since 1913. It was a steady rise up the table in the 1960s as a number of notably talented cricketers emerged to the county ranks paralleled by some very wise overseas recruitments. Having won the Championship, Cowdrey gave up the captaincy the following year.

But there was still a Cowdrey career after 1971, although the Kent selection committee were too often in some doubt what to do with him. He slipped down the batting order and sometimes was inexplicably dropped altogether, the argument being to make way for younger players. Nevertheless, he played a number of notable innings in these later years – not the least his hundredth hundred and an awe-inspiring innings to beat the Australians.

He still had a place in the age of the limited-overs game, which would not on first sight seem his natural milieu. This particularly applied to its longer format. Remarkably his five Man of the Match awards in the Gillette Cup still stood as the Kent record for the knock-out competition a quarter of century later. In the Benson and Hedges Cup Cowdrey made the first century by anyone in the competition and he also made one telling late-order contribution to a Kent final win. The shorter Sunday League found him, not surprisingly, at his least successful but he was still capable of a half century at a good time.

Cowdrey played Test cricket for England over a period of 20 years. When he retired, he had scored more runs and more hundreds than any other Englishman and played in more Tests and taken more catches than anyone anywhere. He was the first player to play in a hundred Tests, a distinction he celebrated with a hundred. But it was an England career of serious highs and lows, of a potential that was perhaps never fully fulfilled, of issues such as the captaincy and his role as an opener that too often seriously distracted, and of no small measure of bad luck.

Cowdrey was an unexpected choice for the 1954/55 Ashes tour. His capabilities were known but 1954 had not been a great season. He had a strong champion in Len Hutton who had witnessed at first hand his pedigree in two memorable innings at Scarborough Festivals. It was Hutton who guided Cowdrey through that memorable first tour, not the least when Cowdrey senior died prematurely very early on. Cowdrey's remarkable maiden Test century at Melbourne against Lindwall and Miller in a time of England crisis arguably turned the series for Tyson to complete.

It was a Test innings he possibly never surpassed. Indeed, Neville Cardus felt the innings 'achieved a greatness of stroke play seldom exceeded by Walter Hammond himself'. Another significant hundred came in the long record partnership with May that killed off the threat of Ramadhin at Edgbaston. He scored well in every country, making at least one hundred against the six Test playing teams then current.

But for a man of his sensibility, he was forever seemingly at the whim of selectorial indecision which did not help his confidence. Initially it was whether he should open or not. It was a position he hated. On the face of it for a player who could show interminable concentration, who was strong against fast bowling, he seemed a natural. But Cowdrey was unhappy in a specialist position which he felt limited his freedom to play as he wished. Also standing in the slips demanded a maintained concentration which needed some recuperation before going out to bat. The matter continually plagued his career, particularly in his early days. In terms of figures his performance at the top of the order was only slightly less effective than lower down, although two highly successful Caribbean tours, where he always scored

well, helped boost his average as an opener. An interesting side point is that for Kent Cowdrey took part in 95 hundred partnerships. but the total includes not a single century opening partnership.

Then there was the England captaincy. Cowdrey had no less than five stints as England captain. He permanently had trouble convincing the England selectors that he had the necessary determination for the post. Most disappointingly for him was that despite a record equalling six tours of Australia, he never achieved his ultimate ambition of leading a side there. He was vice-captain on no fewer than four occasions to four different captains. Perhaps he lacked the guidance of an Ames as a foil – he was noticeably most successful on the 1967/68 West Indies tour when Ames was the manager. However, he was never certain of maintaining his position. But perhaps more significant is that time and time again gross ill fortune intervened.

Cowdrey was the natural successor to Peter May, but crucially at the time when that successor was needed, Walter Robins was Chairman of Selectors and there was a history of antipathy between the two. Also, an ill-timed illness in 1962 when Cowdrey and Dexter were both up for consideration led to the latter grasping his chance. Dexter led England in Australia in 1962/63. With Dexter unavailable for the 1963/64 Indian tour another opportunity offered itself when Cowdrey was appointed to lead the side. But the Hall injury had not healed sufficiently and M.J.K.Smith was appointed. Smith led England in Australia in 1965/66. When Smith lost the captaincy the following summer, Cowdrey regained the position. But in a season of indifferent resources against the world beating West Indies, he was on a loser for nothing, and the almost inevitable failure opened the way for the popular choice, the charismatic Brian Close, who for all his leadership skills was a debatable Test performer. If luck ever entered the scenario, it was Close's removal from the captaincy in controversial circumstances a year later. Cowdrey grasped this new opportunity and at last seemed to have made the captaincy his own with success in the West Indies and eventually against Australia in 1968.

A ruptured Achilles tendon in a Sunday League match ended that and the unfancied Illingworth was appointed. Despite much speculation throughout 1970, there was never really much chance that Illingworth, having made a success of his leadership, was going to be displaced. Illingworth led England to Australia in 1970/71.

Despite the Ashes being regained it was a miserable tour for Cowdrey whose indecision over accepting the vice-captaincy and difficulties in covering his obvious disappointment did nothing to mend bridges with the hard-headed Yorkshireman, with whom he had never been close.

The opportunity to captain England never came again. Cowdrey's record as captain 8 wins, 4 defeats in 27 Tests is reasonable given that many of his Tests were against good sides.

Cowdrey's enthusiasm and commitment to the game was given rein in the cricket administration that followed the end of his playing career. It was yet another contradiction that the man so often open to the accusation of indecision should play such a decisive part in a number of major issues that came his way. As President of the M.C.C. in 1987, the Club's bicentenary, he oversaw a year of turbulence as the discontent between the M.C.C. and the Test and County Cricket Board was resolved at the cost of both of the Secretary and Treasurer of the M.C.C. As President of the International Cricket Council (twice) he travelled the world endlessly using cricketing high diplomacy to resolve seemingly intractable issues such as the return of South Africa to the world arena, the introduction of an international code of conduct, and the appointment of match referees to oversee international games.

In the late 1990s, Ted Dexter and Cowdrey sought to enshrine 'The Spirit of Cricket' in the game's laws. The aim was to remind players of their responsibility for ensuring that cricket is always played in a truly sportsmanlike manner. The Dexter/Cowdrey initiative proved successful. When the 2000 Code of Laws was introduced, it included, for the first time, a preamble on the Spirit of Cricket.

'Cricket is a game that owes much of its unique appeal to the fact that it should be played not only within its Laws but also within the Spirit of the Game. Any action which is seen to abuse this Spirit causes injury to the game itself'.

The Preamble goes on to explain the roles and responsibilities of captains, players and umpires in respecting and upholding the Spirit of Cricket. Since the 2000 Code was published, M.C.C. has promoted the new Laws - and the Spirit of Cricket - as widely as possible, both in Britain and overseas. As a result, cricketers, right across the world, are increasingly aware that they should not merely obey the game's Laws but safeguard its Spirit.

Cowdrey married Penelope (Penny) Chiesman on 15 September 1956 at St. Nicholas Church, Chislehurst. His father-in-law, C. Stuart Chiesman, had built up the family draper's business into a chain of departmental stores across Kent. Chiesman was also a great supporter and benefactor of Kent cricket, becoming Chairman of the County Club (the pavilion at Canterbury is named after him). That family connection provided the material stability to support Cowdrey's cricket. For many years he was a director of the Chiesman's company – a sniffy *Who's Who* disdainful of including a sportsman in its pages actually justified his entry because of his role as a 'department store executive'.

The marriage produced four children Christopher (Chris), Jeremy, Carolyn (Carol) and Graham. Chris and Graham followed their father into the Kent County side playing in a style that owed not so much to their pedigree as to the demands of a game increasingly dominated by one-day attitudes. Chris's son Fabian also played for the county for a few seasons – three generations. Only the third in Kent history and first for the best part of a hundred years. Chris also followed his father to the captaincy of Kent and for one Test, England, matching the achievement of F.G.Mann and F.T.Mann. Jeremy followed a career in the city but in later years joined the Kent Committee and was appointed Vice-Chairman in 2021.

In September 1985, Cowdrey married for a second time, following a divorce, Lady Anne Herries of Terregles, daughter of the 16th Duke of Norfolk. The Duke had been a close personal friend and after his death in 1975 Cowdrey became closely involved in maintaining the cricketing affairs of the family estate at Arundel.

Cowdrey was awarded the C.B.E. for services to cricket in 1972 and in 1992 he was honoured by a knighthood. Then in 1997 Prime Minister, John Major raised him to the peerage to promote in the House of Lords plans to extend sporting opportunities for the young. In deference to his old school, he took the title of Baron Cowdrey of Tonbridge.

Other honours which came his way were Master of the Skinners' Company, Tonbridge School's trustees and governing body, in 1986; President of the Oxford University Cricket Club; President of the Lord's Taverners 1995-1997; Freeman of the City of London; President of the Association of Cricket Umpires and Scorers; and President of the Cricket Memorabilia Society.

Cowdrey's name appears as the author of five books: *Cricket today* (1961); *Time for reflection* (1962); *Tackle cricket this way* (1964, revised editions 1969 and 1974); *The incomparable game* (1970); and *M.C.C.: the autobiography of a cricketer* (1976). The latter published on his retirement was a best seller.

For Kent he served on the Committee from 1972 to 1983 and the county honoured him by naming the new stand, built in 1986, as the Colin Cowdrey Stand in 1992.

Throughout his career Colin Cowdrey's health had not been robust. He was prone to bouts of pneumonia – his captaincy of Kent ended in anti-climax with one particular vicious bout in 1971. His presidency of the M.C.C. was severely disrupted by heart-bypass surgery. Somewhat belatedly in 2000, Cowdrey became President of the Kent County Cricket Club, a delay no doubt influenced by a reluctance to be involved in the county's administration while his sons were on the staff. With typical drive and enthusiasm, he threw himself fully into the responsibilities.

He last appeared on a Kent ground on the first Saturday of Canterbury Festival Week, 29 July, entertaining the gathering in the President's Tent in high form. The following day he suffered a severe stroke from which he seemed to be making an encouraging recovery when he died suddenly in his sleep on the evening of 4 December 2000 at his home at Angmering Park in Sussex. He was a few weeks

short of his 68th birthday. He now lies buried in Poling, just by the entrance to the churchyard of St. Nicholas Parish Church, tucked deep in the West Sussex countryside.

Following his death, the M.C.C. instituted the Cowdrey Lecture (or more formally the M.C.C. Spirit of Cricket Cowdrey Lecture). The event was first hosted in 2001 and is held annually during the English summer, delivered by pre-eminent cricketing personalities. The event is an invitation only affair, with high-profile past and current cricketers, representatives of cricketing boards and journalists in attendance. The format of the event is simple: the Cowdrey Lecture followed by an informal discussion/question-answer session with a panel of distinguished personalities

A memorial service was held at Westminster Abbey on 30 March 2001 attended by a wide spectrum of notable figures from cricket and the wider world, not to mention many more humble admirers. John Major delivered the eulogy. The Abbey could have been filled three times over.

Howard Milton

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**Edmund Crush MC (No. 622).**

*Born:* 25. 04. 1917, Dover. *Died:* 09. 06.2007, Dover.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1946-1949. County cap 1948.

Educated: Dover County School.

Parents: Edmund Albert Boulton Crush & Eliza Georgianna Crush (*née Swain*)

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	45	72	5	1078	78	16.08	0	5	23

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6659	248	3163	83	38.10	6-50	2	0

The son of a Royal Mail employee who originated from Hertfordshire and subsequently settled in Dover and started up as confectioner and tobacconist, Eddie Crush was youngest of seven brothers and one sister. An experienced club cricketer with Dover, he was virtually unknown outside local cricket when in August 1946 he appeared for the County in Dover Cricket Week.

For the Second Eleven earlier in the season he had taken 5 for 45 against Wiltshire at Beckenham and making his first-class debut on his home ground, he took 5 for 33 in Glamorgan's first innings followed by 3 for 38 against Derbyshire in the second match of the Week. Retained in the side for the remaining two fixtures, he ended top of the Kent bowling averages with 15 wickets at 15.06. *The Cricketer Winter Annual* commented 'In Crush was tardily produced an allrounder full of cricket who will be watched'.

At the end of the season, he played in the Netherlands against a Dutch representative side for a team led by Bryan Valentine and including 'Hopper' Levett, Tony Pawson, Tom Pearce and Percy Fender.

He played only three matches in 1947 and achieved little but, given more opportunities over the next two seasons, he responded with over 500 runs and 31 wickets in 1948, 486 runs and 36 wickets in 1949. His best all-round performance was against Hampshire in the 1948 Canterbury Week when he scored 78 in 92 minutes (1 six, 11 fours) and took 6 for 50.

Also that year he joined the select few to claim the wicket of Sir Donald Bradman, caught at mid-off from a mishit for 65. After 1949 he played no further first-class cricket but continued to play for Dover against the Club & Ground side until 1957. In 1948 he took 7 for 69, Dover winning by eight wickets. In addition to Dover, he played club cricket for Folkestone and Highland Court.

Eddie Crush joined the Army on the outbreak of war and while at Sandhurst played for the College eleven. Commissioned in the Royal Engineers, in 1944 he was awarded the MC for prolonged bravery while serving in 17 Field Company RE with Second Army in Normandy.

Sent forward in a half-track to clear a damaged vehicle blocking the only road through the village of Lebissey, near Caen, he dragged it under fire for over a quarter of a mile. Despite wounds from shell splinters and having his half-track and an armoured carrier put out of action, he returned on foot to the road and for over two hours under mortar and artillery fire led a route clearance party in removing mines and booby traps. Next day, in an area still not cleared of snipers, he and his platoon used bulldozers to open a route through the devastated streets of Caen, refusing to have his wounds treated until the route was clear.

On leaving school Eddie Crush assisted in running the family confectionery business in Biggin Street, Dover. Post-war, he set up his own sports goods business in the adjoining premises while also coaching at Dover College. He served on the Kent CCC General committee for a total of 31 years between 1953 and 1986, for eight years on the Cricket sub-committee and four years on the Young Players sub-committee. He also served on the TCCB Disciplinary Committee. From 1990 he was a Vice-President of Kent and at the time of his death was Kent's oldest capped player.

On Christmas Day 1955 he married Dorothea Tolputt. There were two sons.

### **Christopher Stephen Dale (No.736).**

*Born:* 15. 12.1961 Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1986.

Educated: Sir William Nottige School, Whitstable and Thanet College, Broadstairs.

Parents: David & Doreen Dale.

### **First Class Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	3	1	18	16	9.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	11	11	3	118	49	14.75	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	204	5	142	0	-	-		
<b>Overall</b>	955	27	609	7	87.00	3-10		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	0							
<b>Overall</b>	4	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	138	0	139	2	69.50	1-35	0	6.04

In a chequered cricket career, Chris Dale, whose father played for Whitstable, progressed through the orthodox route of AKCC representative and under- 19 cricket and made his debut for Kent Second Eleven in 1979. Over the next three years he made nine more appearances, taking 17 wickets with a best of 3 for 65 v Glamorgan at Neath in 1982. He also played three times that year for Essex Seconds.

He joined the Kent in 1983 but again played one game for Essex and in August, immediately after producing by far his best performance for Kent – 6 for 127 & 4 for 56 against Middlesex Seconds at Dover – he had match figures of 11 for 151 for Gloucestershire Seconds against Hampshire at Bristol. At the end of the season, he resigned from Kent and joined Gloucestershire.

He spent the 1983/84 winter playing club cricket in Australia and in the 1984 English season played eight first-class and three List A matches for Gloucestershire. After another winter in Australia, he appeared twice in 1985 for Derbyshire in the Second Eleven Championship.

In 1986 he returned to the county of his birth and made his first-class debut for Kent against the Indians at Canterbury. Thanks to rain he did not get on the field and in two further first-class matches he failed to take a wicket. He was also picked for one List A match but again did not get on the field. Although troubled by a persistent thigh strain, he showed considerable improvement in the Second Eleven Championship – 25 wickets at 27.50 – and took 13 wickets in one-day competitions. He claimed another 21 (avge.9.20) for the Club & Ground but although Kent had no other off-spinner, Dale, who was never actually formally on the staff, left at the end of the season. He played club cricket for St. Lawrence.

#### **John Ronald Dale (No. 678).**

*Born:* 24. 10. 1930 Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire. *Died:* 19. 11. 2016. Skegness, Lincolnshire.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent 1958.

Educated: Durham University.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
Kent	96	7	31	1	31.00	1-31		

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	Did not play								
Overall	4	2	1	3	2*	3.00	0	0	0

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
Kent	Did not play							
Overall	270	7	167	7	23.85	3-33	0	3.71

John Dale had played 13 matches for his native Lincolnshire between 1949 and 1952 prior to joining Northamptonshire where he made his Second Eleven debut in 1955. In 1956 he was joint leading Second Eleven wicket taker with 25 (avge.17.44) but, unable to break into the first team, he moved south. After one Second Eleven game against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in 1957 he joined the Kent staff in the following year. In what proved to be his only full season he was leading Second Eleven wicket taker with 42 (avge.17.6), took another 19 wickets in Club & Ground matches and gained his Second Eleven cap as well as bowling with considerable success for St. Lawrence. Although in his one first-class appearance he took only one wicket, it was that of Ted Dexter.

Despite a two-year contract, at the end of the season Dale announced his intention of taking up teaching and resigned. He played two more Second Eleven matches during the August holidays in 1959 which brought him a further 14 wickets.

Dale played one more Second Eleven game for Northamptonshire in 1967 and from 1970 to 1979 appeared for Lincolnshire. Although restricted mainly to the school holidays, he headed the Lincolnshire bowling averages in 1973 (33 wickets at 11.63) and 1974 (56 wickets at 13.67) and played three times in the Gillette Cup. In 1974 he took 3 for 33 against Glamorgan at Swansea, when Lincolnshire became only the second minor county to defeat a first-class team in the competition. He also appeared once for Minor Counties North in the Benson & Hedges Cup. As late as 1984 at the age of 53 he took three wickets for the 1974 Lincolnshire team v the 1984 side. In all he played 51 matches for Lincolnshire, scoring 129 runs and taking 151 wickets (avge.20.08).

His club cricket was for Skegness for whom he continued playing League cricket into his seventies. He had a successful career in teaching, latterly as Headmaster of John Franklin Secondary Modern School, Spilsby.

## Bruce Stanley Darvell (No. 656).

*Born:* 29. 04.1931 Chipperfield, Hertfordshire. *Died:* 21.12.2005, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent. 1952

Educated: Dartington Hall School, Totnes.

Parents: Leonard Charles Darvell & Vera Darvell (*née* Collins).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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<b>Kent</b>	1	1	0	5	5	5.00	0	0	1
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### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	0	2	0				

In a career interrupted by two years' service with the Royal Army Service Corps, Bruce Darvell delivered only one over in first-class cricket and claimed only eight wickets in eight matches for Kent Second Eleven but bowled with considerable success in the less taxing milieu of Club & Ground. In 1948, his first season with Kent Colts, he took 19 wickets (avge.13.84) and in 1949 headed the Club & Ground averages with 20 wickets at 13.33. Returning in 1952 after National Service, he was again successful for Club & Ground with 18 wickets at 15.55 but failed to take a wicket in two appearances for the Second Eleven and left at the end of the season. He played club cricket for the Mote.

Between 1956 and 1958 he appeared for his native Hertfordshire and in 1956 took 36 wickets (avge.15.11), more than twice as many as any other bowler. Included were two outstanding performances – 6 for 36 & 5 for 70 v Buckinghamshire at Slough and 6 for 70 & 3 for 35 in the return at Croxley Green.

After cricket, he worked in 'recreational facility management.' In 1961 he married Carole Cadman. He died in Queen Elizabeth Hospital' Welwyn from 'respiratory failure due to exacerbation of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease'. At the time his home was in Bengoe, Hertfordshire.

### Percy Vere Davis (No. 614).

*Born:* 04. 04.1922 Forest Hill. *Died:* 28.11.2018, Libbaton, High Bickington, North Devon.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1946.

Parents: Herbert Charles Davis & Emily Doris Davis (née Clarke)

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	10	0	74	33	7.40	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	10	17	0	276	136	16.23	1	0	4

### Bowling

Did not bowl

Born in Perry Rise, Forest Hill, the son of an electrician, Percy Davis had his first trial for Kent in 1937 at the age of 15 and joined the staff in the following year. In 1938 he made his Second Eleven debut against Surrey at Folkestone and played a further five Second Eleven appearances that year. In 1939 he played a complete season, opening in every match and scoring 513 runs (avge.23.65). Only Godfrey Evans scored more.

On the outbreak of War, he joined the RAF, serving mainly in the Middle East and Italy and reaching the rank of Flight Lieutenant. When peace came in 1945, he toured England with the Desert Air Force team, scoring 84 in their first fixture at Halton against a Technical Training Command team containing five county cricketers and followed with 51 in a century opening partnership against the Royal Australian Air Force. In their final game he hit 114\* against a strong Bomber Command side at Trent Bridge.

Playing for Kent while on leave in 1946, he scored 17 on his first-class debut at Chesterfield and in five further appearances only once scored more but hit 61 in a Second Eleven game against Wiltshire at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham. In one of four first-class matches for Combined Services, he scored 136

with 20 fours against a more than usually mature Oxford University attack in the Parks. Kent were willing to re-engage him but he opted to remain in the RAF.

He retired from the RAF in 1955. His later career was in civil aviation, much of it with British Caledonian. His other main sport was golf. On retirement he had a house built adjacent to Libbaton Golf Course. In later life he preferred to be known as Philip.

### **Richard Peter Davis (No. 740).**

*Born:* 18. 03.1966 Westbrook, Margate. *Died:* 29.12.2003, Blean, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent 1986-1993. Cap 1990.

Educated: King Ethelbert's School, Birchington & Thanet Technical College,

Parents: Brian Davis & Sylvia Davis (née Mooney).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	125	153	39	1795	67	15.74	0	4	108
<b>Overall</b>	170	210	46	2503	67	15.26	0	5	157

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	24058	1096	11208	320	35.02	7-64	13	2
<b>Overall</b>	31250	1417	14704	421	34.92	7-64	17	2

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	106	50	18	310	40*	9.68	0	0	41
<b>Overall</b>	145	71	26	457	56	10.15	0	1	56

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4606	48	3267	103	31.71	5-52	1	4.25
<b>Overall</b>	6157	60	4519	141	32.04	5-52	1	4.40

If he never developed into a genuine all-rounder as at one time seemed likely, 'Dickie' Davis was for five seasons Kent's senior spin bowler as well as being a gritty, determined, tail end batsman, good enough to open on occasions, and a reliable fielder, especially at slip. He played two Second Eleven games in 1984 and, although his three wickets cost 152 runs and Kent allowed him to play five games for Derbyshire Seconds, his potential was recognised, and he joined the staff in the following season.

Facing competition from two other left-arm spinners, Lindsay Wood and Laurie Potter (as well of course from Derek Underwood!) opportunities were restricted but he progressed, and his first team debut came at Folkestone in 1986. Following 3 for 83 in the first innings, he supported Derek Underwood as Warwickshire were bowled out for 65 (Underwood 7 for 11, Davis 3 for 38).

Davis gained a regular first team place when Underwood retired in 1987 and retained it until 1993 when he suffered a lapse of form and was replaced by Min Patel. Twice he exceeded 50 first-class wickets in a season, his best 1992 when he took 74 (ave.21.74) plus 20 in limited-overs cricket. 1 for 17 from eleven overs against Derbyshire in the Quarter Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup at Canterbury earned

him a Gold Award and informed opinion considered him unfortunate not to have been chosen for an England A tour in 1992/93.

Although offered a one-year contract for 1994, he opted to join Warwickshire where he was capped as a member of their treble winning side. Losing his place to Ashley Giles, he spent 1996/97 with Gloucestershire before moving again, to Sussex in 1998 where he played no first-class cricket but appeared in List A matches. In 2001 he was player-coach with Berkshire and claimed 36 wickets (avge.16.00) in the Minor Counties Championship as well as playing three times in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy.

Although unable to drive due to the effect of an ultimately fatal brain tumour, he played one last first-class match that year when Leicestershire, his seventh county, hastily signed him on finding themselves a spinner short on the spin-friendly Northampton wicket. Leicestershire were rewarded with an innings of 51, scored out of 84, and a second innings analysis of 6 for 73.

While undergoing treatment he continued coaching both at Kent and with the England Women's team and, following surgery, continued to watch the county of his birth, on one occasion a day after leaving intensive care. On one of his last visits in May 2003 he received his numbered cap from his close friend David Fulton, who for a mere ten days was his brother-in-law.

### **Alexander Frederick Henry Debnam (No. 633).**

*Born:* 12. 10.1921 Belvedere. *Died:* 26. 01. 2003 Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace/leg spin bowler.

Kent 1948-1949.

Educated: Erith County Secondary School.

Parents: Archibald Alfred Debnam & Winifred Mary Debnam (née Marsden)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11	15	3	88	21	7.33	0	0	8
<b>Overall</b>	21	33	6	327	64	12.11	0	1	12

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1230	31	669	16	41.81	5-87	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	1506	35	862	20	43.10	5-87	1	0

Joining Kent in 1946 at a time when they, like most counties, considered leg-spin an essential component of their attack, Alex Debnam had served in the RAF during the war as a navigator and left the Air Force with the rank of Flight Lieutenant. This led him unwittingly into bad odour with the Kent Secretary Gerald Hough (*q.v.*). A complicated, not to say eccentric, character, Hough, a Captain in the First World War, considered that, as a commissioned officer, Debnam had, by turning professional, 'let the side down'. As a result, the newcomer found himself with rather more than his fair share of the more menial ground staff work.

Making due allowance for an approach to class that was archaic even in 1946, Hough's attitude defies reason. He can hardly have been unaware that, excluding Debnam, five Kent professionals had been awarded commissions between 1939 and 1945. Yorkshire had seven. There were at least 43 commissioned county professionals in all, with a collective record of one DSO, four DFCs as well as one DFM awarded before the recipient was commissioned. Three of them would have outranked Hough had they served in the same war. At least four professionals had held commissions in 'his' war.

In his first season Debnam did more as a batsman, managing only three wickets in twelve Second Eleven and Club & Ground matches but 1947 brought improvement. Beginning with 6 for 67 and 5 for 67 against Gloucestershire Seconds at Beckenham, he ended leading wicket-taker in both Second Eleven and Club & Ground matches. For most of the season he opened the bowling with medium-pace seam before switching to spin.

His first-class debut came in 1948 against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells and although his ten first-class wickets that season cost 45.00 each, he had one day of success when, against Northamptonshire at Tunbridge Wells, he took 4 for 65 including four of the top six in the Northants order. For the Second Eleven he averaged over 30, hit 177 opening the batting against Gloucestershire Seconds at Bristol and was again leading wicket taker with 29 wickets (ave.24.24).

In 1949 he was picked for three first team matches and took only six wickets, five of them at Bristol where he dismissed five of the top six including George Emmett, Martin Young and Tom Graveney at a cost of 87 runs. For the Second Eleven he was once again the most successful bowler with 32 wickets (ave.20.60) including 5 for 54 and 3 for 62 v Hampshire at Broadstairs and 8 for 51 and 5 for 86 v Devonshire at Torquay, the latter his last appearance for the club. He was on the 'not retained' list at the end of the season. Ironically, his persecutor Gerald Hough retired the same year.

Alex Debnam played two further seasons with Hampshire without becoming a first team fixture. He subsequently re-joined the RAF and served for another twelve years. On retiring he managed a building society and played cricket for Bexleyheath Sports Club from 1964 to 1986. In 1950 he married Jean Bartter who owned a knitwear company in Whitstable. He died on a visit to his son who lived in Whitley Bay and played cricket for Northumberland.

#### **Jason Michael De la Pêna (No. 779).**

*Born:* 16. 09.1972 Hammersmith, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1998.

Educated Lambrook Preparatory School, Ascot, Stowe & Bournside Sixth Form College, Cheltenham,

Parents: Michael & Jacqueline De la Pena.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	1	1	0	0*		0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	11	11	6	10	7*	2.00	0	0	1

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	252	6	154	3	51.33	2-54	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	1253	36	896	29	30.89	6-18	1	1

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	3	3	3	2	2*		0	0	0

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	108	0	107	2	53.50	2-46	0	5.94

Jason De la Pêna joined Gloucestershire in 1990 and made four first team appearances in 1991-1992, taking 4 for 77 against the Australians. Moving to Surrey in 1994 he again played only a handful of first team games and in 1997 turned out in odd games for Hertfordshire and Middlesex Seconds.

In 1998 he was picked as a non-contract player for Kent Second Eleven in the opening game of the season against Yorkshire Seconds at Canterbury, the first of nine Second Eleven appearances. He had achieved nothing particularly notable but in June he was a surprise choice for the first team against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury. He took three wickets but emerged wicketless from his second outing against Oxford University and received no further chances. For the Second Eleven he struggled in the second half of the season and at 53.73 his 15 wickets were expensive. His best effort was 3 for 76 against Leicestershire at Ashford.

Invited back for further trial in 1999, De la Pêna opted to try a fourth county, Worcestershire, where he achieved his career best 6 for 18 and 4 for 34 against Oxford University but had figures of 1 for 82 in his only Championship appearance. He subsequently became a journalist and presenter for Sky News.

### **Michael Henry Denness (No. 690). O.B.E.**

*Born:* 01.12.1940 Bellshill, Lanarkshire, Scotland. *Died:* 19. 04. 2013. St. Francis Hospice, Havering-atte-Bower, Essex.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1962-1976. Cap 1964.

County captain 1972-1976.

Tests: 28 for England, 19 as captain. ODIs: 12 for England, all as captain.

Educated: Ayr Academy.

Parents: William Denness & Elizabeth Denness (née Thompson.)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	333	562	44	17047	178	32.90	21	103	307
<b>England</b>	28	45	3	1667	188	39.69	4	7	28
<b>Overall</b>	501	838	65	25886	195	33.48	33	152	410

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	72	2	55	2	27.50	1-7		
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	84	3	62	2	31.00	1-7		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	158	150	17	4001	118*	30.08	5	22	75
<b>England</b>	12	11	2	264	66	29.33	0	1	1
<b>Overall</b>	233	220	21	5397	118*	27.12	6	28	94

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Mike Denness had a father with a sporting background who quietly prepared his son for a career in cricket, having himself played with the Middlesex and England leg spinner, Ian Peebles. The younger Denness had been recognised as an outstandingly promising Rugby player at Ayr Academy, but his

father's encouragement had gently nudged him towards cricket. He played for Ayr at the age of 13, was selected for Scotland in 1959 whilst still a schoolboy and played for them 19 times. Former Lancashire and England wicket-keeper George Duckworth had tipped off Leslie Ames, who had been impressed and persuaded Denness to join Kent.

He was an elegant, fluent batsman, equally at home opening the innings or in the middle order and had a range of attractive shots. With Brian Luckhurst, they became one of the outstanding opening partnerships in the country, a feature being their running between the wickets. They jointly opened the Kent innings in 147 first-class matches until 1972 when, on becoming captain, Denness moved down the order. They shared 23 century opening partnerships.

In 12 of his 15 seasons with Kent, Denness scored more than 1,000 runs, his best in 1966 with 1,534 at an average of 32.63. With almost 500 catches in both forms of the game, he was reliable and brilliant as a fielder, be it close to the wicket or in the covers.

His captaincy of England was not without controversy. With Kent he was acting captain for a large part of the 1970 Championship season, deputising for Colin Cowdrey on international duty. He served as captain from 1972 to 1976 during which time the Club won six trophies and were runners-up in the County Championship in 1972.

Mike Denness' first season for Kent was 1962. By then he had already made nine first-class appearances for Scotland as well as a promising start with Kent Seconds, scoring 458 runs from 18 innings at an average of 32.71 and a top score of 104\*. The second half of the season saw him promoted to the First Eleven, scoring 331 first-class runs including a maiden first-class half-century. He averaged 18.38 and was recognised as 'a gifted player from Scotland,' and 'showed considerable promise for the future' in the Annual Report for 1962.

That early promise was confirmed in 1963 when he was selected for 24 First Eleven matches in which he scored 1,098 runs in 40 innings. He also recorded his maiden first-class hundred, an innings of 110\* against Essex at Maidstone, which included a fifth-wicket partnership of 166 with Bob Wilson. There were nine half-centuries including a first innings 79 followed by an unbeaten 83 against Nottinghamshire at Dover. Going in at number three against the West Indians at Canterbury, he scored 80 in the first innings.

In his first two seasons he had done sufficient to merit the award of his Cap in 1964. Despite again reaching 1,000 runs there were concerns that once the wickets got harder and faster so did his consistently high scores fall away. Up to the beginning of July he had scored 701 runs in 15 matches, including two centuries but from then until the season's end, in a further 14 matches he added only 443. The committee report for the year draws attention to this and suggests that his form 'fell away unaccountably', because 'he is apt to play across the line of the ball too much and the hooking of the short ball often led to his downfall'.

The Denness/Luckhurst partnership began in the second Canterbury Week game against Middlesex in 1965 but was clearly in the experimental stage, lasting for only four games before Denness moved down, batting seventh, fifth and fourth for the remaining four championship games.

It did not become a regular pairing until the following season beginning with the match against the New Zealand tourists at the end of June. In the opening matches Denness opened five times with Richardson, three with Luckhurst, including one in the Gillette Cup, five times batted first wicket down and it was not until the beginning of July that the Denness/Luckhurst partnership became established. Nevertheless, the committee was particularly impressed, recognising that 'whilst they were not naturally opening batsmen, they had both settled well into the role and had developed into as good an opening partnership as any in the country'.

Denness had his best season so far with the bat, scoring in all first-class matches 1,575 runs in 58 innings (more innings than any other Kent batsman) at an average of 28.12. He was fourth in the County averages, scoring two centuries with a highest of 174 against Derbyshire at Folkestone. But a close look at those opening scores are not that impressive. On only one occasion was there an opening partnership of three figures.

Although without a three-figure innings in 1966, Mike Denness scored 1,606 runs, in fewer innings. Only Brian Luckhurst scored more. His highest was 97, average 31.49, and *Wisden* acknowledged that 'Kent were wonderfully served by the opening batsmen Luckhurst and Denness, who formed one of the most successful partnerships in the country'. Denness had ten scores of more than 50 and four in the nineties. On a difficult Bath wicket, he scored 97 and 87, giving Kent a victory by 164 runs.

Against Somerset in the following season his innings in the final of the Gillette Cup paved the way for Kent's first trophy success in 54 years. His half-century in that game and the opening partnership with Brian Luckhurst, was the platform for Kent's success and earned him the Man of the Match Award.

However, his form throughout the 1967 season was inconsistent. Although again reaching 1,000 first-class runs, he scored just one century and seven half-centuries. His 108 was in the drawn Middlesex match at Lord's and he had a half-century in both innings of the return at Blackheath beginning the following day. That was the only short-lived consistency through the whole season. Mixed in with these moderate successes were 19 scores of less than 20 and only one Denness/Luckhurst century opening partnership. At this stage in his career, he was a slow starter. It was acknowledged that Denness had a 'mediocre' season and that the failure to win the Championship was probably due to fragile batting. He was fourth in the averages with 1,215 first-class runs from 46 innings. His average was 28.25, almost ten runs an innings fewer than his opening partner.

In early 1968 Denness was in the party of county cricketers that undertook a three-month tour of Africa and Asia, captained by Mickey Stewart and including Derek Underwood. 21 games were played, only three of which were first-class, in which Denness scored 137 runs in six innings.

In 1968 he hit the 1,500-run mark for the third time but with two centuries. He averaged 31.97 with a highest score of 138 coming in the first of the Canterbury Week games in the victory against Warwickshire. His previous three-figure score had been against Worcestershire in mid-June. But there were still the inconsistencies, among them 15 single-figure scores, possibly an indication of early innings lack of concentration. Equally, there were six occasions when he reached fifty but was unable to progress to the magic three figures.

1969 saw the introduction of the John Player Sunday League in which Mike Denness enjoyed considerable success individually and in partnership with Brian Luckhurst. In the first season, he played in 12 of the 16 games, scoring 274 runs including two half-centuries. In all but one of those his opening partner was Luckhurst.

He had taken over as captain in May, following an Achilles tendon injury suffered by Colin Cowdrey that kept him out of the side until the last game of the season.

In the first-class game he was second in the averages, scoring 1,424 runs in 41 innings and averaging 38.48. His highest score 125, against the New Zealand tourists. This was one of two centuries, the other in the Championship game at Tunbridge Wells against Northamptonshire. As an opening pair Denness and Luckhurst rarely failed, achieving five three-figure opening partnerships. Denness was much more consistent and in addition to his centuries, recorded seven innings of 50 or more including 99, run out against Surrey at Blackheath.

He came to the eye of the Selectors, being included in the Eleven for the final Test against New Zealand, having been in the squad for the previous two games. He had, according to *Wisden*, a 'nightmare' first

innings, scoring two runs in a 45-minute stay at the wicket, but redeemed himself in the second with an undefeated half-century to give England victory by eight wickets.

In early 1970 he was invited to join the Duke of Norfolk's side on a tour of the Caribbean that played a number of four-day games against the islands. The side was led by Colin Cowdrey and also included Derek Underwood. Three of the seven matches played were first-class, Denness playing all three and scoring 132 runs in five innings.

1970 was to be a very special year for Denness. When Cowdrey was on Test Match duty, Denness took over the captaincy and played a leading role in the Club's first Championship for 57 years. He led from the front with his best season's batting performance, 1,531 runs in 41 innings at an average of 39.25 with two hundreds, an undefeated 167 against Essex at Harlow and 122 against Somerset at Weston-super-Mare. He had ten scores of fifty or more including three in the nineties. But there were still twelve occasions when he was dismissed for single figure scores. The Denness/Luckhurst opening partnerships achieved five three figure scores. The Committee had high praise for Denness as acting captain, for the brilliance of his fielding (apart from the many runs he saved, he took 33 catches) and for the opening partnerships, acknowledging that they were 'a formidable opening pair'.

Kent finished their John Player Sunday League programme in second place behind Lancashire, an accomplishment in which Denness played an important role. He and Luckhurst achieved a record opening partnership of 182 against Somerset (again at Weston-super-Mare), Denness' share being 72. He had further impressive performances in the competition, scoring 582 runs, including six half-centuries and an undefeated 94 against Surrey, averaging 41.57.

With Cowdrey obliged to miss half the 1971 season due to a severe bout of pneumonia, Denness captained the side in 15 first-class matches and 11 limited-overs games. Before his illness, Cowdrey led in eight of the former and nine of the latter (Leary also took over for three first-class and one JPL). The additional responsibility notwithstanding, Denness scored 1,494 first-class runs at an average of 38.30, with 15 half-centuries and a further three scores in the 40s. His only century was 111 against Somerset during Maidstone Week. The team dropped to fourth in the Championship, but it was a close-run thing, only 21 points separating the top four.

The season was something of an anti-climax after the excitement of 1970, as the team dropped from runners-up in the John Player Sunday League, winning half of the 16 games but the excitement was saved for the Gillette Cup with Kent having three home ties out of the four games, then going on to a thrilling Lord's final. In all five games, Denness scored a total of 200 runs including two three-figure opening partnerships with Luckhurst.

Denness took over the captaincy from Cowdrey at the start of the 1972 season, the second Scot to be appointed official captain of a county side. His was a highly successful first season, leading the side to the John Player League title and achieving second place in the County Championship. In his 21 first-class games he scored 1,339 runs at an average of 39.38 with three centuries including a top score of 162. He had a poor start though, having got to his sixth innings before recording double figures. But he found his form in the following match with 111 against Derbyshire in the first match of Tunbridge Wells Week, followed by a half-century against Gloucestershire in the second. He had a further eight half-centuries in the season but the responsibilities of captaincy had convinced him that a lower order position was now more appropriate.

In 1972 a further limited overs competition was introduced in the form of the Benson & Hedges Cup with preliminary rounds on a zonal basis followed by knock-out from the quarter-final stage. Kent failed to reach the knock-out stage; in his four innings Denness scored 107 runs.

Kent reached the semi-final of the Gillette Cup, going down by nine runs to Lancashire in a thrilling game at Old Trafford, Denness top scoring for Kent with 65.



A thrilling final run in the John Player League where Kent had to win their last six matches to take the title, created great excitement, climaxed by an emphatic victory by five wickets, with two overs to spare, against Worcestershire. Denness played in 13 of the 16 games and had an important say in three of the final four victories, with scores of 49\*, 37\* and 24.

He was selected for the MCC tour of India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1972/73 and played in all five Tests against India, batting at four in the first three, opening the innings in the fourth and going in at seven in the final game, due to injury in the field while taking what *Wisden* described as a 'splendid diving catch'. He was fifth in the Test batting averages scoring 257 runs in eight innings at an average of 32.12. his highest score 76 in the second innings of the third Test.

He was opening partner to Dennis Amiss in the first two of the three match series against Pakistan and in the first innings of the opening Test shared a three-figure partnership with a second innings 68. He failed in both innings of the second Test, went in at number four for the third and in his only innings scored 47. In the overall tour averages he was in fifth place, scoring 706 runs at an average of 32.09. His highest score was 95.

Kent's success in 1973 was in the limited overs game, winning the Benson & Hedges Cup, the John Player League and the Fenner Trophy (part of the Scarborough Festival). They were quarter finalists in the Gillette Cup and fourth in the County Championship. For much of the season Kent were in the running for all four titles.

In the first-class game Mike Denness had a fine season, achieving, in 34 innings his second-best batting average with 1,343 runs at 44.76. He hit four centuries with a highest score of 178 against Somerset at Maidstone during which he shared a fifth -wicket stand of 241 with Colin Cowdrey (123\*, his 99th century). Denness had a good start, an undefeated 106\* against Sussex in the opening game. His other two centuries were 117 at Swansea and 104 against MCC at Canterbury. He had four half centuries including 98 against Leicestershire at Folkestone and 78\* against the New Zealanders.

In the Benson & Hedges Cup he scored 112\* in the game against Surrey at The Oval and in the John Player League his highest score was 90 against Somerset at Canterbury.

Mike Denness was appointed England Captain for the tour of the West Indies in 1973/74 in succession to Ray Illingworth. He was the fifth Kent player to be so honoured and the only Scottish born cricketer to have captained England. It was a successful tour for him, England drawing the series with an exciting fifth Test Match win. Having suffered defeat by seven wickets in the first of the five matches, England fought hard to achieve draws in the next three and won the final game by 26 runs. In the five Tests he scored 231 runs in nine innings at an average of 25.66 and a top score of 67 in the first innings of the second Test. Overall in ten matches he scored 504 runs.

Recognising his service to Kent Cricket, the Committee granted Denness a benefit in 1974. The supporters of Kent showed their appreciation with donations totalling £20,000.

Despite finishing a disappointing tenth in the County Championship, their lowest position for a decade, in a side weakened by Test match demands on Denness, Knott, Underwood and Asif, there was success for the captain and the team in winning the Gillette Cup for the second time, reaching the Quarter-Final stages of the Benson & Hedges Cup and finishing third in the John Player League.

In the four Gillette Cup games up to the Final he had scores of 42, 72 and 35 but was bowled for a single in the victorious Lord's Final. He had two scores in the 40s in the Benson & Hedges zonal games but did not score in the quarter final which Kent lost by eight runs to Leicestershire.

In the County Championship he was available for four of the first five matches but did not reappear until the first fixture of Canterbury Week and his next was his last at Dover in mid-August. In 11 first-class Championship games he scored 229 (avg.22.90) with a top score of 56 in the last match.

There were two three-match Test series, against India and Pakistan with Denness leading the side in both. He had already registered a century against India, captaining MCC before the first Test and got off to a good start in the first against India, making a challenging declaration in the rain-affected game at Old Trafford. He asked India to score 296 in the full final day but they failed to do so, England winning by 113 runs with fifteen overs to spare.

In its review of the series, *Wisden*, commenting on the declaration as 'a gesture of confidence', said, 'It paid off and Denness led the side during the rest of the series with increasing authority'. England won all three games.

Denness had a successful series with the bat, finishing fourth in the averages with 289 runs at 96.33. His two centuries were 118 in the first innings of the second Test at Lord's and 100 in England's 459-2 declared in the third at Edgbaston. England also won the two Prudential Trophy games.

All three matches in the series against Pakistan were drawn, rain washing out play in the final day of the first game at Leeds with England requiring 44 runs to win with four wickets left. Denness (44) shared a third-wicket partnership of 72 with John Edrich towards the target of 282 but to no avail. Rain ruined England's chances of victory again in the second Test. Denness scored 20 in England's first innings 270 whilst the final game was played on a slow Oval wicket with England painstakingly making their way to 545 in 226 overs (Denness 18) in reply to Pakistan's 600-7 declared.

Having satisfied the selectors with his leadership qualities in the domestic season, he was chosen to captain the MCC tour of Australia in 1974-75. Denness scored only 104 runs from six innings in his first three State matches leading up to the first Test Match and, faced with a formidable pace attack on helpful pitches, he had to contend with an unprecedented series of injuries, particularly to key batsmen. The situation became so critical, that in December he telephoned Colin Cowdrey and got his agreement to join the tour.

Like most of the batsmen, he was particularly unhappy facing Lillee and Thomson. After a 166 run defeat in the first Test at Brisbane, he made his highest score so far with a second innings 45 against Western Australia immediately before the second Test at Perth where, just four days after his arrival, Cowdrey was called into service, but his presence did nothing to improve the captain's confidence. He was dismissed for two in the first innings and 20 in the second and England suffered a second heavy defeat.

Two undefeated innings of 88 and 27 by the captain against South Australia restored some confidence but it was short lived, with two single figure scores in the Boxing Day Test at Melbourne, the result of which could have gone either way, Australia requiring eight runs and England needing two wickets. There was a further failure in the One-Day International on New Year's Day, which even if he had not already decided to do so, will have convinced Denness that he was so out of form that he should drop himself for the Fourth Test at Sydney. A brave decision which did nothing to avoid another heavy defeat, losing the Ashes as a result.

Three State games followed, two against Tasmania and a third against New South Wales. Denness played in all three and at last found some form. He began with 42 in the first game against Tasmania, followed with 157\* in the second and then had a first innings 99 against New South Wales. The last two were welcome victories for MCC, the first having been a rain affected draw. Denness scored a first innings half-century in the defeat by 163 runs in the Adelaide Test. The captain and the team saved their best performance for the sixth and final Test at Melbourne. They dismissed Australia for 152 then, led by Denness and Fletcher, admittedly without Thomson and Lillee bowling only six overs, scored 529 and won by an innings and four runs. Denness scored 188 and shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 192 with Fletcher (146).

He carried his newly found form with him into the short tour of New Zealand with two Tests in Auckland and Christchurch. In the first he scored a magnificent 181, again sharing a fourth wicket partnership, this time of 266, with Fletcher (216). Rain ruined the second Test with a wash out on three of the five days. In his only innings he scored 59\*.

Despite all the pressures, Denness topped the batting averages for the whole tour and was the only batsman to exceed 1,000 runs, his 1,136 total from 25 innings giving him an average of 54.09. As England captain and for his overall batting and leadership record for county and country, he earned recognition in 1975 as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year.

He was appointed captain for the 1975 inaugural World Cup, losing by four wickets to Australia in the Semi Final at Headingley. His personal scores were 37\*, 37, 12\* and 27. He continued for the first in a four-match Test series against Australia but failed with the bat in both innings of the first game at Edgbaston after winning the toss and controversially inserting the Australians. England were beaten by an innings and 85 runs. During the match he offered the selectors his resignation and was replaced by Tony Greig for the remainder of the series.

Relieved of that burden, he enjoyed a good season back with Kent. He played 29 first-class innings, scoring 1,099 runs and averaging 39.25 giving him second place in the averages. His one three figure score was 171 against Derbyshire at Chesterfield. He shared a third - wicket partnership of 222 with Bob Woolmer, the foundation of an impressive innings victory. He had ten half-centuries including two dismissals in the nineties.

His one-day season was generally poor, being dismissed for single figure scores in eight of his 15 innings. Although his form in the John Player League was patchy, he scored 299 runs in eleven innings with an average of 33.32. In the final game, against Somerset at Canterbury, he dominated the Kent innings with a magnificent 116 in a total of 193-7, his first century in the competition.

Although not known until the end of the season, 1976 was to see the end of Mike Denness' captaincy of the Club and subsequently the end of his playing career with Kent. He went out in a blaze of glory, captaining the side which, for the second time in four seasons won the 'double' of the Benson & Hedges Cup and the John Player League. Despite a knee injury that kept him out for the early weeks of the season, his contribution to the team's success was inspirational, especially so in the two competitions where it was badly needed at various stages.

Denness missed two of the four qualifying rounds in the Cup competition but, on returning, scored a half-century in the Quarter-Final against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury and a magnificent 104 in the semi-final against Surrey at the Oval. He scored only 15 in the Final at Lord's against Worcestershire but led Kent to a 43 run victory.

The John Player League could not have been a closer run thing, five sides finishing on 40 points and Kent winning the title by virtue of five away wins and a better run rate (4.988) against Essex's five away wins but a run rate of 4.560. Denness topped the Kent averages in the competition, scoring 476 runs in 12 innings at an average of 47.60. His highest score was 118\* against Yorkshire at Scarborough. In the first game of the season, he scored 108\* against Northamptonshire at Canterbury.

His performances in the first-class game were disappointing, failing to achieve 1,000 first-class runs for the only time with the exception of his debut season and in 1974 when he spent most of the season with England. In his 33 innings he scored 913 runs (ave.32.60) with a highest score of 83 against Lancashire. On only five other occasions did he exceed 50.

The dismissal of Denness as Captain was mired in controversy. Measured by leadership and results he had been Kent's most successful captain with six trophies won. But the committee had expressed concern at the lack of further success in the County Championship, although in three of the six seasons

they finished, second, fourth and fifth. Denness was unhappy at the reasons given for his dismissal and he subsequently left the county, joining Essex for four years until his retirement.

Apart from business interests he remained heavily committed to cricket. Elected a Life Member of MCC, he served on its Committee and the ECB appointed him as the first Chairman of its Pitch Advisory Group.

He was also appointed a ICC Match Referee in 1996 and during a South Africa v India Test at Port Elizabeth in 2001 he imposed sanctions on six of the Indian team – including Sachin Tendulkar no less – for ball-tampering as well as on captain Sourav Ganguly for failing to control his team and for violations of the ICC Code of Conduct.

Predictably, the resultant furore reverberated around the cricketing world, but a full account does not really fit here. Suffice to say that the Indian and South African authorities agreed to replace Denness for the next Test with the South African Denis Lindsay but the ICC held that they had no power to do so and eventually the match went ahead as an ‘unofficial Test match’. Although supported by the ICC up to a point, he was subsequently appointed match referee in only two further Test matches and three ODIs, none involving India

His affection for Kent Cricket remained and he returned to serve from 1988 to 2004 as a member of the General Committee and was appointed Chairman of Cricket in 2001.

In the latter capacity he became embroiled in the extraordinary events which occurred during the Worcestershire v Kent match at New Road in 2004. The Kent captain, David Fulton, was out of action with a hand injury and the team was led by Ed Smith who had been appointed vice-captain for first-class matches. As the home side built up a score of 453 it became apparent that senior players, led by Andrew Symonds and to a reputedly lesser extent by Robert Key, were ignoring Smith’s authority and were clearly not supporting him, senior players even leaving the field without permission.

A state of near mutiny existed. A misjudged attempt by Fulton to smooth things over by taking the field as twelfth man and virtually assuming the captaincy was halted by the umpires, who pointed out that he was contravening the Laws. This only result was to further diminish Smith’s authority.

Fortunately, Denness, as Chairman of Cricket, arrived and did some straight talking which at least allowed the match to reach its conclusion – a shaky draw with Kent’s last pair holding out for 33 deliveries. Nevertheless, the poison had entered the system, a state of affairs exacerbated by the decision to appoint Symonds as 20/20 captain. One of his first acts was to drop Smith, who was having his best-ever limited-over season and had hit half-centuries in his last two matches.

By the time the Club bestirred itself and got around to considering disciplinary measures, Symonds was out of the country and Key, who apologised, was playing for England. In effect, the mutineers’ received a slap on the wrist with a daffodil. Unable to agree the wording of a press release issued by the Club and disgusted by the way Smith had been treated, Denness resigned. Apart from Smith himself and some of the younger players, Denness was about the only one to emerge from the sorry affair with any credit.

At the end of the season Smith left to join Middlesex, citing as his reason ‘diminished trust in the leadership of the club’. Not, many might think, unreasonable in the circumstances. His friend, the highly promising Alex Loudon departed at the same time. For Michael Denness his devotion to Kent cricket never really wavered and he became the Club’s President in 2012. In the New Year’s Honours List, he was appointed OBE.

He died after a long battle with cancer. There was a large attendance at his Canterbury Cathedral Memorial Service on 1st July 2013, reflecting the respect and affection for him throughout the world of cricket.

David Robertson.

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**Pinnaduwage Aravinda de Silva (No. 768).**

*Born:* 17.10.1965 Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1995. Kent Cap1995.

Tests: 93 for Sri Lanka. ODIs: 308 for Sri Lanka.

*Wisden:* Five Cricketers of the Year 1996. *Indian Cricket:* Cricketer of the Year 1990.

Educated: Isipathana College & D.S. Senanayake College, Colombo, Sri Lanka.

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	16	30	0	1781	255	59.36	7	7	3
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	93	159	11	6361	267	42.97	20	22	43
<b>Overall</b>	220	343	33	15000	267	48.38	43	71	108

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1290	36	641	5	128.20	1-5		
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	2595	77	1208	29	41.65	3-30		
<b>Overall</b>	8999	355	3763	129	29.17	7-24	8	1

**List A Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	24	23	3	722	124	36.10	3	0	7
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	308	296	30	9284	145	34.90	11	64	95
<b>Overall</b>	394	379	44	12221	158*	36.48	18	77	117

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	714	2	515	15	34.33	4-28	0	4.32
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	5148	27	4177	106	39.40	4-30	0	4.86
<b>Overall</b>	7413	44	5683	157	36.19	4-28	0	4.59

A little under five feet four in height and stockily built, Aravinda de Silva used a very light bat but, whether employing his fast, feather-light movements down the pitch to drive, or showing his power to cut or hook off the back foot, few seemed to hit the ball harder. It must be doubtful if any of Kent's overseas cricketers can have been more popular, both with his teammates and the Kentish faithful than 'Ari' as he became known. Certainly not on the basis of just one season. It did not look like being that way when the season started. John Evans, then editor of the Annual, greeted his arrival as 'an imaginative signing' but many among the membership were less welcoming.

In their seminal book on the period *Trophies & Tribulations* Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell recount that skipper Mark Benson, who had been largely responsible for signing the Sri Lankan, received something akin to hate mail from members, 150 or more wrote in asking in effect who de Silva was and why he had been recruited. Even Benson admitted to beginning to have doubts.

English cricket followers have many virtues no doubt, but their outlook can sometimes be a touch parochial. Kent members certainly should have known better in this case. Though de Silva's best days were still ahead of him, by glancing at his record it should have been fairly obvious that he was already a very considerable cricketer with vastly more experience of cricket at top level than anyone in the then current Kent side.

De Silva had made his first-class debut in 1983 and his Test debut in the following year, against England at Lord's, no less. By the time he joined Kent in 1995 he had already played in 48 Test matches, four of them as captain, and 157 ODIs. He had hit seven Test centuries, three against Pakistan with the likes of Imran Khan, Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and Abdul Qadir to contend with. He had toured England three times and, if in his four Tests against England he had only once passed the half-century, he had over 1,300 first-class runs on English wickets (avge.45.34) to his credit. Among his two centuries was 221\* against Hampshire at Southampton. His third innings on English pitches had been 59 against Kent at Canterbury.

Previously de Silva must have managed to avoid the terrors of English cricket in a typical April, but this time he arrived at Canterbury on a bitterly cold spring day. Accompanied by a friend destined to achieve even greater fame, Muttiah Muralitharan by name, it seems to have come as a shock, but they braved the cold for some net practice. It was not any warmer on April 25th when de Silva, aided by thermals and several sweaters, took the field against Surrey in a Benson & Hedges match at Canterbury. In his first three matches, all at Canterbury - a Championship match against Northants and another B & H against Somerset - his scores were 16, 2, 13 and 10 (run out).

The doubters were having a field day but the next Championship fixture, at Hove, coincided with an early May heat wave and, with the sun on his back, de Silva scored 117, an innings, according to *Wisden*, full of gloriously fluent strokes, albeit in a losing cause. In the second innings he lived up to the soubriquet of his early days of 'Mad Max' by running himself out before he had scored but by the end of May he had added another hundred, 135 (23 fours) v Glamorgan at Tunbridge Wells, his second 50 coming from 46 balls and 151 added for the fourth-wicket in 49 overs with Mark Ealham (58). Against Leicestershire at Canterbury, he made 57 of a 134 run third-wicket partnership with Benson (192) but 'Mad Max' was still lurking and there had been five single figure scores as well as two ducks. So far as the sceptics were concerned, the jury was probably still out.

By the end of June things were starting to look a bit different. Beginning with 83, the first 50 from 33 balls, in a rain-ruined game at Chester-Le-Street, at Headingley he produced 52 and 115, the latter from 151 balls, the hundred scored between lunch and tea. In the next match, at Trent Bridge, he hit 225 from 273 balls, with two sixes and 35 fours. He again scored a hundred between lunch and tea and, with Ealham (121), put on 315 for the sixth-wicket, a record at the time. Both matches ended in victory for the home side which rather took away some of the gloss. He led the side in both the Yorkshire and Nottinghamshire matches in the Axa Equity & Law Sunday League and Staffordshire in a National Westminster Bank Trophy match, winning all three.

There was still some carping. So far, he had done nothing outstanding in limited-overs cricket and only one of his hundreds had been in front of Kentish crowds. This too was about to change. In a run fest with Derbyshire at Mote Park, de Silva and Graham Cowdrey came together at 54 for 3 and when Cowdrey (137) was out they had added 368 from 80 overs, a Club record for the fourth-wicket. De Silva went on to 255 from 313 balls with one six and 38 fours. In the second innings he hit another 116 (17 fours), adding 152 for the third-wicket with Benson (92).

On 15th July, against Lancashire at Lord's in the Benson & Hedges Cup, de Silva played what was, by common consent, one of the greatest innings ever in a Lord's final. In the previous rounds his top score had been 39. Now, in pursuit of 275, he came to the wicket at 37 for 2 and was out at 214 for 7, having scored 112 from 95 balls with 11 fours; no other Kent batsman having scored more than 25. Greeted by a standing ovation on returning to the Pavilion, although on the losing side, he gained the Gold Award.

Form persisted. 102 (two sixes, 16 fours) from 98 balls against the West Indian tourists and two centuries in the Sunday League, 124 (two sixes, 14 fours) v Surrey at Canterbury, a 241-run second-wicket partnership from 24 overs with Trevor Ward (123) and 105\* (five sixes, 16 fours) v Somerset at Taunton. This was the last of his ten centuries in all formats but in the Championship, there was 88 & 60 v Middlesex at Lord's and 45 & 95 v Essex at Canterbury. His final innings was 40\* against Lancashire at Old Trafford. He extended his planned stay in England by an extra week to play in this match and incurred the displeasure of the Sri Lankan authorities by doing so, as well as drawing criticism in the Sri Lankan media.

De Silva finished comfortably top of the Kent first-class averages with 1,781 runs avge.59.37 with seven centuries and seven half-centuries and 722 runs, avge.36.10 in all List A matches with three centuries. Despite his efforts, Kent won only three Championship games in the 1995 season and finished bottom of the table. It is not all that surprising therefore that not one of de Silva's first-class centuries was for a winning side. Kent did however win the Axa Equity & Law League and both de Silva's centuries in the competition were for winning teams.

Aravinda de Silva was arguably Sri Lanka's first truly great cricketer. When Sri Lanka won the World Cup in 1996 by beating Australia at Lahore, de Silva won the Man of the Match award for his 107\* and 3 for 42. He captained Sri Lanka in six Test matches and 18 ODIs, playing his last Test match in 2002 and last ODI in 2002/2003. He had two spells as Chairman of Selectors. As well as domestic cricket in Sri Lanka, he had a season with Auckland.

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Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publishing, 2010.

#### **Petrus Stephanus De Villiers (No. 756).**

*Born:* 13. 10. 1964 Vereeniging, Transvaal, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1990.

Tests: 18 for South Africa. ODIs: 83 for South Africa.

Educated: Sasolburg High School, Heildelberg Volks and Pretoria Teacher's College.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	12	15	3	264	37	22.00	0	0	6
<b>SA</b>	18	26	7	359	67*	18.89	0	2	11
<b>Overall</b>	102	138	39	1687	67*	17.04	0	4	53

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1829	58	992	25	39.68	6-70	1	0
<b>SA</b>	4805	221	2063	85	24.27	6-23	5	2
<b>Overall</b>	20498	791	9553	427	22.37	7-80	23	3

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7	7	0	45	14	6.42	0	0	1
<b>SA</b>	83	36	15	170	20*	8.09	0	0	15
<b>Overall</b>	173	91	35	519	23*	9.26	0	0	24

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	324	8	215	6	35.83	2-37	0	3.98
<b>SA</b>	4422	86	2636	95	27.74	4-27	0	3.57
<b>Overall</b>	8765	165	5472	204	26.82	5-30	1	3.74

A late addition to the Kent squad when fellow South African Roy Pienaar (*qv*) cried off through injury, 'Fanie' de Villiers had been a member of the Northern Transvaal side since 1985 and had experience of English conditions in 1987 with Todmorden in the Lancashire League. Injuries to first choice pace bowlers Alan Igglesden and Tony Merrick resulted in a first team call up before he had played in the Second Eleven and on his second appearance, he took 4 for 69 at Swansea, clinching a Kent six -run victory with two wickets in the final over.

Due to a combination of selection policy – Kent tried eight opening bowlers that season and 13 different opening bowling combinations - and sundry niggles, it was not till the end of July that De Villiers gained an extended run in the side when he played five games in succession. It was at the end of this run that he produced his best figures, 6 for 70 v Middlesex at Canterbury.

Given his obvious talent and notably his ability to produce late away swing, his final return of 25 wickets at 39.68 plus six similarly expensive wickets in List A matches was disappointing. Nevertheless, further opportunities would probably have come his way but with counties restricted to one overseas player for the 1991 season, Kent had no choice but to release him.

On South Africa's return to Test cricket, he went on to assume important roles, on the field providing accurate support to the pace of Allan Donald and off it as a hugely popular and respected member of the squad. He headed the averages and was leading wicket taker on South Africa's tour of England in 1994.

An all-round sportsman, as a schoolboy he excelled at Rugby and athletics and was runner-up in the South African Under –21 javelin championships.

### Graham Roy Dilley (No. 717).

*Born:* 18.05. 1959 Dartford. *Died:* 05.10. 2011, Leicester.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1977-1986. Cap1980.

Tests: 41, ODIs 36, all for England.

Educated: Dartford West Secondary School

Parents: Geoffrey Dilley & Jean Dilley (*née* Mace)

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	109	116	39	993	81	12.89	0	1	51
<b>England</b>	41	58	19	521	56	13.35	0	2	10
<b>Overall</b>	234	252	93	2339	81	14.71	0	4	75



## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	14179	506	7145	257	27.80	6-57	12	2
<b>England</b>	8192	279	4107	138	29.76	6-38	6	0
<b>Overall</b>	34412	1174	17395	648	26.84	7-63	34	3

Arguably the best Kent born and raised fast bowler of the post-war era and the only Kent pace bowler of any era to take more than 100 Test wickets for England, Graham Dilley will, somewhat perversely, be best remembered for his innings of 56 in 'Botham's match' at Headingley in 1981 when the pair added 117 for the eighth-wicket and completely changed the complexion of the game.

Genuinely fast - after the Jamaica Test in 1981 Clive Lloyd described him as 'the fastest white bowler in the World' - Dilley was tall (6ft. 4in), with conspicuous blonde hair, a slinging action and a distinctive long delivery stride which gave the batsmen a clear view of his boot studs. He tended to bowl a fuller length than most of his fast bowling contemporaries and, although quite fiery when roused, did not make a great deal of use of the bouncer.

Mainly moving the ball into the right-hander in his early days, he later developed a late outswinger which could be devastating on his day. Perhaps 'his days' were not as frequent in Kent matches as they might have been and certainly it is fair to say that he never achieved the haul of wickets which at one time looked likely, at least in county cricket. It has been said of him that he was a Test player rather than a county cricketer and that once he had tasted Test cricket, he lacked enthusiasm for run-of-the-mill county cricket. This may well be true, he was certainly not the only one, although possibly somewhat ahead of his time.

On the other hand, throughout his career he was handicapped by injury and illness. For whatever reasons, he only twice played more than 20 first-class matches in an English season and only twice played a complete Test series. It is worth noting however that his dismissals included an impressive number of the World's leading batsmen.

Dilley had established a reputation as a fast bowler while still at School, represented Kent Schools and rapidly made his mark in club cricket with Dartford CC. In 1976 he made his debut for Kent Second Eleven, against Essex at Hoffman's ground Chelmsford and on his second appearance, v Middlesex Seconds at Chiswick, took 4 for 61 in the home club's second innings. He had been training as a diamond cutter but in 1977 he joined the Kent staff and, after a relatively uneventful couple of appearances for the Seconds in May, made his first-class debut on 18th June against Cambridge University at St. Lawrence. Called on as fifth change, he bowled six wicketless overs in the first innings and was not used at all in the second. He did however reach double figures in both innings -16 & 15 (run out).

In the second of four first-class appearances in 1978 he was among the wickets for the first time with 2 for 14 & 5 for 32 against Middlesex at Lord's, including the wickets of Wilf Slack, Mike Gatting and Roland Butcher. He also had his first experience of the 40-over John Player League, taking 3 for 13 v Surrey at The Oval.

Against the West Indian tourists, he was chosen for two under 19 Test matches, one at Worcester, one at Arundel, and one Under 19 ODI at Old Trafford which yielded a total of five wickets.

By the end of next season Dilley could consider himself a first team regular with 21 first-class appearances. Second highest wicket-taker with 49 (avge.23.48), once again he excelled against Middlesex at Lord's with 6 for 66 as well as 4 for 53 at Gloucester which included the wickets of Chris Broad and Mike Procter.

When he arrived at Wantage Road to play against Northants his highest first-class score was 23\*. In the first innings, he joined Derek Underwood with the score 152 for 8, 211 in arrears and added 129 until

Dilley was caught for 81. Hitting two sixes and eight fours, this remained his career best. Without achieving anything remarkable in ten List A matches, he played in all three competitions.

In the winter, uncapped by Kent, he was picked for the tour of Australia and, commencing against Queensland, his first innings 3 for 40 included the wicket of Greg Chappell. Making his Test debut at Perth – the youngest English Test debutant since Brian Close in 1949 - Dilley played in two of the three match Test programme and seven of the nine matches in the triangular Benson & Hedges World Series Cup, including both of the two (!) Finals. His figures, 3 wickets for 143 in the Test matches, 7 for 243 in all first-class matches and 7 for 213 in the Benson & Hedges Cup, were not particularly noteworthy but his scalps included Allan Border, Desmond Haynes, Viv Richards and Rodney Marsh (twice). Peter Smith, covering the Test Series for *Wisden*, judged him the fastest bowler on either side.

Due to Test calls and illness, Dilley played only nine first-class matches for Kent in 1980 but in 15 List A matches he led the averages and, in addition to the award of his County Cap, he was voted Young Cricketer of the Year by the Cricket Writers' Club. Picked for the last three of the five Test matches against West Indies, he took 3 for 47 at Old Trafford, 4 for 57 at The Oval and 4 for 79 at Headingley. All three matches were drawn due to rain and bad light but to his tally of wickets he added Gordon Greenidge (for a duck), Haynes, Alvin Kallicharran (twice) and Faoud Bacchus (twice). He also dismissed Greenidge for one in the Kent match at Canterbury.

Chosen for the winter tour of West Indies, he took part in all four Test matches – the match in Guyana was cancelled – and, although his ten wickets cost 450 runs, his figures included 3 for 51 at Bridgetown (including Richards for a duck) and 4 for 116 at Sabina Park. In all, he claimed Richards's wicket three times in Test matches and once in the ODI at Berbice, Guyana. Greenidge fell to him twice more.

Although anything but a satisfactory season outside the Test arena, thanks to events at Headingley, 1981 was memorable for Graham Dilley. He began the Test series well with 3 for 38, 4 for 24 and 34 (second highest scorer for his side) in the first Test at Trent Bridge, 3 for 106, 2 for 18 and 27\* in the second at Lord's, At Headingley, despite 2 for 78 in Australia's first innings (including the wicket of opener John Dyson for the third time in the series), his bowling began to suffer.

With the bat, he was caught and bowled Lillee for 13 in the first innings and, when England followed on, he joined Botham at 135 for 7, still 92 in arrears. At first Dilley was the more aggressive of the two, matching the great man stroke for stroke, hitting 22 of the first 27 runs added. Dilley's basic method was to plant his front foot in the general line of leg stump and swing hard at everything on the off side. When he was bowled by Terry Alderman for 56, the partnership had yielded 117 in 80 minutes.

Plagued for some time by too many people urging him to change his action and bowl nearer the stumps, his confidence was draining away and, batting heroics notwithstanding, he bowled only two overs in Australia's second innings and was dropped for the fourth Test in which he could not have played in any case due to a neck injury sustained in the very next Kent match, at Derby. Due to this, other injuries and loss of form, by September he was playing for the Seconds. He had appeared in only 11 first-class matches for his County and finished bottom of the County averages with 14 wickets at 47.21 each. He did rather better in one-day cricket but for his 17 wickets at 19.94 he was heavily indebted to 4 for 14 against Combined Universities and 3 for 32 against Essex at Dartford in the Benson & Hedges tournament.

In the 1981/82 winter Dilley was among the party chosen for the MCC tour of India and Sri Lanka. Picked for four of the six Tests against India but not for the inaugural Test against Sri Lanka. like all the pace bowlers in the party, Dilley found Indian pitches hard going and, apart from 4 for 47 in the first Test at Mumbai, did little, finishing bottom of both the Test and the tour bowling averages. He did however score 52 in the second Test at Bangalore, as well as 52 again, against Central Zone at Indore.

He was not picked for the home series against India and Pakistan in 1982 apart from two matches in the Prudential Trophy but thanks to hard work with Cricket Manager Brian Luckhurst, he largely overcame

the problems with his action and by the latter half of the season was back to somewhere near his best with 64 first-class wickets (ave.28.73), 37 of them in the last two months of the season. Included were 6 for 71 & 4 for 45 v Leicestershire at Canterbury in the last match of the season, two other five in an innings returns in county matches, as well as 5 for 69 for MCC v the Indians at Lord's. To this he added another 30 wickets in List A matches.

Dilley began well in 1983 with 22 inexpensive wickets in all competitions by the end of May including 5 for 70 against Essex in the Championship match at Chelmsford. Thereafter however, the World Cup intervened and subsequently he suffered from sore shins and a bruised heel which restricted him to twelve county matches and ten in the one-day competitions. In the circumstances 31 first-class wickets for Kent (ave.20.29) and 22 in List A matches (ave.20.13) was an excellent return.

In the World Cup he appeared in six of England's seven matches and claimed 7 wickets at 34.28 each with a best effort of 4 for 45 v Sri Lanka at Taunton. He played in one Test match against New Zealand at Headingley but, suffering from an injured heel, failed to take a wicket. Probably his best performance of the season was in the Final of the National Westminster Bank Trophy when his figures were 10-1-29-4, dismissing four of the Somerset top six – Peter Roebuck, Peter Denning, Viv Richards and Nigel Popplewell.

There were suggestions that Dilley's performance in the Final at Lord's was a factor in his selection for the subsequent tour of Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan. Possibly, but neither team nor player derived any benefit. Described by John Reason in *Wisden* as 'ineptly selected' the tour was thoroughly unhappy. Dilley, injured for much of the time, played only one Test, against Pakistan at Faisalabad and one ODI at Lahore, returning early with a recurrence of his neck injury. An operation involving a bone graft from his hip was successful, but he missed the whole of the 1984 season.

Although fully fit for the 1985 season, Graham Dilley's career with Kent was drawing to a close. He was not one of the seven pace bowlers called on by England for the series against Australia and Kent had full call on his services. This was Chris Cowdrey's first season as captain in place of Chris Tavaré and Dilley was one of several senior players unhappy with the change.

Predictably perhaps it was a mixed season for Dilley. Against Surrey he took 5 for 97 at Canterbury in the second match of the season, including the wickets of Alan Butcher, Alec Stewart, Trevor Jesty and Monty Lynch. He did even better in the return at The Oval with 3 for 49 including a hat-trick (Duncan Pauline, Nick Taylor & Andy Needham) in the first innings and 5 for 53 in the second. As well as the captaincy issue however, he was still bothered by minor injuries and the Kent Annual judged his 32 first-class wickets (ave.33.59) and ten in List A games at 30.50 'disappointing'.

Not called on for the England tour of West Indies, Dilley spent the 1985/1986 playing for Natal and finished second in the national bowling averages with 30 wickets at 16.20. Against Transvaal at the New Wanderers in Johannesburg he produced, statistically at least, his best bowling performance – 7 for 63 which included the wicket of Graeme Pollock.

In what proved to be his last season with Kent, Dilley claimed 44 wickets in 17 matches at 26.27 in Kent matches alone and 63 in all first-class cricket at 25.93. At Chelmsford he took 5 for 69 including his second hat-trick within twelve months, Keith Fletcher from the last ball before lunch, then Alan Lilley and David East after a lunch interval extended by an extra 40 minutes due to rain. Against Lancashire at Canterbury, he took 6 for 57 & 4 for 53 to give Kent an eight wicket victory. In List A matches he headed the Kent averages with 19 wickets at 21.73, helped by 5 for 29 against Scotland at Edinburgh in the National Westminster Bank Trophy. In the Benson & Hedges Cup, he took 3 for 41 against Surrey at Canterbury in the Group stages and bowled 11 overs for 19 runs and one wicket when Kent lost to Middlesex in the Final.

Back in selectorial favour, Dilley was chosen for four Test matches, two against India, which brought him ten wickets at 26.90, and two against New Zealand which placed him top of the English bowling

averages with nine wickets at 19.88. He also took five wickets in four Texaco Trophy ODIs. In the winter he was in the England tour party for Australia, playing in four of the five Test matches. He also played in ten matches in the Benson & Hedges Challenge and World Series Cup.

Graham Dilley had been approached by other counties even in the early 1980s, and due to the captaincy and other issues including the departure of his friend and at one time brother-in-law Graham Johnson (*q.v.*), as well as dissatisfaction with the terms offered, he had already asked to be relieved from the last year of his contract. During his time in Australia, he had a meeting with his skipper Chris Cowdrey, there on holiday, and it became clear that he had no wish to remain with Kent. By the start of the 1987 season, he was a Worcestershire cricketer.

Dilley remained with Worcestershire for six seasons, taking 171 first-class and 73 List A wickets, helping his new county to four trophies in three seasons including successive Championships in 1987 and 1988. After leaving Kent, he played a further 19 Test matches and 14 ODIs, his international career terminating at the end of the 1989 season when he joined Mike Gatting's 'rebel' tour of South Africa. He reputedly regretted not having joined Geoffrey Boycott's earlier South African adventure in 1982 and acted as one of the recruiting officers for Gatting's rather belated effort.

When injury brought about his retirement, he coached at The Oval, had a short spell as Coach to the England Women's Team and in 1998 returned to Kent as bowling consultant. In 2001 he was Assistant Coach to the England squad in India before his final appointment as Director of Cricket at Loughborough University. At Loughborough, thanks, not only to his extensive technical knowledge but perhaps even more to his rare, and to many unsuspected, gift with communicating with the young, he gave ten years of outstanding service.

Graham Dilley died in a hospice of cancer of the oesophagus. A Thanksgiving Service at Worcester Cathedral was attended by a large congregation including at least four former England captains and a large number of former Test and county cricketers. Kent representatives included the Chairman, Chief Executive, several past Presidents and some dozen former county colleagues as well as members of the Dartford Club.

A little surprisingly, Dilley failed to reach 50 first-class wickets against any of his opponents. Highest was Lancashire (42) but second highest was the 41 he took against Australia in Test matches which tends to give some substance to the suggestion that he was a Test rather than a county cricketer. Next came Leicestershire with 39, followed by Hampshire and Nottinghamshire, 38 each, and West Indies in Test matches with 36. Although his change of county seems to have made no perceptible difference to his record for England, his Championship figures certainly improved with Worcestershire, his 171 wickets coming at 23.05 each.

As has been observed more than once, Dilley had an impressive record against batsmen of quality. There are also rather fewer tailenders among his victims than one might expect for a fast bowler. Players dismissed most frequently are 8: B.C. Broad, A.R. Butcher, C.G.Greenidge. 6: G.A.Gooch, A.I.Kallicharran, G.D.Mendis, M.Watkinson, J.G.Wright, Of these, only Watkinson would not be picked primarily as a batsman.

Throughout Graham Dilley's career there was rarely a shortage of candidates for the new ball and not infrequently for both Club and Country he found himself first change. Nevertheless, on 70 occasions he dismissed one of the openers and seven times both openers, before the score had reached double figures. 14 times he struck without a run on the board.

#### *Further reading.*

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**Brian Elvin Disbury (No. 663).**

*Born:* 30. 09. 1929 Bedford. *Died:* -.04.2016. Oro Valley, Pima County, Arizona, USA.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1954-1957. Second Eleven Cap 1955.

Educated: Bedford School.

Parents: Albert & Katherine Disbury

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	14	21	3	288	74*	16.00	0	1	11

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	252	4	204	5	40.80	2-76		

A technically correct batsman and useful medium pace bowler who sometimes took the new ball, Brian Disbury, like several Kent players of the 1950s, never managed to bridge the gulf between Minor Counties and Second Eleven cricket and the first-class game. At Bedford he headed both batting and bowling averages in 1947 when he registered 558 runs (avge.46.50) and claimed 47 wickets (avge.11.21) and again in 1948 when he also led the side. In the latter year he was chosen for Public Schools v Combined Services at Lord's and in 1949 switched sides playing as Aircraftman Disbury for Combined Services. He also represented the RAF against Worcestershire at New Road.

His parents ran a bakery business in Bedford and from 1946 to 1953 he played for his native Bedfordshire, his best season 1951 when he scored 552 runs (avge.69.00). In that year he beat the county first-wicket record twice in six days when, with G.L.B.August, he shared partnerships of 235 v Cambridgeshire at Cambridge and 246 v Buckinghamshire at Ascott Park, Wing.

Joining the Kent staff in 1954 he began well with 74\* against Surrey Second Eleven at The Oval and proved a consistent opener, averaging over 40 for the Seconds and over 50 for Club & Ground. When given a chance in the first team however he was run out for 18 on his debut against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells and this remained his highest in five innings.

The pattern changed little for the remainder of his career with Kent. He scored 746 runs for the Seconds in 1955, when he was awarded his Second Eleven cap, over 500 in 1956 and with fewer chances averaged over 40 in 1957 but in first- team cricket he exceeded 20 only three times. His top score, 74\* against Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells, was a solid effort lasting over three hours. For the Second Eleven he hit three centuries.

Disbury was not re-engaged at the end of the 1957 but, a qualified accountant, he was a prolific scorer for St. Lawrence and played a handful of Second Eleven games as an amateur in 1958 and 1959.

In the 1960s he emigrated to the USA, married an American lady and settled in Tucson, Arizona. His sister Audrey appeared in ten Test matches for England Women and in six Limited Overs Internationals.

**Alan Leonard Dixon (No. 645).**

*Born:* 27. 11.1933 Dartford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace/off spin bowler.

Kent 1950-1970.

County Cap 1960, Second Eleven Cap 1951,

Educated: East Central County Secondary School Dartford & Dartford County Technical College.

Parents: William George Leonard Dixon & Doris Edna Dixon (*née* Cope).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	378	576	71	9561	125*	18.93	3	37	155
<b>Overall</b>	381	580	71	9589	125*	18.83	3	37	155

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	55387	2847	23869	929	25.69	8-61	46	10
<b>Overall</b>	55693	2854	24060	935	25.73	8-61	46	10

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	23	18	7	122	23*	11.09	0	0	5

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1070	27	640	34	18.82	7-15	2	3.58

With over 9,500 first-class runs and only 71 short of his thousand wickets, Alan Dixon ranks in the top ten of Kent allrounders but his was a somewhat unusual career path. Joining the staff in 1950, with the handicap of National Service, he did not play a full season until 1956 and not until around 1960 could he be judged a genuine allrounder. Even then, he could be considered a batsman allrounder up to the early 1960s and a bowling allrounder from around 1963 onwards when he had added seam bowling to his off spinners. Possessing a sometimes lethal outswinger making him a genuinely dual purpose bowler, he was able to switch methods effortlessly in mid-spell. Most counties had a bowler of the type at the time and quite a few were still around after the advent of covered pitches but for a few seasons, Dixon seems to have taken the new ball more often than most.

Unfortunately, his batting rather faded as his bowling flourished, although he remained a powerful driver and cutter on occasions when he got set. Throughout his career he was among the best of the County's ground outfielders, especially at cover; extra cover or mid off.

The son of cricket-loving parents - his father a foreman in a Co-Operative Society dairy - Alan Dixon had started young, playing club cricket for Swanscombe & Greenhithe when he came to Kent cricket through a scheme begun in 1948 by the *Evening News*, one of three evening newspapers in London at the time. This gave young cricketers the chance of free coaching, mainly at the famous Gover Cricket School in Wandsworth and, in Dixon's case, over three successive seasons in invitations to Kent's Easter classes.

As well as Dixon, several other future professional cricketers benefitted from the *Evening News* scheme including Alan Moss, who was capped nine times for England, and Bob Hurst from Middlesex and Malcom Heath from Hampshire.

In 1950 Dixon had been accepted for a mechanical engineering apprenticeship at Vickers Crayford but Kent were in the market for young players and, having attained his 16th birthday, he was offered a place on the Club staff. He jumped at the chance, having first obtained the necessary parental permission.

On 15th June he made his debut for the Club & Ground against Kent County Constabulary at Canterbury. It was quite an impressive start, opening the batting with Tony Woollett (*q.v.*) he scored 98 (top scorer in the match). Two days later, promoted to the Second Eleven against Devonshire at Canterbury, he opened the bowling with Tony Marshall (*q.v.*), his four overs costing 15 runs without reward and did not bat. In all, he played another five games for the Seconds that year with a top score of 48 and, again opening the bowling, took 5 for 33 against Devonshire at Torquay. In another eight matches for the Club & Ground he notched another half-century, 65 against Bromley.

At the beginning of August came a highly unexpected call up for the First Eleven, at the age of 16 years and 248 days in a match due to start on August 2nd at Clacton-on Sea. He was in as a replacement for one of three amateurs, captain David Clark, Tony Pawson and Alan Shirreff who were all unavailable after playing in the match finishing at the Mote on the previous day; Simon Kimmins and Woollett were the other two replacements.

It was not an auspicious beginning, caught for three attempting to hit Peter Smith over long off, bowled first ball by Trevor Bailey in the second innings and two overs for 19 runs, not helped over much by Arthur Fagg failing to get near a looped mishit by 'Sonny' Avery in the short leg area. He would not play a first-class match again until 1954 but in the report of the Kent Young Players' Committee he was named as 'most promising of the young allrounders'.

In 1951 Kent were Second Eleven Champions and Dixon played five matches for the Seconds, including the Challenge match with Lancashire at Canterbury and, although bowling a modest 130 overs, he took 19 wickets including 7 for 34 at Hastings and 5 for 57 v Norfolk at Canterbury. For the Club & Ground he hit his maiden century, 105 v Linden Park, as well as three half-centuries which probably helped him to his Second Eleven Cap. In the following year National Service, in what was then the Royal Army Service Corps, intervened although he managed to squeeze in a handful of Second team and Club & Grounds matches while on leave in 1952 and 1953. He also scored a century for the RASC against the Royal Corps of Signals, the opposition including the future England off spinner John Mortimore.

Dixon was demobilised in early June 1954 but while he was still in the Army he scored 49, 30 and took four wickets against Surrey Seconds at Beckenham and by the end of the season had played ten Second team matches, hit two half-centuries, taken 23 relatively inexpensive wickets and scored 73 for Club & Ground v Band of Brothers, useful for a young player with a career to nurture.

At the end of July he was an unexpected choice for the First team at Northampton, scoring 15 and six as well as bowling eight unrewarded overs. He did however, albeit fairly briefly, experience the extremes of Frank Tyson's pace and the mysteries of George Tribe's left-arm wrist spin. At the end of the season the Young Players' Committee commented on Dixon's 'considerable possibilities as an allrounder'.

In 1955 he played 13 first-class matches and registered his first half-century, top scorer for Kent with 63 v Nottinghamshire at Rectory Field. For the Second Eleven he finished second in the bowling averages with 22 wickets at 15.50. Next year he missed only one first team fixture, scoring 894 runs (21.80) with six half centuries including 58 and 90 at Southampton, adding 90 in the first innings with Ridgway (61) to save the follow on and helping Kent to safety in the second after coming in at 77 for 5. Although four times his team's leading scorer when runs were scarce, there were 21 single-figure scores including seven ducks. Despite competition from four other spinners, he bowled over 400 overs for 32 wickets, rather costly at 36.03.

After the promise of 1956, the 1957 season was a disappointment. Obligated to wear glasses for the first time, he did not get into the first team until June and, although he played 17 matches, he did not reach 500 runs. Possibly his best innings was 31 (top score) v Surrey at Blackheath when Kent were dismissed for 78 (Loader 7 for 30) but best of his three half-centuries was at Clacton where his 73 included 15 fours, albeit in a losing cause. Mainly deployed as second off spinner to Page, he bowled only 272.3

overs for his 17 expensive wickets. When Ridgway was injured, he three times opened the bowling with Halfyard. For the Seconds, he scored his first century, 102 v Hampshire at Dartford.

At the end of the 1957 season Dixon's career did not seem to be getting anywhere and, with reluctance, he decided to give up cricket, having been offered a promising opening with a firm of French polishers. With the advent of a new season however, the onset of Spring and the smell of the new-mown grass brought a change of heart and, after talks with Les Ames and Chairman Stuart Chiesman, he was reinstated. Things did not go well at first, ten matches with an average of 14.26 with only one half century and only 48 overs. In 1959 however there came first signs of a breakthrough, he missed only three first-class matches and finished with 1,045 runs.

Although averaging a modest 23.22, he was six times his team's top scorer with six half centuries including his highest, 83 against Middlesex at the Bat & Ball, where he put on 148 for the seventh-wicket with Jack Pettiford (95\*) to give Kent first innings lead. Against the Indian tourists he was top scorer in both innings, 76 (one six, eight fours) out of 101 for the fifth-wicket in 70 minutes with Arthur Phebey (36) in the first and 32 in the second when Kent were bowled out for 147. He was top scorer again with 28 against Gloucestershire on a crumbling pitch at Dover when only two other Kent batsmen reached 20.

Despite Doug Wright's retirement, still used very much as third spinner after Page and Pettiford – fourth if you count Halfyard's frequently used leg cutters – Dixon delivered only 306.3 overs, did not bowl at all in twelve matches and only three times bowled 30 or more overs in a match. At Gillingham, against Cambridge University, he opened the attack in both innings, took five wickets and bowled 36 overs in the second innings, all or most with seam up.

Exceeding his thousand runs in 1960, 1,089 (avge.31.11) for the second successive season, Dixon registered his maiden century, 125\* at Worcester with 16 fours, scored out of 180. This was followed by 105\* against Gloucestershire at Maidstone where he shared an unfinished seventh-wicket partnership of 151\* with Upton (52\*) as well as hitting 97 (1 six, 16 fours) v Northants at Rushden, 90 at Fenner's and three other half-centuries. In the Chairman's report there was 'no finer stroke player in the County' but 'his impetuousness at times led to his downfall', hence perhaps his 15 single figure scores.

Senior spinner Colin Page, after a handful of matches in the early half of 1960, was appointed Second Eleven captain and, despite the emphasis on pace in the Kent attack, Dixon now found himself bowling over 500 overs for the first time, and, despite Jones (slow left) bowling more and the advent of another off spinner, Brian Shenton, he finished second in the Kent averages with 60 wickets (avge.21.66) and was awarded his County Cap. Taking more than half his wickets in the latter half of the season, he took 6 for 36 when Derbyshire were beaten in Canterbury Week, the first time he had taken five in an innings in a first-class match. Against Warwickshire at Dover in August he scored 68 and 40 to go with figures of 5 for 70 and 4 for 25.

With 1,170 runs (avge.24.37), including one match for MCC v Scotland, Dixon reached his thousand for the third - and last - time in 1961 but, although he hit five half-centuries, his top score was only 65, a score he reached twice. In mitigation the Kent Annual pointed out 'If perhaps his batting figures on paper are a little disappointing' 'he often sacrificed his wicket in the interest of the side.'

Bowling 793.1 overs, 200 more than any previous season, although his 73 wickets at 30.41 made him the most expensive of the regular bowlers, his figures included 5 for 55 v Notts at Tunbridge Wells, 4 for 38 & 2 for 13 at Scarborough, and 2 for 56 & 5 for 75 v Yorkshire (again) at Dover.

Dixon had clearly used the new ball not infrequently in the past but it was apparently at Scarborough that acting captain Richardson persuaded him to take his seam bowling seriously. Accelerated by Halfyard's accident (*q.v.*) Dixon became a genuinely two dimensional bowler and bowled more as a consequence. In his memoirs in the 1995 Kent Annual, Dixon identifies Arthur Phebey as the vice-



captain at Scarborough but the latter played there only once, in 1956 with Cowdrey as captain, and Richardson was skipper on this, the only other occasion on which the two teams met on the Scarborough ground.

Once again there came a hiccup in Dixon's career, In 1962 his output of runs dropped inexplicably to 595, fell further in the following year to 335 with a top score of 44\* and in both years his average dropped below 20. In the latter year however, he played only 18 matches due to injury and missed the whole of August.

His haul of wickets fell to 57 (avge.30.98) in 1962 and 62 (avge.26.04). In his newly adopted dual purpose role he opened the bowling in four matches in 1962 and 16 in the 1963 injury-shortened season, following Halfyard's absence. In the latter year, against Yorkshire at Gravesend, he took 3 for 93 & 5 for 60, at a 'brisk pace' according to *Wisden* and 5 for 75 & 5 for 61 v Sussex on a wearing spinner's wicket, including two stumpings. This was the first time he had claimed ten wickets in a match.

He also opened in the newly introduced knock-out competition, destined to grow into the Gillette Cup and much more besides. With 28 runs from 15 (wicketless) overs, he was, by a substantial margin, the most economical bowler in the match.

People who write or talk frequently about cricket can sometimes display a tendency to denigrate, or at best ignore, the good honest, medium pace seamer who has, in truth, often been the backbone of English county cricket since the introduction of round-arm. More recently we have had the remarkable example of Darren Stevens. Writing of Dixon's use of the new ball in the Chairman's Report on the 1963 season in the Kent Annual, while agreeing that he 'bowled a steady length making the ball run away' 'he was not really penetrative enough for an opener' and might be more effective as first change.

Despite the Chairman's reservations, next year Dixon had his most successful season as a bowler, 122 wickets (avge.23.89), 100 wickets for the first time in his career, nine times five in an innings, three times eight in an innings, four times ten in a match. He opened with seam in 22 matches, was first change in six and, far from being 'not really penetrative', 16 times that year dismissed one of the openers for single figures and among his victims were some notable practitioners against the new ball including Bob Barber, Gordon Barker (twice) Alan Jones (twice), Don Kenyon, Phil Sharpe and Roy Virgin.

His 1,116.4 overs were more than anyone else in Kent, over 300 more than he had ever bowled in a season: only Tom Cartwright, Roger Harman, Derek Shackleton and Fred Titmus on the county circuit bowled more. While much of his success was mainly on spin-friendly surfaces – 7 for 89 at Edgbaston where he bowled unchanged for over four hours, 8 for 73 v Lancashire at Gillingham, 8 for 61 v Northants at Dover – on an unusually heavily grassed pitch v Essex at Blackheath he took 6 for 16 with seam in the first innings and spun it for 6 for 33 in the second. He seems to have served up a mixture of seam and spin at Ilford, 3 for 55 & 3 for 74, and 5 for 57 when Gloucestershire were dismissed for 99 at Gravesend.

With the bat, he again failed to reach 500 runs with a top score of 61; his 19 catches would remain the best of his career.

Leading Kent wicket-taker in 1965, 121 (avge.24.61), Dixon again mixed spin and seam with considerable success, notably at Gillingham where he took 8 for 118 & 4 for 70 although Brian Close used similar methods for a Yorkshire victory, In Canterbury Week his 5 for 22 helped dismiss Middlesex with seam in the first innings and mainly spin for 4 for 114 from 35 overs for a 76 run win in the second. He also scored an unbeaten 87\*, his first score above 65 since 1960. At Cheltenham his figures were 5 for 119 from 53 overs as Gloucestershire totalled 305 in the first innings and 6 for 38 in the second when the hosts crumbled for 82 in a little over two hours.

Despite having dropped to eighth in the order, he scored 757 runs, his highest since 1961 and in low-scoring games he was three times Kent's leading scorer, notably his 53 against the South African tourists.

In 1966 he claimed his hundred wickets for the third successive, and as it turned out, last time, His 115 wickets included 12 'five fors', a personal best including 7 for 58 at Grace Road, 6 for 37 & 5 for 40 at Hastings and 5 for 25 & 5 for 33 in Canterbury Week when, in between torrential showers, Leicestershire were all out for 88 & 63. When West Indies scored 382 at Canterbury, Dixon took 5 for 138 from 53 overs, more than twice the overs bowled by any other Kent bowler.

Regularly deputising as captain when Cowdrey was absent, he won three, drew three, lost four but as a batsman fell way with an average of 13.20 and a top score of 44\*.

Runners-up in the County Championship and Gillette Cup winners in 1967, Kent could reasonably claim to have had their best season since 1913 to which Dixon made a substantial all round contribution. He missed his hundred wickets by six but his average of 18.27 was statistically his best return ever although he bowled almost 300 fewer overs.

His five 'five fors' included 5 for 19 v Middlesex at Lord's, 7 for 93 in an exciting but ultimately disappointing Yorkshire match in Canterbury Week and 6 for 61 at Leyton but his most outstanding performance was in the Third Round of the Gillette Cup at the Oval. After the Surrey openers had put on 31 on what appeared to be a blameless pitch, bowling honest medium pace, he took a wicket in each of his first five overs and finished with 12 -7 - 15 - 7, at the time the best bowling analysis in the competition.

Although 18 times dismissed for single figures, he scored 670 runs and played several innings of consequence. Against the Indian tourists, with Kent shaky at 144 for 6, he joined John Shepherd in his debut season. Driving with 'tremendous power' according to *Wisden*, with 14 fours, together they added 172\* for the seventh-wicket in 140 minutes when Cowdrey declared, Shepherd 70\*, Dixon 101\*. In India's second innings he took 5 for 39 in 12.4 overs and, together with Underwood and Stuart Leary's leg spin, gave Kent their first victory over a touring team since 1937. To complete the set as it were, he claimed 5 for 32 when Kent, as Gillette Cup holders, beat Pakistan.

Kent beat Sussex at Tunbridge Wells by 208 runs but were in trouble at 96 for 6 on the first day when Dixon joined Luckhurst. Together they added 146 for the seventh-wicket in 107 minutes, Dixon 64, Luckhurst carrying his bat for 126\*. Shepherd was the only other batsman to reach double figures. Against Surrey at Mote Park, Kent followed on and were 107 for 9 when Brown joined Dixon who had come in at number eight. Helped by a 90 minute hold-up for rain, they held on for the draw for a little over 100 minutes, Dixon 78\*, Brown 11\*.

In 1968, due to Cowdrey's England calls and injuries, Dixon led Kent in 15 first-class matches, the most since he had been appointed vice-captain - won five, drawn five, lost five. Not a vintage season personally, although his 515 runs were disappointing, against Northants at Folkestone he struck 82\* in 90 minutes with 2 sixes and 10 fours and took 4 for 55 when, with Underwood, the visitors slid from 122 for 1 to 189 all out on the last day. His 71 wickets from 650.2 overs included 5 for 53 at Worcester when Kent won by an innings and 4 for 29 at Romford.

1969 was Dixon benefit year although the introduction of the 40- over Sunday County Players League meant the loss of most of the quite profitable Sunday matches which were a feature of English seasons and still more the loss of the potentially lucrative International Cavaliers match for the beneficiary. Further hampered by a lifeless wicket for his benefit match, the sum raised was £11,143, a record at the time although dwarfed by subsequent benefits.

A total of under 400 runs and a top score of 45 was again disappointing and his 60 wickets at 26.18 were his most expensive since 1962 but, in spinning mode, when Nottinghamshire were routed for 84 at Newark, his figures - 16 - 9 - 25 - 7 - were among the best of his career.

1970 was of course Championship year but a persistent shoulder injury marred Alan Dixon's final Kent season and he decided to retire. He played only nine matches, hitting a robust 44 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells. His best bowling was 3 for 24 & 2 for 57 v Hampshire at Mote Park. He played his final match against Middlesex in Canterbury Week, finishing 17\* having hit his last ball for six off Fred Titmus.

In 1973/1974 he toured Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya with an MCC side captained by Mike Brearley but played only one first-class match, not enough unfortunately to make a serious impression on a near miss for his 10,000 runs, 1,000 wickets target.

Post retirement he coached at Tonbridge School where, among others, he influenced the careers of Chris Cowdrey, Nick Kemp and Richard Ellison, the latter especially so who, until injury intervened became one of the best exponents of outswing bowling of his generation. Dixon later had a highly successful career in the insurance industry.

He served on the Kent General Committee from 1979 to 1987 and from 1990 to 1991.

Batsmen dismissed most often by Dixon (left handers in italics) were 13:*A.Lightfoot* 11: D.E.V.Padgett, 10: *D.A.Livingstone*, 9: *W.E.Alley*, *C.C.Inman*, 8: *J.H.Edrich*, *A.Jones*, R.E.Marshall, J.T.Murray, 7: G.Barker, *M.A.Bear*, A.S.Brown, B.Hedges, W.E.Russell, F.S.Trueman.

The most successful bowlers who claimed his wicket were 11: B.Langford, 10: R.Illingworth, F.J.Titmus, 9: G.A.R.Lock, J.B.Statham. 8: D.Shackleton, 7: K.Higgs, C.T.Spencer, 6:B.Crump, J.A.Flavell, T.Greenhough, L.H.R.Ralph, D.W.Richardson, N.I.Thomson, G.E.Tribe, O.S.Wheatley.

#### *Further Reading.*

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### **Mark Christopher Dobson (No. 750).**

*Born:* 24. 10. 1967 Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, slow left arm bowler.

Kent 1989-1991.

Second Eleven cap 1989

Educated: Simon Langton School Canterbury and Canterbury Christ Church University.

Parents: Brian Dobson & Yvonne Dobson (née Tutt)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9	14	2	206	52	17.16	0	2	1
<b>Overall</b>	10	15	3	211	52	17.58	0	2	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	778	24	441	8	55.12	2-20		
<b>Overall</b>	886	31	486	9	54.00	2-20		

### **List A Career Record**

## Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	1	1	0	21	21	21.00	0	0	1

## Bowling

Did not bowl

Now the traditional balanced attack concept is thought outmoded and one spinner, or none at all, has become the norm, in more enlightened days Mark Dobson was unlucky in that with Kent he was almost invariably in competition with at least one other left-arm spinner and in second team cricket frequently an off-spinner as well. More classical in method than either of his main rivals, he was originally considered primarily a bowler but developed into a genuine allrounder and regular Second Eleven opener. Unfortunately for him, he played at least a decade before it became the custom to rate run-getting ability an important requirement for a spin bowler.

Dobson played for Kent Schools and made his debut for Kent in the Second Eleven Championship before his 16th birthday. Progressing steadily through the system, he appeared intermittently for the Second Eleven and Club & Ground in 1986 and captained the AKCC Under-19 side in the Oxford and Cambridge Festivals as well as being ever-present in the Warwick Under-25 competition. In 1987 he registered his first Second Eleven half-century and for Kent Colts had figures of 7 for 24 v Suffolk at Chatham, 6 for 19 v Middlesex at Acton. In the following year he hit 117\* v Worcestershire Second Eleven in the 55 over Bain Clarkson Trophy and took 5 for 22 v Yorkshire Seconds at Dover.

1989 brought him over 900 runs in all Second team matches with seven scores over 50 and in July he was picked for the first team, against Essex at Southchurch Park. Like many he began with a duck. Promoted to open the batting in the second innings, he managed only eight but, retained in the side against Middlesex at Uxbridge, he scored a valuable 28 against Angus Fraser and John Emburey in an innings in which only two Kent batsmen passed 30. There followed a gritty 33 against the Australians and 52 in the next match against Glamorgan at Canterbury when he also helped to clinch victory with 2 for 20 from thirteen overs.

He seemed to have done enough to warrant further opportunities but, in the event, he was picked only once in 1990, against Lancashire at Mote Park, where he was run out without facing a ball, and once – against Oxford University – in 1991. In both years he topped a thousand runs in Second Eleven matches with three more centuries including his second in the Bain Dawes limited-overs competition and often bowled economically. The decision not to re-engage him for 1992 did not meet with universal approval.

In a season with Glamorgan in 1992 he scored 94\* against Middlesex Second Eleven at Abergavenny but only played one first team game. Together with Kent Marketing Executive Alistair Baggs, he ran the London Marathon in 2000 raising almost £1000 for the Kent 2000 Youth appeal.

He already had experience playing and coaching with the Green Point club in Cape Town and after taking a Sports Science Degree at Canterbury Christ Church University and teaching at St Edmund's, Canterbury he had a spell as coach to the England Women's team. He subsequently made his career in sports orientated education overseas. He has worked in some dozen countries including Argentina, Borneo, China, Dubai, Mongolia, Oman, Russia, South Korea, Switzerland, Uzbekistan and Vietnam and would appear to have a claim to being the World's most-travelled first-class cricketer.

## George Charles Downton (No. 632).

*Born:* 01. 11 1928 Bexley *Died:* 19.04. 2014, Sevenoaks.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1948.

Educated: Woolwich Polytechnic.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	8	11	5	37	16	6.16	0	0	16/1
<b>Overall</b>	10	15	5	88	20	8.80	0	0	26/1

### Bowling

Did not bowl

Perhaps best known as father of Paul, George Downton was himself a highly regarded wicketkeeper. Starting with the Orpington club at the age of sixteen, his lifelong association was with Sevenoaks Vine where he was captain from 1956 to 1961. His reputation as a wicketkeeper with Sevenoaks led to an invitation to play for Kent Second Eleven against Surrey at Gore Court, Sittingbourne in June 1948 and a fortnight later to the first of eight appearances for the first team when Godfrey Evans was on Test duty. He played no more first-class cricket for Kent but appeared in a total of thirteen Second team games between 1948 and 1954, achieving 22 dismissals (sixteen caught, six stumped).

Between 1949 and 1965 Downton was a regular choice for Club Cricket Conference representative sides, seven times against the touring team. He also played frequently for MCC, twice in first-class matches, against Cambridge University in 1957 and Oxford in 1959 in a side including Keith Miller. He was a prolific scorer for Sevenoaks Vine and hit two fifties for Kent Seconds as well as 52\* for Club Cricket Conference at Lord's in 1955 against an MCC attack led by Frank Tyson.

In 1953 he married Jill Elizabeth Goodban in Maidstone. He had a successful business career with Marley Tiles in Sevenoaks.

### Paul Rupert Downton (No. 720).

*Born:* 04. 04. 1957 Farnborough.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1977-1979. Cap 1979.

Tests: 30, ODIs: 28, all for England.

Educated: Sevenoaks School and Exeter University.

Parents: George Charles & Jill Elizabeth Downton (*née* Goodban).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	45	45	10	396	31*	11.31	0	0	97/12
<b>England</b>	30	48	8	785	74	19.62	0	4	70/5
<b>Overall</b>	314	405	76	8271	126*	25.13	6	43	690/89

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	55	6	9	1	9.00	1-4		

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	37	18	8	114	19*	11.40	0	0	46/10
<b>England</b>	28	20	5	242	44*	16.13	0	0	26/3

<b>Overall</b>	297	212	64	3349	80*	22.62	0	9	281/64
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## **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Paul Downton played for his preparatory school at the age of nine and was six years in the Eleven at Sevenoaks where he came under the influence of the master-in-charge of cricket Alan Hurd (Cambridge University & Essex). In the under-13 team as a batsman and spin bowler, by the age of 15 he was firmly entrenched as wicketkeeper and at 16 followed his father into the Sevenoaks Vine team, progressing rapidly from third team to first.

In 1973 he made his debut for Kent Second Eleven in a one-day fixture against the Army, played his first Second Eleven Championship game in the following year and in 1975 represented Kent in the Warwick Pool Under-25 Competition.

Kent awarded him a contract in 1976 while he was still at Exeter and in the autumn of that year he toured West Indies as vice-captain with England Young Cricketers. Given 12 months leave of absence by Exeter in 1977, he played seven first team games as Alan Knott's deputy in which he achieved 22 dismissals (18 ct., 4 st.), impressing on debut with what proved to be his highest score for the county (31\*) and a brilliant stumping from the medium pace of Asif Iqbal. At the end of the season, he was an unexpected choice as Bob Taylor's deputy on the England tour of Pakistan and New Zealand. Although he played only four first-class matches and was never likely to displace Taylor, he distinguished himself by holding six catches in an innings against Otago at Dunedin.

The Kent players who signed for Kerry Packer were only offered one-year contracts for 1978 but unlike the others, Alan Knott was apparently told that the club would prefer him not to play, with the presumed aim of affording every possible opportunity to his deputy.

Without missing a match, Downton quickly proved himself one of the country's leading young 'keepers but disappointed with the bat, 17 times dismissed for single figures in first-class and List A fixtures and only twice exceeding 20. In 1979 he decided to finish his law degree, but Kent (and Knott) accommodated him by allowing him to take over behind the stumps for the second half of the season. Once again, he performed competently but found runs hard to come by and at the end of the season, with Knott still on the staff, he joined Middlesex.

Although hardly in the Knott class as wicketkeeper or batsman, Downton's move paid dividends with 30 England caps and a regular place in the Middlesex side. He scored over 500 runs in his first season with the Metropolitan club and although he did not register his first century until 1985 and only once exceeded a thousand runs, he developed into an authentic wicketkeeper/batsman. He retired from the game prematurely following an eye injury.

On leaving cricket he went on to a successful career in finance, notably as Director of UK Institutional Sales with the Cazenove Group. In March 2014 he was appointed by the ECB as Managing Director of Cricket but, after a fairly disastrous year for English cricket, he departed in April of the following year amidst some controversy. In 2018 he returned to Kent as Director of Cricket and retired in 2023. As a rugby footballer he was in the England Under-Nineteen squad and in the First Fifteen at Exeter.

## **Clive Frederick Dring (No. 666).**

*Born:* 30. 06. 1934 Shooter's Hill.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1955.

Parents: Frederick George Dring & May Emily Dring (*née* Chorley).

## **First Class Career Record**

### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	0	8	8	4.00	0	0	0

### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

There was much coming and going among the Kent staff in the early 1950s with little discernibly coherent selection policy. While persevering with some, others were given little chance to establish themselves. Clive Dring was one of the latter with, in his case, the added disadvantage that, because of his all-round ability in the field, he spent a large amount of time as twelfth man for the first eleven which meant that, although he saw a lot of county cricket, it restricted the time available for working on his own game.

The son of a Civil Servant responsible for administering flags and ceremonial regalia displayed in the Whitehall area, Clive Dring was living in Upper Norwood, when he first played for Addiscombe Cricket Club aged 13; he is now an Honorary Life Member.

Progressing through his school team to captaincy of South of England Schoolboys against North of England Schoolboys and to Surrey Colts, at 15 he was selected for the *Evening News* coaching scheme run in conjunction with Alf Gover's Cricket School at Wandsworth. While there, he was spotted by Kent captain David Clark who, learning of the boy's Kentish birth, persuaded him to switch from his Surrey allegiance.

Given a trial before his 16th birthday, Dring joined Kent in 1950 and was helping to operate the old white scoreboard when Leslie Ames scored his hundredth hundred. In 1951 he made one appearance for the Second Eleven against Norfolk at Lakenham where he did not get a chance to bat or bowl. Next year he was again picked only once for the Second team but scored over 500 runs in Club & Ground matches including 101\* against Folkestone and two other half-centuries.

National Service with the Royal Army Service Corps then intervened, most of it in Germany where he played against services sides including the RMA Sandhurst and the Royal Navy. Many cricketers doing National Service, especially those posted away from the UK, found their game suffered, Dring among them. Returning in 1955, he played his one first team match, at Old Trafford and made two appearances for the Second Eleven but, although he scored 364 runs (avge.30.33) for the Club & Ground with a top score of 90 v Aylesford Paper Mills and 85\* against Bexley, he was hardly given time to re-adjust to civilian life and at the end of the season he was 'released'.

Approached by both Hampshire and Somerset, Dring opted instead for a career in business and spent 35 years as an executive in the specialised field of packing and shipping works of art. The company's client list included many of the great and good of the day including Noel Coward and James Mason. Nor were their activities confined to antiques. When Liberace visited the UK amid much media attention, they handled his trademark piano and candelabra.

Dring continued playing club cricket for Addiscombe up to 1970 when he gave up due to the calls of business. Aged 46, he started again, this time with Reigate Priory and carried on for another 19 years. A regular visitor with his wife to Canterbury, usually in Cricket Week, he was involved as a coach in the Kwik Cricket organisation. Well known for being always immaculately turned out, a writer in the *Sunday People* nominated him as the best dressed county cricketer.

Clive Dring married Jackie Aldis at Balham Hill, London SW12 in 1968. Their son Mark, born 1973, played for Bickley Park and HSBC and is currently (2023) a batsman/wicketkeeper with Earlswood Strollers.

As a footballer he was selected for the England schoolboys' squad and at junior level was on the books of Arsenal and Fulham where he played alongside a young Johnny Haynes.

### **John Cooper James Dye (No. 689).**

*Born:* 24. 07. 1942 Gillingham.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1962-1971. Cap 1966.

Educated: Highfield Grammar School, Gillingham.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	149	127	66	316	27*	5.18	0	0	35
<b>Overall</b>	266	247	125	774	29*	6.34	0	0	53

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	23298	1034	9318	371	25.11	7-118	12	1
<b>Overall</b>	39946	1638	17272	725	23.82	7-45	22	2

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	51	21	16	42	7*	8.40	0	0	18
<b>Overall</b>	171	75	54	221	23	10.52	0	0	35

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2490	48	1541	58	26.56	4-18	0	3.71
<b>Overall</b>	8442	201	5021	235	21.36	5-30	1	3.56

In the modern era when a minimum of four seam bowlers is considered *de rigueur* John Dye would probably have played far more first team cricket. In his day three at-most were considered enough and throughout his career he faced competition from Alan Brown, Norman Graham, David Sayer, John Shepherd and Alan Dixon. Invited for a trial in 1961 after being spotted playing for the Frindsbury club, on May 31 that year he made his Second Eleven debut against Middlesex at Aylesford. Few have started better – 7 for 41 and 4 for 15. He ended top of the second team averages with 23 wickets at 16.13.

Joining the staff in 1962, he played regularly for the Second Eleven and made three first team appearances, claiming six expensive wickets, all but one England cricketers. In the following year he was awarded his Second team cap but most of his cricket was for the first team where an extended run brought 51 wickets including 5 for 92 v Somerset at Gillingham.

1964 proved his most successful season with 63 wickets (avge.22.11) including match figures of 11 for 57 from 35 overs against Leicestershire at Hinckley. Next year he again reached the 50 wickets mark but in 1966, although awarded his cap, his tally of wickets, due in part to injury, fell to 37. In 1967 further fitness problems restricted him to four first-class matches and in 1968 injury intervened when he seemed on track for his best ever season. As it was, he finished with 35 wickets at an economical 15.28. At Grace Road Dye (5 for 26) and Graham (5 for 22) bowled unchanged to dismiss Leicestershire for 53.



At his best, Dye was not far short of genuinely fast and at times looked very good indeed, especially when able to produce away movement but, like many of the left-arm quick fraternity, he was inconsistent. In 1967 the Cricket Sub-Committee report was unequivocal – ‘With a different approach to the game he could be 50% more effective’. Very much his own man, certainly he could appear uninterested when not actually bowling but it has to be said that the club’s reluctance to settle on a regular new ball partnership could not have helped.

Over the next three seasons, 1969 – 1971, he took 123 wickets, but he was expensive by the standards of the day and the arrival of two more left-arm pace bowlers, Bernard Julien and Richard Elms (*q.v.*) did not further his cause. He was not re-engaged at the end of the 1971 season and joined Northants. He achieved his best bowling figures (7 for 118) at Trent Bridge on his last first-class appearance for Kent and seldom bowled better than in his last game, the Gillette Cup Final at Lord’s when he dismissed Barry Wood first ball.

As often happens, the move acted as a stimulus. For Northants between 1972 to 1977 he took 341 first-class wickets (avge.22.33) plus another 173 (avge.19.60) in limited - overs cricket. In the 1972-1973 winter he had a season with Eastern Province.

While with Northants he worked as a sales representative with the local Phipps Brewery, at the time part of the Watney Group. On finishing with Northants, he had two seasons with Bedfordshire, 1978, when he headed the bowling averages, and 1979. From 1983 to 2003 he was professional at Wellingborough School. On retiring he made his home in Spain.

#### **Alan George Ernest Ealham (No.700).**

*Born:* 30. 08.1944, Willesborough

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1966-1982. Cap.1970.

County captain 1978-1980.

Educated: Ashford South Secondary School.

Parents: George Alan Ealham & Olive May Ealham (née Butler).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	305	466	68	10996	153	27.62	7	59	175

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	229	4	189	3	63.00	1-1		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	237	211	38	4070	94*	23.52	0	14	102

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	12	0	9	1	9.00	1-8	0	4.50

One of the most popular of Kent cricketers during a notable period in the Club’s history, Alan Ealham was a powerful striker of the ball with an orthodox, compact, straightforward technique with just enough of the village green to hold a special appeal to the Kentish faithful. As an outfielder, he was one of the greatest of his generation. With the advantage of a low centre of gravity, he had a lightening pick up

and throw, could hit the stumps from any angle and specialised in unlikely catches on the boundary. In the opinion of quite a few good judges, the great Jonty Rhodes was his nearest equivalent.

If a career average below 30 and only seven first-class centuries seems nothing out of the ordinary, it should be borne in mind that in almost half of his innings his usual place in the batting order ranged between numbers six and eight, positions where, in the three day cricket of the day, rather than building an innings, a batsmen often needed to concern himself primarily with quick runs and bonus points or on shoring up a sagging innings when things had gone wrong.

Ealham began serving his cricketing apprenticeship early thanks to a cricket-loving father and a grandfather who was a Kent CCC member for more than 50 years. Father George, who worked in the motor trade as well as having an interest in newsagents, played for his home village of Willesborough but, recognising his son's cricketing potential, managed to arrange for him to join the more up-market Ashford Club at the early age of 13. He had already developed much of his fielding skill, due in part according to Ealham himself, by delivering newspapers for a large housing estate and having to learn to move fast if he was to complete his round before the school bell rang. At Ashford, he spent many hours learning to hit a single stump from all angles

Under the leadership of the formidable Ashford captain Peter Nelson (*q.v.*) he quickly became a prolific scorer in club cricket and, aided by his fielding, influential people began to take notice. Les Ames, among others, came to look at him and in August 1962 Ealham made his debut for Kent against Essex Seconds at Gravesend. Batting number three, he scored 20 and 11, opening his Kentish account with, according to Colin Page (*q.v.*), 'a tremendous lofted drive over cover point'. He also took his first catch, from the bowling of John Dye. An attempt by Kent to sign him on the staff was vetoed by his father who insisted that his son first obtain his City & Guilds qualification in motor vehicle bodywork, and he shortly gained a comforting second string to his bow as a welder and panel beater.

In 1963 he played four more Second Eleven matches, his scores including 50\* at Bournemouth and 77 v Essex at Dartford. He was the Club's leading Second Eleven scorer in each of the next two seasons, 725 runs (avge.25.98), top score 95 v Middlesex at Brentham in 1964 and 865 (avge.30.89) in 1965 with six half-centuries including 97 & 86\* v Somerset at Sittingbourne. He signed for Kent for the following season.

He began his career as a Kent professional with a duck against Somerset Seconds at Hesketh Park but 42\* at Bristol and 58 at The Oval, helped probably by his fielding, gained him a call up into the first team on 1st June 1966. The venue was not ideal for a young man about to make his debut. Bath was notorious as a spinner's paradise, and Kent were soon 14 for 3. Apart from Mike Denness (97 & 87), who played superbly, most batsmen struggled. Ealham however with 37 and 57\* was second top scorer in both innings. Without again reaching more than 19, he remained in the side for three more matches then missed the next two. Brought back at the end of June, he played for the remainder of the season scoring 549 runs (avge.18.93). He hit three half-centuries with a top score of 59 (four sixes, five fours) at Northampton. Unusually for an outfielder, he took 30 catches including five against Gloucestershire at Folkestone, all on the boundary and all off Derek Underwood.

Over the next two seasons he was in and out of the team, playing 14 matches in 1967, down to 12 in 1968. In 1967 his top score was only 26 and his batting average fell below double figures but he had his first experience of limited-overs cricket, playing in three of the four Gillette Cup matches and experiencing his first truly big occasion in the triumphant Final at Lord's where he was run out for 17. Against Hampshire at Mote Park, he held four catches, again all on the boundary and all off Underwood.

With limited opportunities, Ealham contributed little in the eight matches he played in June and July 1968 but hit three half-centuries in August, including 58\* against the strong Rest of the World team at Canterbury and 94\* against Glamorgan in Folkestone Week. He was comfortably top scorer in the latter and shared a swashbuckling, near record, ninth - wicket partnership of 158 with Alan Brown (81).

Ealham began the 1969 season with 68 against Sussex at Canterbury and scored a maiden century against Oxford University in the Parks but Wisden's report describes him as 'fading after a promising start' and it is difficult to disagree. Apart from 47\* v Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells and a couple of 30s, not until mid-August, when Kent lost at New Road, did he play another innings of any substance. His 74\* was the highest score of the match. With a top score of 32 he made a few appearances in the newly launched 40-over John Players' County League.

Although not selected for the first team until June, 544 runs (avge.38.85), in the ever-memorable season of 1970 gave promise of better things. Kent were 65 for 4 at Harlow when Ealham joined Denness. Together they added 164 (Denness 167\*, Ealham 88) in 146 minutes and Kent won by an innings. The same pair added 148 in 140 minutes for the fifth - wicket (Denness 96, Ealham 85) when Kent had rather the worst of a draw at Bramall Lane and in the critical Nottinghamshire match at Folkestone, he hit 57 in a sixth - wicket partnership of 113 with Luckhurst (156\*). Kent ultimately gained a famous victory and Ealham was rewarded with his County cap.

Chosen for the first team from the start of the 1971 season and promoted to number four, on his third appearance, against Leicestershire at Dartford, with Cowdrey, he added 218, the former scoring 132 and Ealham 104, his maiden century. For the first time he reached his 1,000 runs, 1,363 (avge.34.94), sharing in five century partnerships and hitting eight half-centuries including three over 80. There were however five ducks, including two in succession. In the Gillette Cup and what was now the Players County League he missed only two matches and hit 82 in the later against Middlesex at Canterbury.

Apart from his consistently remarkable performances in the outfield, over the next four seasons Alan Ealham's career did not develop as his legion of admirers quite hoped. In 1972, due to illness, he missed the whole of May and when he was back in the side, in the words of *Wisden* 'he was never so assured of his place as he was in the previous year'. Appearing in only 15 matches, he scored over 600 runs and averaged 28.76. There were several notable innings. Against Middlesex at Maidstone, Mike Brearley set Kent 256 in two hours 20 minutes. When Ealham joined captain Luckhurst, Kent were 70 for two. The pair added 154 in 68 minutes of which Ealham scored 89 with four sixes and nine fours. Luckhurst finished 98\* and Kent won with nine of the last 20 overs remaining.

He shared two century partnerships with Cowdrey, 192 for the fifth - wicket at Glastonbury (Cowdrey 101\*, Ealham 105) and 121 for the third against the Australians at Canterbury (Cowdrey 64, Ealham 68).

In 1973 and 1974 he produced some useful quick scoring innings, but his first-class average fell to the low 20s and in 1975 with injury problems, he played only 15 matches and averaged 14.60. He was chopped and changed around the order and in 1975 found himself five times at number eight and three times at nine. Among his three half-centuries in 1973 was 85 in 80 minutes with 16 fours against Yorkshire at Canterbury, top score of the match. In 1974 he hit four half-centuries but between 1973 and 1975 he registered 14 ducks including two pairs and 24 other single figure innings.

It was rather different in limited overs matches. There were Benson & Hedges and John Player League Cup wins in 1973 and the Gillette Cup in 1974, Ealham playing usefully in all three seasons, notably of course his fielding. In all List A matches from 1973 to 1975 he hit three half-centuries, six scores between 42 and 48 and another six between 32 and 39\*. In 1973 he held 11 catches, 13 in 1974.

In 1976 Ealham began with a couple of low scores in his first match and was left out of the next match against Worcestershire but hit 51 at Southampton at the end of May, his first half-century since the previous May. From then on, he scored consistently throughout the remainder of the season, hitting 134\* at Trent Bridge and five half-centuries.

There were five century partnerships, four of them with Shepherd, and for the second time he exceeded 1,000 runs, 1,105 (avge.33.48), comfortably his best figures since 1971. Kent again won the Benson &

Hedges Cup and the John Player competition and in all List A matches Ealham totalled 530 runs (avge.29.44) without managing a score higher than 49.

With Kent winning the Championship in 1977 under their new captain Asif Iqbal, albeit Middlesex having, somewhat dubiously, shared the title, Ealham had in many ways his best season, 1,116 runs (avge.39.85), only Asif outscoring him and nobody else reaching 900. Ealham hit ten half-centuries without reaching his hundred. His top score, 99, was against Yorkshire at Folkestone, when he shared a 109-run century partnership with Shepherd in 50 minutes. He also narrowly missed another century, 91 at Northampton. In 22 matches he held 16 catches, his highest since 1966.

There was no limited-over silverware that year but Ealham, mainly settled at number five, was leading run-scorer with 664 runs (avge.36.88) in all one-day competitions. In the Benson & Hedges Cup he scored 70 at Hove in the Group stage, which won him a Gold Award, and 94\* against the same opponents when he shared a partnership of 146 from 20 overs with Chris Cowdrey (114).

In 1978 the Packer interregnum threatened to dwarf all else in the cricketing world but, for Kent at least, all turned out rather well in the end. In view of his Packer involvement, the Kent committee deprived Asif of the captaincy, rather unfairly in fact as he had retired from Test cricket although he subsequently changed his mind and returned to Test cricket. Thanks largely however to the influence of Leslie Ames, the original committee decision not to offer new contracts to the Packer players, was rescinded. There were seemingly interminable discussions but little more than a fortnight from the start of the season Ealham was chosen as the new captain.

In the opinion of some, vice-captain Graham Johnson and experienced John Shepherd were perhaps more likely captaincy candidates and with the longer-term future of the Packer players still in doubt, the season started in an unusual atmosphere, to put it no stronger. Fortunately, there was more discord in the committee room than there was in the dressing room and the new skipper proved a dependable, straightforward character. Asif, one of his strongest supporters, helped and things quickly settled down. Asif averaged 49.15, Tavaré and Woolmer also averaged in the 40s, Underwood took 110 wickets at 14.49 and Kent won what was now called the Schweppes Championship outright, finishing 19 points above their nearest rivals Essex. They also won the Benson & Hedges Cup, their third win in six years.

After the match against Oxford University and the opening Championship fixture at Leeds had both been rained off, Kent beat Hampshire by 4 wickets, Ealham top scoring with 102\* in two hours with two sixes and 13 fours. Following another victory at Taunton, Ealham and Chris Tavaré both got into the nineties in a drawn match with Pakistan. Then came a change of fortune. At Ilford, Essex closed at 337 for three after 100 overs and won by an innings and 41.

Fortunately, it was only a blip. There followed a sequence of 11 victories and four draws, two of the wins by an innings, two by ten wickets and one by nine. The next fixture was the return with Essex at Folkestone, a match hailed in some quarters as a Championship decider. At the time Kent led by 41 points but the visitors had a game in hand.

In the event, Essex had marginally the better of the draw, but Kent gained three batting and four bowling points, Essex two batting and three bowling. Unfortunately, Kent rather spoiled things by losing the last two games of the season, to Hampshire at Bournemouth and Sussex at Hove, but nevertheless they still finished top of the table. As a bonus, both Surrey and last year's joint Champions Middlesex were beaten twice, the former by an innings in both matches.

At a personal level Ealham failed to reach his thousand runs, -856 (avge.30.57), and did not better his hundred in his first match of the season but there were five half-centuries, including 95 against Pakistan. He hit two half centuries in the Benson & Hedges Cup including 60\*, top score in the Quarter-final against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury. Although captaincy responsibilities mainly prevented him from spending his time on the boundary, he still held 15 catches.

The 1970s was such a memorable decade in Kent history that, apart from second place in the John Player League, 1979 came as something of a shock to all concerned. As in 1978, there were three defeats but only six wins against 13 in the previous year. Underwood again took a hundred wickets, but something was missing; the batting never really flourished and Ealham himself felt that 'the atmosphere was not quite the same'.

With 760 first-class runs (avge.26.20), Ealham had a patchy season with five ducks and 13 other scores between one and 15. On the other hand, against Worcestershire at Canterbury, Tavaré (112) and Ealham (153) shared a fourth - wicket partnership of 251, the latter hitting one six and 18 fours. He held 13 catches, the ninth and last time he would reach double figures. In the Gillette Cup, his 85\* at Swansea won a Man of the Match award.

The 1981 Kent Annual described 1980 as 'most disappointing'. Many followers of Kent cricket put it rather stronger. 16th in the Championship table with only two wins, the lowest position since the bad old days of 1956, plus elimination from the Benson & Hedges zonal rounds, 14th place in the John Player and knocked out in the second round of the Gillette. The only consolation was runners-up in the First Class Counties Second Eleven Competition with five wins, five draws, no defeats.

At a personal level, not for the first time Ealham began well with 22 and 71 v Northants at Canterbury followed by 145 at Ilford,). In what proved to be his last full season, Ealham registered three more half centuries, the highest 82 at Taunton. In all he totalled 801 runs (avge.29.66), Kent's third highest scorer of the season.

In a rather mixed limited overs season, Ealham scored 51 (a six & 7 fours) v Somerset at Canterbury in the Benson & Hedges and in the John Player League 81\* (a six, 7 fours) v Glamorgan at Canterbury as well as a couple of 40s.

Knowing how committees tend to think, not wholly unsurprisingly at the end of the season there was a change of captaincy, his predecessor, Asif Iqbal, taking over for the second time and in 1981 once again a distinguished Kent career came to a sad end. Ealham still hoped he could contribute but he was chosen for only three first-class and four List A matches. All things considered, he did quite well, reaching double figures in every innings, with 44 (top scorer) v the Australians and 'a classy' 48 v Lancashire at Mote Park to quote the Kent Annual. For the Seconds he averaged 40 with two centuries against Hampshire, two other half-centuries as well as three 'friendly' Second Eleven half-centuries including 95\* against Sri Lanka.

In 1982, Ealham's Benefit Year raised £64.255 and he was offered the Second Eleven Captaincy but declined, although agreeing to take it on for one season. He played one last first-class match, v the Indians at Canterbury. finishing with 16 and 31\*. In the Second Eleven Kent won six, lost three and drew six. Although batting mainly lower in the order, the skipper scored 602 runs (avge.43.00) with centuries against Gloucestershire and Sussex, as well as four half-centuries.

Ealham retired in 1983 and devoted himself to the motor trade. Nevertheless, he continued to be much involved in cricket. He played club cricket for Ashford until 1992, captain in 1983-1984, as well as for Forty Club and Ashford over 40s. Despite the disappointments of the latter stages of his Kent career, he left on reasonable terms and in 1988 changed his mind about the Second team captaincy and took over as second team coach, where he continued until 1996. Finally, he became coach for King's School and Junior King's School where he remained until 2009. His last innings seems to have been that year when he played for Junior School Staff at Milner Court, Sturry.

Ealham was sometimes said to have been vulnerable to off spinners, but most methods seem to have been fairly evenly represented. The most successful bowlers have been - 9: J.S.E.Price, 7: D.L.Acfield, P.I.Pocock, J.A.Snow, C.E.Waller, R.A.White, 6: K.Higgs, Intikhab Alam, S.Turner.

He never totalled four figures against any of the counties but scored over 500 runs against 14 of the (then) 17, the highest Surrey 949 (avge.25.64s), followed by Hampshire (828 avge.21.78,) and Middlesex (726 avge.21.35).

Alan Ealham married Susan Barton in Ashford, 1968. His son Mark played for Kent, Nottinghamshire and England and he too became coach at King's School, Canterbury. His daughter Louise married Simon Willis (q.v.) and of his two grandsons, George has played for Surrey Second Eleven 2021, Kent Seconds 2022-2023 and fielded as a substitute in the fifth Test Match at The Oval in 2023 when, due to a keeping error, he was extremely unlucky not to run out Steve Smith. Younger grandson son Tom played for Kent junior sides and Surrey Seconds in 2022-2023. Both grandsons played for Cranleigh.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

### **Mark Alan Ealham (No. 749).**

*Born:* 27. 08.1969, Willesborough.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1989-2003. Cap 1992.

Tests: 8 plus 64 ODIs, all for England.

Educated: Stour Valley Secondary School, Chartham.

Parents: Alan Ealham & Susan Ealham (née Barton).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	173	274	40	7459	153*	31.87	7	48	88
<b>England</b>	8	13	3	210	53*	21.00	0	2	4
<b>Overall</b>	281	422	67	11349	153*	31.96	13	67	158

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	23617	985	11227	396	28.35	8-36	19	1
<b>England</b>	1060	43	488	17	28.70	4-21	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	38434	1679	17962	643	27.93	8-36	24	2

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	260	223	54	4529	112	26.79	1	23	74
<b>England</b>	64	45	4	716	45	17.46	0	0	9
<b>Overall</b>	417	341	77	6326	112	23.96	1	26	110

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11357	137	7812	292	26.75	6-53	2	4.12
<b>England</b>	3227	34	2197	67	32.79	5-15	2	4.08
<b>Overall</b>	18500	224	12644	477	26.50	6-53	4	4.10

### **Twenty20 Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	5	0	69	22	13.80	0	0	0

<b>Overall</b>	52	42	9	568	91	17.21	0	1	6
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# **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	106	0	116	5	23.20	2-31	0	6.56
<b>Overall</b>	1109	1	1342	46	29.17	3-20	0	7.26

With a distinguished international career and one County Championship to his credit, the latter admittedly not for Kent, Mark Ealham could reasonably claim to have done at least as well as his father. A genuine allrounder in both first-class and limited overs cricket, as a batsman he hit the ball hard and generally scored his runs very quickly in first-class as well as limited overs cricket but, more technically correct than his father, he could graft when necessary. Like others before or since, he did not perhaps quite produce the weight of runs that seemed at one time within his talents but for most of the time he came in at or around number seven and was more frequently obliged to concentrate on quick runs rather than building an innings. Five of his centuries finished not out (four of them for Nottinghamshire) and 16 of his 67 half centuries.

Coming in off a short, angled run, he bowled a very tight line and length, wicket to wicket, moved the ball away late from the right-hander, used the crease and varied his pace, probably as well if not better than any of his medium pace contemporaries. It has been fashionable in some quarters to label medium pacers such as Ealham ‘dobber’, trundler’, ‘pie thrower’ or some such and these days bowlers of his type tend to be rather under- valued, notwithstanding more recent practitioners, notably Kent’s Darren Stevens. Historically, since under arm went out of fashion, the medium pacer, on his home turf at least, has, more often than not, proved the backbone of most English counties.

Under his father’s tutelage, Mark Ealham began his cricketing apprenticeship early in life, first with his school and then, as with his father, the Ashford Club. For Ashford he was, and remains, something of a legend. On one occasion, his team, denied substitutes when reduced to only eight men due to a broken-down Datsun, he bowled his teammates out of trouble with a spell of eight wickets at minimal cost.

Progressing steadily through the stages in youth cricket, by 1986, still short of his 17th birthday, he had scored a century for Kent Colts, hit two half-centuries for AKCC Under 19s including one in the Oxford Festival against Somerset and on May 28th made his Second Eleven debut against Essex at Sittingbourne. With a top score of 29, he made seven Second team appearances that year as well as two in the limited overs Bain Dawes Trophy.

Over the next two seasons he made frequent Second team appearances, hitting three half-centuries in 1987 and in the same year struck a spectacularly hard hit 98 against Derbyshire for the AKCC under 19s in the Oxford Festival. At this stage relatively little use was made of his bowling, 34 overs and two wickets in Second Eleven Championship matches in 1987, 92.2 overs and six wickets in 1988.

In 1989 Ealham junior joined the Kent staff and as early as 24th June made his first-class debut, batting number eight at Old Trafford. With Kent wobbling at 133 for six, he scored 45 and put on 74 with Steve Marsh, finishing Kent’s second top scorer. His only other first-class match was against the Australians where he claimed his first wicket, David Boon, caught at the wicket.

Although still liking his food, he was no longer answering to his youthful nickname of ‘Podge’ and played eight matches in the 40-over Refuge Assurance League, taking took 11 economical wickets including 3 for 26 against Gloucestershire at Maidstone. Playing for the Seconds under his father’s captaincy, he was leading wicket-taker with 37 at 23.78 and hit four half - centuries.

Ealham was called on for only occasional Championship matches in 1990 and 1991 but in the latter year, despite taking the field in only four matches, he headed the bowling averages with 17 wickets (avge.20.82) including 5 for 39 v Sussex at Hove and 5 for 65 v Leicestershire at Canterbury. Playing

15 limited overs matches in 1990 and six in 1991, in the former year he took 4 for 57 against Worcestershire on his first appearance in the Benson & Hedges Cup.

With 17 first-class and 26 List A matches, 1992 saw Ealham established in the side and in Canterbury Week was awarded his County Cap. Batting for the most part at number eight, he registered four Championship half-centuries, two in a match - 58 & 67\* at Bristol - although it should be said that the latter was against 'declaration' bowling. In List A matches he won the National Westminster Bank Trophy Man of the Match Award at Southampton where his 33\* steered Kent to a two wicket victory.

A short pre-season visit to Zimbabwe heralded further improvement in 1993, second in the end-of-season averages with 666 first-class runs (avge.51.23) and 31 wickets (avge.29.58). Of his eight half-centuries, three were in successive innings -85 & 79 v Lancashire at Lytham St. Annes, 76 v Northants at Canterbury. This also involved three successive seventh - wicket century partnerships -100 with Marsh (63) and 156 with Carl Hooper (166\*), and 153 with Graham Cowdrey (139).

Against the Zimbabweans he produced his best bowling figures- 5 for 14 – when the visitors collapsed in their second innings for 83. Although inexplicably left out of the Sunday League at the beginning of the season, Ealham produced his best bowling figures, 6 for 53 v Hampshire at Basingstoke, concluding with three wickets in five balls.

Losing a whole month through injury in 1994, Ealham again scored over 600 first-class runs with four half centuries and 27 wickets (avge.28.22), improving his best bowling figures with 7 for 53 for the losing side against Hampshire at Canterbury. At Derby in the NatWest Quarter Final, he took 4 for 10 from 8.5 overs.

For Kent, a season of distinctly mixed results - winners of the Axa, Equity & Law Sunday League but bottom of the Championship and losers in the Benson & Hedges Final - for Ealham 1995 was nevertheless a highly satisfactory season with 1,388 runs and 59 wickets in all competitions. Still spending most of his time at six or seven, despite a dip in form from mid-July, he totalled 891 first-class runs (avge.29.70) with a maiden century, 121 at Trent Bridge, when he shared a sixth wicket partnership of 315 with Aravinda de Silva (225). There were four half centuries and in the Axa Equity and Law Sunday League there was icing on the cake. At Mote Park he punished Derbyshire for a 44 ball hundred. Dropped three times, all by Chris Adams, he faced 51 balls and hit nine sixes and nine fours in his 112. Nine days later, v Northants at Canterbury, his 89\* came from 79 balls with three sixes and nine fours.

What with injuries and England calls, Ealham played only 11 Championship matches in 1996 and his run total for the complete first-class season fell to 618, top score 74. With the ball he had his best first-class season ever, 47 wickets (avge.21.17) which included 8 for 36 on a sub-standard Edgbaston pitch and match figures of 8 for 71 when Sussex were beaten in two days at Tunbridge Wells. In List A matches, from 21 games he hit 615 runs (avge.36.17) with 20 sixes and seven half centuries – four of them in successive matches. Against Middlesex at Canterbury in the Axa, Equity & Law League, his 89\* came from 51 balls with, 6 sixes and 4 fours, while in the Benson & Hedges he clubbed 75 from 59 balls against British Universities in the Parks and 72 from 39 balls (5 sixes, 7 fours) v Somerset at Mote Park. He also took 2 for 22 in the former, 4 for 50 in the latter, gaining successive Gold Awards.

With half a dozen or so allrounders in the running for England places, including his teammate Matthew Fleming, Ealham was called in for the first ODI against India at The Oval. Ruined by rain, the debutant seemed at home in the new surrounding with a confident 40 with two sixes but got no chance to bowl. In the second ODI, at Headingley, he bowled six wicketless overs and did not bat. A muscle strain in his back kept him out of the third ODI but recovered in time for the Third Test match at Trent Bridge. On a pitch described by *Wisden* 'as an old-fashioned shirt front' India compiled 521, Ealham bowling creditably with 2 for 90 from 29 overs and the prized wickets of Sachin Tendulkar and Rahul Dravid. England likewise prospered to the tune of 564, Ealham scoring 51 on debut (third top scorer). India in



their second innings were comfortable at 140 for three but collapsed for 211 all out, Ealham 4 for 21. This brought a third distinguished wicket to his list, the captain Mohammad Azharuddin.

Against Pakistan, the second of the season's tourists, Ealham made a useful all round contribution for Kent – 57, 28 and 4 for 48 in the visitor's first innings and was picked for the first Test at Lord's. Chosen to tour Australia with England's A team, in three first-class matches he managed only two expensive wickets but scored 78 v Victoria and 41 (second top scorer) v Queensland as well as 78\* in a limited overs match with New South Wales.

Despite the irritation of the hugely influential Ray Illingworth persisting in calling him Alan, Ealham was called up against Australia in all three ODIs and the first four of the five Test matches in 1997 plus a one-off game for England A.

This restricted him to only 11 county matches, but it proved his most prolific season, 1,055 runs (avge.52.75) in all first-class matches with three centuries, six half-centuries and reaching his 1,000 runs. He was the only Kent player to pass four figures, finishing top of the Club averages. To this he added 40 first-class wickets and 12 catches.

In contrast with some of his fast-scoring efforts, his 122 at Trent Bridge took him a little over four and three-quarter hours, adding 171 for the ninth wicket with Paul Strang (73), a Club record. Against Leicestershire at Canterbury, he batted six and a half hours for 139, adding 145 for the seventh wicket, again with Strang (82), and 146 for the eighth with Marsh (98\*).

In contrast, at Taunton there were 13 fours and one six in his 105, sharing a fifth - wicket partnership of 185 with Graham Cowdrey (101). Against the Australians he struck 85 off 118 balls to set up an (unsuccessful) declaration and at Leeds he took 4 for 62 & 4 for 47 and with Fleming, batted for three hours through 48 overs to secure a draw. In the Axa Life Sunday League he scored 61 in an hour v Glamorgan at Canterbury and took 5 for 41, all five from nine balls for one run.

In the Test Series, with three not outs, Ealham scored 105 runs (avge.35.00) including 53\* in the first Test at Edgbaston. His 8 wickets were inexpensive at 23.87; at Edgbaston he took 3 for 60 in the second innings, all three wickets in ten balls.

In the 1997/1998 winter Ealham was not chosen for the first half of the West Indies tour but was brought in for the ODIs. He had already played quite a lot of cricket. that winter. In addition to one first-class match in Kenya and five in Sri Lanka for England A, there were ten List A fixtures, two in Pakistan, four in Sharjah, two in Kenya and two in Sri Lanka, as well as four matches in the Hong Kong International Sixes competition to which were added five ODIs against West Indies. 87 in the first unofficial 'Test' match against Sri Lanka at Kurunegala was the only first-class innings of consequence and his record for limited overs matches could be described as unspectacular but respectable.

Chosen for two Tests and two ODIs against South Africa in 1998, Ealham was restricted to ten County Championship matches and, in contrast with the previous season, failed to reach 500 first-class runs. His one century, 121 v Yorkshire at Maidstone (one six, 18 fours), came in a fifth-wicket partnership of 210 with David Fulton (207). There were two half-centuries and after taking just one wicket in the first five matches, claimed 5 for 23 at Leicester and 5 for 45 v Essex at Southend. In the Benson & Hedges Cup he collected his fourth Gold Award, 32 & 3 for 30 v Gloucestershire at Canterbury.

In the Tests and ODIs against South Africa he only once reached double figures, but his seven wickets included Hansie Cronje three times, as well as Darryl Cullinan, Jonty Rhodes and Lance Klusener. Once again it was a busy winter. Although in this case there was no first-class cricket, there were for Ealham, 15 competitive List A Matches, one against South Africa, 11 in Australia, and three in Sharjah. As far as Ealham was concerned, his top score was 44 against South Africa at Dhaka and his best bowling 5 for 32 v Sri Lanka at Perth.

Thanks to a virus, Ealham had played in only one first-class match prior to the beginning of the 1999 World Cup, a ten wicket defeat by Derbyshire at Canterbury, the first defeat for Kent's new skipper Matthew Fleming. For many followers of Kent, Ealham had been seen as Fleming's main rival for the captaincy. The highest score of the match, Ealham's 88\* was from 188 balls, 70 of them in boundaries.

When it came to the World Cup, he batted only twice with a top score of five but, although England failed to progress beyond the Group stage, with the ball he did well. Playing in all five matches and bowling his quota of ten overs in every match, he 'wobbled the ball about to good effect' according to *Wisden* – 2 for 31 v Sri Lanka, 2 for 49 v Kenya, 2 for 48 v South Africa, 2 for 35 v Zimbabwe and 2 for 28 v India.

World Cup notwithstanding, Ealham did not catch selectorial eyes during the English season but with World Cup duties and virus troubles, he missed four Championship matches and totalled 583 runs (avge.30.78) with five half centuries including 80 v Essex at Canterbury where he put on 207 for the fifth - wicket with Andrew Symonds (132). With 41 wickets at an economical 23.92 he took 3 for 18 & 6 for 35 v Northants at Canterbury and, 5 for 30 at Trent Bridge.

In the winter, as in the previous season, Ealham was chosen for England's one-day series after the Tests against South Africa were over. These involved first the Standard Bank International Series between South Africa, England and Zimbabwe. Won by South Africa, England played four ODIs against South Africa and two against Zimbabwe (plus one abandoned). There were then three more ODIs against Zimbabwe plus one more abandoned. In England's second match against Zimbabwe, Ealham took 5 for 15, all lbw. In the nine matches he took 11 wickets.

Due to injuries, first with a shoulder, followed by a broken finger and latterly a fractured right-hand, Ealham took part in only 11 first-class matches in 2000, the lowest number since 1991. Beginning well with 4 for 53 v Lancashire at Canterbury and 83 in a 102- run fifth wicket partnership at The Oval with Dravid (71), there was only one other half-century and from mid-June onwards, he played only half a dozen Championship matches in none of which he reached 20. In the penultimate fixture however he produced his best bowling figures, 5 for 35 v Yorkshire at Canterbury.

Two rained- off matches rather ruined the Benson & Hedges Cup but Ealham collected another Gold Award with 61 (top score in the match) and 4 for 17 against Essex at Canterbury. After adding 87 in 15 overs with Alan Wells, Ealham was starved of the strike at a critical time, facing only nine balls in the final six overs, after hitting six from the penultimate ball, he was bowled with three runs required.

In the only other Benson & Hedges match he took 4 for 32 v Middlesex at Canterbury and in the NatWest Trophy 4 for 36 v Glamorgan at Canterbury. He played in all seven ODIs in a triangular series with West Indies and Zimbabwe.

After his final winter involving ODIs, two with Kenya. three with Pakistan and one in Sri Lanka, Ealham found runs hard to come by for much of 2001 but for Kent it was a highly satisfactory year, winners of the 45-over Norwich Union National League and third place in the County Championship.

Ealham's high point came in September, his career best 153\* v Northants at Canterbury, scored from 389 balls with 18 fours and one six. After being bowled out in the first innings for 108, Kent were 202 for 5 when Ealham joined Fulton with 47 still needed to avoid an innings defeat. Together they added 219, Kent declared at 576 for 8 and Northants finished at 199 for 9. Suffering from a hamstring injury which prevented him from bowling in the second innings, his 153\* apart, he only twice got beyond 20.

With the ball it was different – top of Kent's first-class bowling averages with 25 wickets (avge.22.96) - which included 6 for 64 & 3 for 20 v Lancashire at Canterbury and 5 for 13 at Southend. With Kent winning the Norwich Union League, he contributed 16 wickets at 22.44 including 3 for 19 at Leicester. He played his three last ODIs, two against Pakistan, one against Australia.

Shorn of international commitments, with 594 first-class runs (avge.34.94} and 28 wickets (avge.34.07), Ealham had a reasonable 2002. In the Championship, he missed a lot of cricket due to a cracked knucklebone and a sprained ankle at the beginning of the season, followed later by a jarred knee through slipping on the pavilion steps at Hove.

When he did get going, he again demonstrated his gift for extracting runs from the tail. Against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, Kent were 209 for 6 when he arrived at the wicket. At the close, Kent were 343 all out, Ealham 83\*, the last pair having added 77 (Ben Trott 26). At Edgbaston, with David Masters, he added 108 for the ninth-wicket (Ealham 83, Masters 68). In the field, he excelled his previous best with 14 catches.

He played 18 List A matches in 2002, the lowest number since 1993 and scored 460 runs (avge.32.85) with two half-centuries in in the Norwich Union League, as well as 74\* v India at Canterbury in which he struck five sixes, one of which cleared the now much-missed lime tree. Without achieving anything remarkable, he bowled steadily, his 27 wickets coming at an economical 21.26. Against India he took 4 for 45 (including Dravid again) as well as 3 for 18 at the Riverside.in the Norwich Union League.

Ealham played two now largely forgotten one-day Internationals that year, the 15 overs a side 'Brits v Rest of the World' 'Power Cricket' matches under lights in the 74,000 capacity Millenium Stadium under a closed roof at Cardiff with, among a variety of other innovations, generous use of substitutes. Played on a Friday night, only about 4,000 people turned up, far fewer than expected by optimists.

2003 was Mark Ealham's benefit year. To the regret of most, it was also his last as a Kent player and might be worth examining a little more closely. With 911 first-class runs (avge.36.44) one century and seven half-centuries (including two over 90), he shared six century partnerships. Only once, in 1997, did he score more first-class runs. His 38 wickets at 26.65 was his best since 1999 and 18 catches his best ever. As a result of the unfortunate accident to Fulton (*q.v.*) Ealham also captained in six first-class matches (drawn four, lost two) and seven List A (won three, lost four).

Starting with 64 v Cambridge University Centre of Cricketing Excellence, by the end of May he had scored 82 against Leicestershire at Canterbury, 2 for 45 & 3 for 34 v Sussex at Hove and 79 & 5 for 54 v Lancashire, again at Canterbury. In June he helped steer Kent to what at one time looked an unlikely draw against Essex at Chelmsford with 101, his last first-class century for Kent, sharing partnerships of 127 for the fifth-wicket with Matt Walker (65) and 100 for the sixth with Geraint Jones (108\*). In July he scored 95 in Kent's 602 for 6 declared at Blackpool and took 5 for 26 when Essex were beaten at Canterbury.

In August he batted only twice, against Middlesex at Lord's, he checked a late collapse with 58 and took part in a seventh-wicket partnership of 133 with Amjad Khan (78). The same pair, broadly speaking, did likewise at Trent Bridge with 73 in seven overs, Khan 46, Ealham ninth out with 83. In September he helped scupper Surrey's Championship hopes, contributing 93 at Canterbury, and, on his last first-class appearance for Kent, helped Warwickshire to an innings defeat at St. Lawrence with 30, 6 for 35 and 2 for 52.

Despite a somewhat patchy List A season, in the 45-over National Cricket League, he struck 73 from 56 balls against Essex at Canterbury, adding 127 for the fifth-wicket with Jones (58), and 50\* from 22 balls v Glamorgan at Mote Park with 2 sixes and 7 fours. His 15 wickets were a bit expensive at 35.60 each but at Leicester he took 4 for 19 from 8.1 overs. He also participated in Kent's inaugural five Twenty/20 Zonal matches, scoring 69 runs with a top score of 22 and taking 4 wickets.

When Kent cricketers end their careers, it sometimes seems that most do so amid controversy in one form or another. A bit of an exaggeration of course but it certainly seems to happen more often than with most counties. In Ealham's case, there had been vague rumours about his possible departure in recent years, but it was in October 2003 that the news broke that, despite the scorebook, he would be joining Nottinghamshire.

The story, or perhaps most of it, is told in Clive Ellis & Mark Pennell's *Triumphs and Tribulations* and there is no need to go into it here, but the simple fact remains that he, very much a local boy, had been with the Club since 1989, was 34, fit and had just had one of the best seasons of his career. He had too given his country and country some service. For outsiders the whole affair looked like, at best, sloppy management. Kent's only offer was a one-year contract, Nottinghamshire offered three.

He carried on with Nottinghamshire for another six seasons, contributing 3,209 runs (avge.32.74) with six centuries and 218 wickets (avge.26.73). To this he added 844 runs and 99 wickets in List A matches and 499 runs and 41 wickets in 20/20 to which he adjusted rather quicker than many of his generation. In all formats he held 93 catches.

Unlike his father, he had never won the Championship with Kent and doing so with Nottinghamshire in 2005 must have been rather special, not least perhaps because Fleming, his rival for the captaincy in 1999, had never done so. To rub salt into Kentish wounds Notts were runners-up in 2008 and 2009 and Division Two Champions in 2004. In 2006 he won the Walter Lawrence Trophy for his 45 ball century against MCC at Lord's with seven sixes and 11 fours. In the same year he won the Cricket Society's Wetherall Award as the leading allrounder in first-class cricket. He twice finished top of the Nottinghamshire bowling averages.

In first-class cricket Mark Ealham never reached four figures against any of his opponents but scored over 500 runs against 11 counties, led by Lancashire with 947 runs (avge.33.82), followed by Surrey 750, Leicestershire 748 and Somerset 747. He averaged over 30 against 12 counties led, curiously enough, by the two counties he played both for and against, 365 runs (avge.52.14) in six matches against Kent and 385 runs (avge.42.77) in seven matches against Nottinghamshire. He took part in 45 first-class century partnerships, 31 for Kent, 14 for Nottinghamshire.

In first-class cricket he took 54 wickets against Warwickshire, followed by Lancashire 51, Sussex 47, and Yorkshire 45.

Bowlers who claimed Ealham's wicket most frequently in first-class cricket were -10: Mushtaq Ahmed, 6: G.Keedy, I.D.K.Salisbury, This might provide some sort of evidence of vulnerability to leg spin. Other leg spinner dismissals include R.Dhanraj, D.Kaneria (2), A.Kumble (2), AU.Rashid (2), On the other hand, Ealham never lost his wicket to Shane Warne but dismissed him three times.

Batsmen dismissed most often were – 7: R.D.B.Croft, 6: R.J.Blakey, G.P.Thorpe, Of other prominent batsmen dismissed, apart from those mentioned earlier, his tally included I.R.Bell, S.C.Ganguly, G.A.Gooch, M.L.Hayden, D.L.Haynes, C.L.Hooper, N.Hussain, A.J.Lamb, J.L.Langer, R.T.Ponting, I.V.A.Richards, R.A.Smith, A.J.Stewart (2), M.E.Waugh (2).

Like quite a few Kent cricketers who left the County, Mark Ealham retained his Kentish roots, emulating his father by becoming Coach at King's School Canterbury and coaching part-time for his old County. He played quite a bit of recreational cricket post-retirement, notably for Lashings World Eleven.

In 1996 he married Kirsty M Stennett. Of his two sons, George has played for Surrey Second Eleven 2021, Kent Seconds 2022-2023 and fielded as a substitute in the fifth Test Match at The Oval in 2023 when, due to a keeping error, he was extremely unlucky not to run out Steve Smith.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

### **Brian Robert Edrich (No. 624).**

*Born:* 18. 08.1922, Cantley, Norfolk. *Died:* 31. 05. 2009, Padstow, Cornwall.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1947-1953. Cap 1949.

Parents: William Archer Edrich & Edith Tweddle Edrich (*née* Mattocks)

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	128	220	17	4275	193*	21.05	4	14	96
<b>Overall</b>	181	302	25	5529	193*	19.96	4	17	130

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9299	340	4534	137	33.09	7-41	4	0
<b>Overall</b>	9347	343	4546	137	33.18	7-41	4	0

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Overall</b>	2	2	0	34	30	17.00	0	0	0

#### Bowling

Did not bowl

A member of one of cricket's most illustrious families, Brian Edrich was youngest of four brothers all of whom played county cricket. His father and grandfather, both farmers, were good club cricketers as were several uncles. One uncle played for Norfolk; an aunt captained the Norfolk ladies' team and an All-Edrich Eleven often took the field, notably against Lord's Taverners at Lord's in 1964.

At one time considered the most promising of the clan, in the event Brian never approached the class of elder brother Bill or cousin John but he was a useful allrounder whose career was, like so many others, blighted by the Second World War. There were spells of brilliance, but he only briefly acquired the consistency necessary for county cricket. A suspect defence and a tendency to overdo the sweep were often his undoing and he was prone to muscle strains. Nor did the arrival of the amateurs in August help his cause. With Ray Dovey and Jack Davies ahead of him in the off spin pecking order, frequently he was reserved for third or fourth change.

At 14 Brian left school to learn to train greyhounds but by 16 he had earned a place alongside brother Eric in the Heacham (near Hunstanton) first team. News of his promise travelled and in 1939 he was taken on the Kent staff. He had played ten Second Eleven matches with a top score of 33 and claimed 11 wickets when war halted further progress.

His father was now farming in Buckinghamshire and after the outbreak of war Brian returned to the farm. As well as farm work, he was for a short period employed on airfield construction. In his leisure time he played cricket for Buckingham. In March 1942, like thousands of RAF recruits, he joined the RAF at Lord's cricket ground where in June 1941 the Nursery Ground and most of the buildings had been requisitioned by the Air Ministry although the main playing area remained sacrosanct.

In April 1942 he began his aircrew training at Paignton and by July was at Shillingford where he first encountered the RAF's basic trainer, the Tiger Moth. In September he sailed for Canada in the *Queen Mary* and by October had started advanced training in American and Canadian-built Harvards at Moncton, New Brunswick. In November he made his first solo flight and in January 1943, now stationed at Medicine Hat, Alberta, he was awarded his Wings.

In June 1943 he was back in England where he underwent further training in Miles Masters. In January 1944 he was posted to India where he joined an Operational Training unit flying the American-built Vultee Vengeance, the only purpose-built dive bomber ever to see service with the RAF, but only used operationally in India and Burma. In September 1944 he was posted to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), where he flew Supermarine Walrus and Sea Otter amphibians on air-sea-rescue duties. He remained on air-sea-rescue until and beyond the Japanese surrender, his last duties being in clear-up duties on the numerous wartime airfields and air strips. He returned to England in 1946.

Thanks to his involvement with agriculture, he was able to qualify for 'B' class i.e. early demobilisation and left the RAF in 1946 with the rank of Warrant Officer. As a consequence of his early release, it was back to farming in 1946 and it was 1947 before he could re-join Kent on a full-time basis. Even so, Kent insisted on another trial.

Drafted straight into the first team he scored 24 against Derbyshire at Canterbury but in his first two seasons his top score was 47 and he failed to reach double figures in 21 of his first 50 innings. His bowling was little used in 1947 but in 1948 he claimed 30 wickets, twice five in an innings. For the Second Eleven he hit 147 against Gloucestershire at Broadstairs in 1948 but remained inconsistent.

The 1949 season was similar until June when he took 7 for 41 at Southampton and followed with an extraordinary run of success in Tunbridge Wells Week. Against Sussex he hit a personal best 60 and dwarfed it in the second innings with 193\*. With the ball turning and lifting, he batted 205 minutes, hit 29 fours and added 161 in 70 minutes for the ninth-wicket with Fred Ridgway (89) in what a local paper described as 'the finest display of hitting seen on a Kent ground for years. In the second match, against Gloucestershire he failed with the bat but took 7 for 64 in 29 overs and received his county cap. In both matches he was on the losing side.

Still consistency eluded him until 1951 when he began with a duck but ended with 1,267 runs (avge.26.39), two centuries, 113 v Minor Counties at Canterbury and 104 at Swansea, plus 90 at Bath, two 50s v Worcestershire at Gravesend and four other half-centuries as well as 49 wickets (avge.26, 24) and 24 catches. Next year he missed a lot of cricket due to a broken finger and a persistent shoulder injury but in seventeen games he scored 816 runs (avge.31.38). In scoring 110 against Glamorgan at Gravesend, he shared a partnership of 221 in a little of three hours with Dickie Mayes (106).

In 1953 his form declined again. He only twice passed 50, failed to reach double figures 14 times and a shoulder injury allowed him to bowl only occasionally. At the end of the season Kent dispensed with his services.

Wilf Wooller was not the easiest of men to impress but via brother Bill, Brian was approached by Glamorgan and offered a contract. After three relatively disappointing seasons he became Glamorgan's assistant coach and combined his duties with club cricket in South Wales. In 1964 he became coach at St Edward's Oxford and from 1966 to 1971 played for Oxfordshire in the Minor Counties Championship and Gillette Cup. He averaged over 50 in 1966 and scored his last century in 1969.

In 1947 he married Josephine Wheeler (1925-2010) and in 1964 Jane Jeffcott. On retirement he settled in Cornwall where he had spent many happy holidays with his second wife.

Further Reading.

Barker, Ralph. *The Cricketing Family Edrich*, (Pelham Books, 1976)

**Richard Mark Ellison (No. 727).**

*Born:* 21.09.1959, Willesborough, Ashford.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium-fast bowler.

Kent 1981-1993 Cap 1983.

Educated: Friars Preparatory School, Tonbridge, Exeter University.

Wisden Cricketer of the Year 1986

Parents: Peter Richard Maxwell, Bridget Mary (nee Horton).

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	176	238	65	4274	108	24.70	1	19	76
<b>England</b>	11	16	1	202	41	13.46	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	207	284	72	5046	108	23.80	1	21	86

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	24728	1022	11412	393	29.03	7-33	14	1
<b>England</b>	2264	90	1048	35	29.94	6-77	3	1
<b>Overall</b>	30046	1221	13773	475	28.99	7-33	18	2

### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	156	120	48	1851	84	25.70	0	4	24
<b>England</b>	14	12	4	86	24	10.75	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	176	136	56	1967	84	24.58	0	4	27

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6918	124	4552	174	26.16	4-19	0	3.94
<b>England</b>	696	9	510	12	42.50	3-42	0	4.39
<b>Overall</b>	7920	136	5320	188	28.29	4-19	0	4.03

Richard Ellison's debut was unforgettable. Replacing John Shepherd for the second match of Canterbury week against Hampshire he had just come in when Kent's eighth wicket fell and he was joined by Derek Underwood. Soon Ellison was driving Marshall to the boundary and a voice from the back of a tent near the tree compared the bulky newcomer to WG. Ellison and Underwood added 108, both reaching fifties, before Underwood ran himself out. Ellison made another unbeaten fifty in his next match at Cheltenham, swiftly followed by another (61\* out of 186, batting now at number seven) at Folkestone. He finished the season averaging 47.40 (his highest ever), though with only four wickets in his seven matches.

As a seven-year-old he had taken eight for 3 for his school (by, he said, simply bowling straight). After his father died later that year, his mother married again, his school headmaster, John Lendrum, and Ellison was encouraged to keep playing cricket (and other sports). He was in the Tonbridge First XI for four years, captained in his first year by Chris Cowdrey and captain himself for the last two. Alan Dixon taught him about swing bowling saying, 'I have never seen a more enthusiastic cricketer'.

On his recommendation, Ellison had a trial at Kent aged 16, taking wickets but already showing signs of back trouble. In his final year at school, he scored 746 runs (up from 423) and took 32 wickets (down from 43).

In 1979, on a match-to-match contract at Kent, he batted at four and took just five wickets (Kent's main prospects, Kemp and Spelman, took 36 and 31 respectively) then went to Exeter University joining Paul Downton who by then had toured with England and finished his Kent career. Ellison joined Kent in 1980 (118 against Middlesex Second XI) making his first-class debut in 1981. He graduated with a PE degree in 1982 and played seven matches for Kent (179 runs and 16 wickets).

1983 was Ellison's first full season for Kent. He made only 343 runs (average 24.50) but his opportunities were severely limited. Only once, (when Kent rested players before the Nat West final), did he bat higher than eight or nine. By contrast, he usually opened the bowling taking 51 wickets at 29.23, his best figures five for 73 v Lancashire in a high-scoring draw at Maidstone. He won two one day matches with three wickets in the final over, including a hat trick in the Nat West at Chelmsford. Unfortunately, though steady, he was wicketless, as Kent lost the final to Somerset.

The following year Ellison took 53 wickets for Kent at just 21.18. He also scored what was to be his only first class hundred, 108 v Oxford University in June (after being 'caught' off a no ball when on 99). He made 546 runs for Kent at 23.73, his aggregate, if not his average, benefitting from batting at six or seven. He also took 31 one-day wickets at 20.61 but sadly the clearest memory is Ellison's final over in the gloom and rain at Lord's in the Nat West Final (Middlesex won off the last ball).

More happily, 1984 saw Ellison's debut for England. His season-best figures (five for 27, match figures nine for 62) had come in the second match v Essex on an unusually green Canterbury pitch. He did not take five wickets in an innings again that season but was consistent enough to be picked for the final Test against the West Indies (who had won the first four). England lost again but Ellison had match figures of five for 94 (his victims, Gomes twice, Marshall, Lloyd and Dujon). Ellison had little success with the ball in the one-off Test against Sri Lanka but (after nearly being out twice without scoring) he made what was to be his highest Test score (41), adding 87 for the sixth wicket with Allan Lamb.

Ellison played all four first class matches before the first Test on that winter's tour to India. He took only four wickets but made 83\* batting at number six at Jaipur, adding 115 with Vic Marks. He went wicketless in the first Test as England lost, but in England's win in the second Test took four (Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Kirmani and Prabhakar) for 66. His heroic performance in the next Test (53 overs for 117 in the heat of Eden Gardens) helped England earn a draw as India's innings stretched into the fourth day but Neil Foster replaced him for the next Test (taking eleven wickets) and Ellison missed the next five Test matches.

Ellison's great season of 1985 did not begin well. He fell and tore his ankle ligaments on a wet Canterbury outfield before the season started and his first appearance was not until 22nd May at Northampton. He made 71 and, with the score 112-8, added a county record, 136 for the ninth wicket with Kent's number 10 (Alan Knott!) who made 87\*. However, his captain and friend, Chris Cowdrey, felt he was overweight and threatened to drop him. Ellison gave up the beer, improved his diet and lost a stone. His fitness and bowling speed increased, and he took nine for 92 against Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells (though Kent lost the next three matches not reaching 200 in six innings). They were 171-8 in the next match against Nottinghamshire but reached 258 thanks to what proved to be Ellison's highest ever championship score (98). He added 74 with Derek Underwood. He followed with a career best six for 51 against Essex at Chelmsford, soon bettered by seven for 87 (match figures 11-164) in Kent's win against Northamptonshire at Maidstone.

Ellison was recalled for the fifth Test at Edgbaston. He spent the week leading up to the Test with a chest infection but (still on antibiotics) had a spell of four for 12 and finished with six for 77 as Australia were dismissed for 335. England declared 260 ahead and that evening Ellison took four for one in 15 balls as Australia collapsed to 37-5. He finished with match figures of ten for 104.

*Wisden* called it his 'coming of age as a Test bowler', *The Times* said the crowd 'warmed to this big, shambling hirsute fellow', 'Richard the Lionheart' screamed *The Mirror*. The next week he played for Kent against the Australians. Cheered wherever he walked, he took three cheap wickets before being rested, his mystique intact. In the final Test England collapsed from 371-1 to 464 but, dismissed for 241 (Ellison two for 35), Australia followed on. Only Allan Border resisted but after having him dropped Ellison dismissed him for the third time in four innings and finished with five for 46. Australia were all out for 129 losing by an innings. Ellison ended the season top of the England and the first-class bowling averages, then getting married.



He was an obvious choice as (1986) *Wisden* Cricketer of the Year. His batting 'a potential still to be fulfilled' never was and within two months of publication he had played his last Test for England. His tour of West Indies that spring had started well, five for 77 'the product of persevering accuracy' in the first Test but he took only two more wickets in the series as England suffered another 'blackwash'. He went into his last Test at Lord's with a mere two wickets in the season (both over five weeks before). Ellison finished the season with a disappointing 23 wickets (average 47.95) and cannot have been close to selection for the tour to Australia as Botham returned and the latest 'next Botham' 20-year-old Phil De Freitas took 94 wickets. On the Monday of Canterbury Week he scored 106 out of 149, coming in at 43-7 (Ellison eight overs none for 56), followed by six for 21.

Ellison spent the winter in Australia playing for Tasmania, who finished bottom of the Sheffield Shield, failing to win a game. Ellison performed steadily if not spectacularly (279 runs at 25.23 wickets at 28) but this was overshadowed by a back injury that forced him to miss the whole 1987 season.

He returned in 1988 for one final fine season as he 'struggled through pain' to take 71 wickets at 23.90 (although a disappointing 345 runs at 16.42) helping Kent to the runners-up spot. Like so many, Ellison benefitted from the coaching and man-management of that magnificent coach John Inverarity. In his third championship game back, against Nottinghamshire at Dartford, Ellison had new career best figures of seven for 75. At Folkestone he took six for 99 against Worcestershire (who were to win the title by one point ahead of Kent), gaining plenty of movement in humid conditions.

1989 was much more of a struggle for Kent and Ellison. The team slipped from 2nd to 15th in the championship and Ellison, playing 12 matches, took just 29 wickets (although he still topped the county averages). With no prospect of an England recall, Ellison chose to go on the ill-judged last rebel tour to South Africa. With the apartheid regime rapidly crumbling, the tour was called off after six weeks and the tour planned the following year abandoned. Ellison earned an estimated £60 000 (and, for the record, scored 50 runs and took six wickets.)

In the hot, batsman-friendly conditions in 1990 Ellison took a modest 19 wickets (at 50.68). For Christopher Martin-Jenkins, comparing his bowling to 1985, it was 'like watching a conjuror who had lost his dexterity'. At least Ellison did better with the bat, averaging nearly 40. His best performances came in the four-day fixtures at the start and end of the season, 81 at Folkestone against Sussex (when Kent batted for 187.1 overs) and (after successive Second XI hundreds at Folkestone and Leamington Spa) 44\* and 68\* in two Kent scores of over 400 against Essex at Chelmsford.

1991 was much better with 47 wickets (although his batting average dropped to 21). He still suffered sometimes from back pain but his bowling action and ability to swing the ball seemed to improve. In 'Marsh's match' against Middlesex at Lords he made 60 of a partnership of 145 as Marsh reached his century and took nine wickets in the match. Four of Marsh's eight catches in the first innings were from Ellison's bowling. The next game, in a single spell of 14 overs, he took a career best seven for 33 against Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells.

1992 started well with five for 77 (and two for 7) v Durham and six for 95 v Essex (in a total of 526) but afterwards he took a meagre 16 wickets at over 60. His two fifties came against Cambridge University and Gloucestershire declaration bowling and he made only one other score of over 30. He played in only six of Kent's 29 one-day matches. In 1993 (his benefit year which raised £190 000) he played a mere three first-class games (no one-day games). His last appearance was against the Australians, his last wickets were good ones, Taylor and Hayden. Ellison had become a regular for the Second XI team (scoring 101 v Yorkshire) and captained them in 1994, his last season at Kent.

The following year Ellison joined Millfield school as a PE teacher, going on to become a Housemaster. 'I try my best to teach them decent manners, as well as support and discipline them'. He also became a Cricket Liaison officer in 2017 supporting umpires and groundsmen and in 2020 a match referee. He is also to be found in the pavilion at Lord's, enjoying three of life's great pleasures, cricket-watching, beer and friendship.

He played most often against Essex, (16 times), and took most wickets against them (42, average 25.76). Not surprisingly, for a (mainly out) swing bowler, over two thirds of his victims (325/475) were caught, 41 by Marsh, 36 by Knott. In Tests, the figure was even higher (27/35). Alec Stewart (seven) was his most frequent first-class victim, John Emburey (six) dismissed him most often. Ellison never averaged 40 with the bat after his first season. Bowlers perhaps learnt not to feed his drive. He was not a great starter with 94 (44%) of his dismissals being for single figures. When he did get a start, he was frequently left not out including 10 of his 21 fifties - in only two of them was he batting in the top six. Like many, his record would probably have improved if he had batted higher up the order.

There were disappointments in Ellison's career. He suffered ongoing problems with his back, his batting never reached its potential, he never won a trophy, his spell at the top was over almost as soon as it begun. Yet, given at 16 he intended to join the Royal Marines but was prevented from doing that by back problems (even then) we should be grateful for, and admire, all he achieved as a cricketer, over many years for Kent and, briefly but gloriously, for England.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

*John Winniffrith.*

### **Richard Burtenshaw Elms (No. 707).**

Born: 05.04. 1949, Sutton, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1970-1976.

Educated: Bexleyheath-Erith Technical High School.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	55	57	19	362	31*	9.52	0	0	10
<b>Overall</b>	72	73	23	558	48	11.16	0	0	17

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6784	223	3591	89	40.34	5-38	4	0
<b>Overall</b>	8672	293	4606	116	39.70	5-38	4	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	46	17	6	71	19	6.45	0	0	7
<b>Overall</b>	54	19	8	77	19	7.00	0	0	11

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1980	25	1378	45	30.62	3-27	0	4.17
<b>Overall</b>	2298	30	1606	52	30.88	3-27	0	4.19

Like a disproportionately large number of his type, Richard Elms failed to live up to his perceived potential. He worked hard and on occasions looked a high-class performer but, as so often with exponents of left-arm over the wicket, pace, length and direction too often deserted him. Following 5 for 14 for Kent Club & Ground v Gravesend AEI in 1967, he made his Second Eleven debut in the same

season. For the Seconds next year, he had match figures of 8 for 49 against Worcestershire at Greenwich and 10 for 106 v Gloucestershire/Somerset at Bristol. In 1969 he was second highest Second Eleven wicket taker with 36 at 20.11.

His first team debut against Hampshire in 1970 – 2 for 38 and 2 for 50, all top order batsman – was promising but injury ruled him out for most of the season and, although given seven first team matches in 1971, his eight wickets cost over 40 runs each.

He continued to take wickets in the Second team but despite the departure of main rival John Dye, not until 1972 did he gain an extended run with the seniors. In 18 matches he claimed 32 wickets (plus seven in the John Player League) but again the cost was over 40 per wicket. He began well with 4 for 46 v the New Zealanders at Canterbury, 5 for 62 v Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells and 5 for 38 at Lord's where, opening the bowling with fellow left-armers Bernard Julien (4 for 62), Middlesex were bowled out for 136, Julien's departure for Test duty halfway through the season provided a chance to cement his place but from mid-June he claimed only 13 wickets in 12 matches.

In 1974, with Julien often out of the side through injury, there was still a vacancy for a left-arm opening bowler but again Elms failed to take his chance. Late in the season he took 5 for 76 against Northants at Folkestone but he finished with only 23 wickets at 37.82 plus ten rather cheaper in the Sunday League.

He stayed on for a further two seasons but never did enough to secure his place in the side. There were occasional successes, e.g., v Worcestershire at Maidstone in 1975 where he contributed hugely to Kent's two wicket victory with 3 for 66. 5-64 and 31\*, sharing a crucial ninth-wicket partnership of 85 with Charles Rowe (74). Two seasons, 1977-78, with Hampshire were no more productive.

There were some among the Kent faithful who considered Richard Elms might have achieved more as a batsman. Three-day cricket seldom left much scope for tailenders but in addition to his effort against Worcestershire referred to above, he participated in several valuable late order partnerships. At Maidstone in 1976, when the Hampshire spinners Peter Sainsbury and John Southern were in complete control on a deteriorating wicket, he shared eighth-wicket partnerships of 74 and 43 with Alan Knott and, although scoring only 14 and 17 he displayed an immaculate technique against the turning ball with a remarkable ability to see the ball early and play it late.

For the Second Eleven that year he hit 87, batting number nine against Sussex at Eastbourne and, promoted up the order, hit 111 and 129\* v Middlesex at Chiswick, 73 v Sussex at Aylesford, 80 v Essex at Dartford and 78 v Surrey at Beckenham and ended top of the averages with 613 runs (avge.76.62). Nevertheless, he departed for Hampshire at the end of the season.

#### **Paul Farbrace (No. 742).**

*Born:* 07.07.1967, Ash-next-Sandwich

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1987-1989.

Educated: Geoffrey Chaucer School, Canterbury,

Parents: David & Betty Farbrace.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	8	12	3	193	75*	21.44	0	1	18/2
<b>Overall</b>	40	50	11	711	79	18.23	0	4	89/12

##### **Bowling**

<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl					
<b>Overall</b>	31	1	64	1	64.00	1-64

### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	2	1	5	4	5.00	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	28	20	6	160	26*	11.42	0	0	18/12

### Bowling

Did not bowl

Paul Farbrace progressed through the Kent Schools system, toured British Columbia with the under-17 side in 1983 and joined the Kent staff in 1986. In his first season he kept in every one of Kent's Second Eleven Championship matches as well as in the one-day Bain Dawes Trophy and the Warwick Pool Under-25 competition. He also captained the Kent Colts side, leading, according to the annual report, 'with good sense and good humour – a model young professional, proud of his trade and keen to help others'. His wicketkeeping was judged 'impeccable'.

In 1987 he made the first of five first team appearances as Steve Marsh's deputy, against Pakistan at St Lawrence. On his third, against Yorkshire, also at Canterbury, he achieved what proved to be his highest for Kent, 75\*. Coming in at 200 for 8, he saw the score to 301, adding 77 for the last wicket with Derek Underwood (18). As is generally the case with reserve keepers, first team opportunities were infrequent. Over the next two seasons he played only three first-class and one List A match and although for the second team he continued to perform well, both behind the stumps and with the bat – in 1989 he hit 106\* v Somerset Second Eleven at Yeovil – in 1990 he joined Middlesex.

Unfortunately, the move was not an unqualified success. Although he maintained a high standard behind the stumps – in 1991 he caught 46 and stumped 8 in all first class matches – the heresy of choosing wicketkeepers primarily for their batting was beginning to take hold and he lost his place to Keith Brown who up till then had been in the side for his batting. From 1992 to 1995 Farbrace made only eight first team appearances, four of them against universities.

There followed a career in coaching. He coached the England Under 19 side, the England Women's team and from 2004 to 2007 he was Director of the Kent Cricket Academy. In July 2007 he became Assistant Coach to the Sri Lankan national team and in 2009 suffered minor wounds in the terrorist attack on the team bus at Lahore. In late 2009 he succeeded Graham Ford as Kent's Director of Cricket.

In 2012 he left Kent and had one season as Second Eleven coach with Yorkshire before returning to Sri Lanka as coach. In 2014 he became England's Assistant coach, originally with Peter Moores and then Trevor Bayliss with whom he had worked during his first spell in Sri Lanka. In 2019 he became Sports Director with Warwickshire and in 2022 Head coach with Sussex.

As a goalkeeper, Farbrace played for Kent Youth, Kent schoolboys and had a trial for England at Schools levels. Before opting for a career in cricket, he kept goal for Deal Town and had a trial for Coventry City.

### Group Captain Maurice David Fenner (No.652).

*Born:* 16. 02.1929, Linton, *Died:* 05. 04. 2015, Ashford.

Left-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1951-1954. Second Eleven Cap 1952.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School.

Parents: George David Fenner & Harriet Ethel Pryer (née Stevens).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	14	21	1	264	55	13.20	0	1	14/8
<b>Overall</b>	33	54	6	708	77	14.75	0	2	47/13

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	5	0	1	1	1.00	1-1		

Maurice Fenner came to Kent for a trial in 1946 and, well coached by his father George (*qv*), he was considered a 'useful bat and wicketkeeper'. Playing three Second Eleven matches in that first post-war season he was offered an engagement but decided instead to continue his education. In the event, he opted for a career in the RAF, retiring with the rank of Group Captain.

A talented wicketkeeper who gained a high proportion of his dismissals by stumping, between 1947 and 1954 Maurice Fenner played 14 first team and 18 Second team matches for Kent, usually keeping wicket but on occasions for the Seconds playing as a batsman. His best effort for Kent in first-class cricket, 55 at Dover, was top score against the Somerset spinners on a turning wicket. He twice passed 50 in Minor Counties Championship cricket, including 51 against Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe in the 1952 Championship Challenge match. Opening the batting against Norfolk at Canterbury in 1951, he was twice dismissed for 49.

Most of Fenner's cricket was for the RAF and for Combined Services. His first-class debut was for Combined Services against Warwickshire at Edgbaston in 1949 while still an officer cadet and he played his last game for the RAF as a Squadron Leader in 1969.

When hitting his personal best of 77 for Combined Services v Notts at Trent Bridge in 1961 he added 162 for the first wicket with Gerald Tordoff (131). In 1951 he hit 100\* for the RAF in a non-first-class fixture with Worcestershire and followed with 56 and 94\* against Royal Navy at Lord's. Four years later he scored 97\* and took five catches in an innings against Northants at Wantage Road. He also scored 97 for RAF v Royal Navy at Lord's in 1962. In 1953 when the Australians totalled 592-4 declared against Combined Services at Kingston-upon-Thames, Fenner allowed only seven byes.

National Service did much to raise the standard of services cricket. While Fenner was able to hone his wicketkeeping technique keeping to the likes of Fred Trueman, Terry Spencer, Ray Illingworth, Fred Titmus, David Allen, 'Bomber' Wells etc., he often relinquished the gloves to future England wicketkeepers Keith Andrew and Roy Swetman. Officially RAF vice-captain, he captained both RAF and Combined Services teams

On retiring from the RAF, Fenner was Secretary of Kent CCC from 1977 to 1982.

## Edward William Joseph Fillyard (No. 694).

*Born:* 14. 04.1944, Heathfield, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1963-1966.

Educated: St Lawrence, Ramsgate & Oriel College, Oxford.

Parents: Valentine Patrick Fleming & Elizabeth Helen Fleming (née Gibb).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	13	24	4	387	46	19.35	0	0	6
<b>Overall</b>	45	83	11	1371	75	19.04	0	3	24

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	980	26	556	15	37.06	5-52	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	3899	123	2163	82	26.37	6-77	5	0

The son of a Broadstairs hotelier who had played for Bexleyheath, Ted Fillary was an outstanding cricketer at St Lawrence, Ramsgate, three years in the Eleven and captain in 1961-1962. He represented Public Schools v Combined Services at Lord's in 1961-62, in the latter year Southern Schools v the Rest and in 1962 he scored 869 runs (avge.96.55) and claimed 55 wickets (avge.9.76) with his leg breaks and googlies. In *Wisden* the notoriously curmudgeonly Lynn Wellings wrote 'I cannot recall seeing a boy who imparted such vicious spin'. He had already made his mark in Kent cricket aged 16 with 5 for 59 for AKCC v Essex Young Amateurs at Woodford.

At Oxford, he won his Blue as a Freshman, taking 4 for 27 against Gloucestershire on his debut, 5 for 72 against Notts and 5 for 79 v Warwickshire and ended the season top of the averages with 33 wickets (avge.21.87). Against Cambridge, called on as fourth change with the score 217 for 7, he took two of the last three wickets in 21 balls at a personal cost of three runs and followed with 6 for 77 in the second innings. He was less successful in 1964 but 20 wickets made him second highest wicket taker. Exams occupied much of his time in 1965 but he took 14 wickets in five matches and was again awarded his Blue. Although never living up to his schoolboy promise as a batsman, he was useful, particularly when opening. Possibly his most valuable effort was against Cambridge at Lord's in 1964 where he checked a collapse, batting two hours for 35. He also represented the university at hockey.

When Ted Fillary made his Second team debut in 1961, Kent already had a leg-spinner, David Baker (*q.v.*), and by the time he got his chance in the first team, county coaches and captains, almost to a man, tended to look upon wrist spin with deep suspicion, Derek Underwood was in the process of taking 100 wickets in his first season and with Alan Dixon already established and Peter Jones a useful change, another spinner of whatever type was clearly a luxury unless he was a genuine batsman all-rounder.

Fillary probably never did quite enough either with bat or ball but he had his days. Against Yorkshire on a spinners' wicket at Dover in 1964 he carried his bat for 28, scored in three hours in a total of 146, and against the Australians at Canterbury that year scored 46 in an opening partnership of 164 with Peter Richardson (111), but throughout his county career he only three times exceeded 30. His 5 for 52 against Middlesex in 1964 was a significant contribution to Kent's nine-wicket victory and in the same year he finished off the match at Taunton with 3 for 11 in fourteen balls but, though he would probably have benefited from more bowling, on results he was rarely more than a useful change.

In 48 Second Eleven matches between 1961 and 1967 he hit three 90s, ten other scores over 50 and twice scored over 700 runs in a season but took only 29 wickets. In that period, he bowled a mere 407 overs and there seems little doubt that, given that the purpose of Second team cricket is to develop players for the first team, he was surely seriously under-bowled. The second team captain, later coach, Colin Page, more than once bowled his own off spin before calling on Fillary

After Kent dispensed with his services in 1967, Ted Fillary went into business and subsequently emigrated to South Africa.

### **Matthew Valentine Fleming (No. 748).**

*Born:* 12. 12.1964, Macclesfield, Cheshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium-pace bowler.

Kent 1988-2002. Cap 1990.

County captain 1999-2002.

President of MCC: 2016.

Educated: St. Aubyn's School, Rottingdean, Eton College & RMA Sandhurst.  
Parents: Valentine & Elizabeth Fleming.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	219	348	43	9206	138	30.18	11	42	83

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	22292	845	10415	290	35.91	5-51	2	0

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	302	270	30	5993	125	24.97	4	28	80
<b>England</b>	11	10	1	139	33	15.44	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	314	281	32	6161	125	24.74	4	28	81

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11746	80	9240	360	25.66	5-27	3	4.71
<b>England</b>	523	3	434	17	25.52	4-45	0	4.97
<b>Overall</b>	12299	84	9696	377	25.71	5-27	3	4.73

Eton, a short service commission, the RMA Sandhurst, an elite infantry regiment, the Royal Greenjackets as they then were, allied to a distinguished family background in business, always made it likely that Matthew Fleming might make his mark in the world. As far as cricket is concerned, his great-grandfather, Charles Leslie (Rugby, Oxford University, Middlesex & England), toured Australia with the Hon. Ivo Bligh in the inaugural Ashes series and scored 54 in the Second Test at Melbourne in 1883 while several of the family found fame in the wider world, notably a great-uncle, Ian Fleming, not only had a distinguished career in Naval Intelligence, but made his mark as a novelist and creator of James Bond.

If his international career as a cricketer never quite took off when his turn came, Matthew Fleming undoubtedly made a considerable impact, not only on Kent cricket but notably as Chairman of the Professional Cricketer's Association, as an MCC Committee member since 2005, a Trustee and President of MCC in 2016.

Always outstanding in the field, as a batsman he could be brilliant, with a straightforward, no-frills technique and capable of turning a game in half an hour, even if his attacking instincts could sometimes lapse into rashness, less so some thought once he became Kent captain. Although for Kent a little over 35% of his innings in first-class and 38% in limited overs cricket ended in single figures there were 15 centuries and 70 half-centuries in all first team matches, many of them scored at over a run a ball.

With the ball he lacked the day-in-day-out control of the typical English county medium pacer but on occasions could be devastating, especially in limited overs cricket where he could be a match-winner. In the longer game, especially against top class players, he could sometimes seem innocuous but of Fleming it might be said that, on his day, the whole was often substantially greater than the sum of the parts.

Coached at Eton by the distinguished Warwickshire & Hampshire bowler of the 1940s and 50s, Vic Cannings, Fleming was two years in the Eleven, opening the batting and in 1982 heading both batting and bowling averages. In the following year he made his Second Eleven debut for Kent against Surrey at Orpington, making four appearances in all with a top score of 27 in the second innings of his debut. He also appeared twice for Kent in the Warwick Pool Under 25 competition (50 overs) and once in the South Eastern Counties Under 25 competition (55 overs). Apart from games for Kent, at Arundel in early May he opened the batting for Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's Eleven against Minor Counties where he played alongside some exalted company, including Colin Cowdrey.

In 1984 he began with 91 for Kent Seconds against Essex at Leyton, making eight appearances in all including 89 against Lancashire and picking up useful wickets. He also played eight one-day under 25 matches and hit 64 for the Club & Ground v an Army Eleven at Woolwich Barracks, a venue with which Fleming would shortly become familiar.

Despite Fleming having averaged 29 for the Seconds, Colin Page (*q.v.*) in his Second Eleven report in the 1985 Annual sounded a rather unusual, not to mention slightly discordant, note – ‘Of the younger batsmen, Matthew Fleming did extremely well and at one stage it was suggested we might offer him a contract for the 1985 season. But after discussions it was felt we have so many players of this type it was not really fair to him or the Club.’ There followed reference to trials at Worcester and concluded with ‘best of luck with his future career’. In the Club minutes in the same year Fleming was ‘not yet a potential first-class cricketer’.

If memory serves, to outsiders the suggestion that there were ‘so many players of this type’ did not at the time seem particularly obvious. Apart from the two younger Cowdreys and Bob Woolmer, who was coming to the close of his career, few names come readily to mind, although they certainly would within a few years with the arrival of two genuine like- for like- all round cricketers – Mark Ealham and Vince Wells.

If there was a trial with Worcester, nothing came of it and by the start of the 1985 season he was at Sandhurst. After Sandhurst, for the next four years he served with his regiment in Germany, Hong Kong and in Northern Ireland where ‘the troubles’ rumbled on. He spent his 21st birthday with his platoon on active service in West Belfast.

Between 1985 and August 1988 he played in at least 73 services matches, beginning with a half-century for RMA Sandhurst against the Royal Corps of Signals. Playing mainly for the Army, Combined Services and for the Army Under-25 side, in that period he scored over 3,000 runs with two centuries and 24 half-centuries and took 125 wickets. His two centuries were both for Combined Services, 183 v Oxford University at Portsmouth in 1986 and 106 v Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's Eleven at Arundel in 1988. In the latter year the Army toured Hong Kong, Fleming playing in seven matches, twice reaching the 90s in Hong Kong.

Page's doubts and committee members' misgivings notwithstanding, Kent had seemingly regained (or never wholly lost) their interest in Fleming. When Army commitments allowed, he appeared for the Second Eleven as a ‘non contracted player’. In 1986 he scored 67 opening the batting against Hampshire Seconds at Canterbury, scored three other half centuries and claimed six inexpensive wickets in the two Second Eleven one-day competitions. With fewer opportunities in 1987 he notched another half century, 56\* v Lancashire Seconds at St. Lawrence and again took six cheap wickets.

He played five more Second team matches after resuming civilian life and, more important, in 1988 made his first team debut, v Sussex at Maidstone in the Refuge Assurance League. In all, he scored almost 500 runs in the Second Eleven Championship and averaged over 40 in the 55-over Bain Clarkson Trophy. He joined the staff in the following season.

Making his first-class debut in 1989, at Fenner's against the University, Fleming appeared in eight, fairly evenly spaced, first-class matches with a top score of 45 v Warwickshire at Canterbury as well as



half a dozen expensive wickets. In List A matches, he was almost a regular with 17 appearances which brought a modest 267 runs (avge.19.07) but 16 useful wickets (avge.31.37) including some notable scalps – B.C.Broad, D.L.Haynes, G.A.Hick, M.R.Ramprakash, and D.W.Randall. For the Seconds he scored over 500 runs, but his bowling was surprisingly little used.

If the 1989 season could be fairly described as ‘mixed’ for Fleming, 1990 brought real progress, culminating in September with his County cap. In first-class cricket, on his second appearance he reached 50 for the first time, 53 v Sussex at Folkestone, followed immediately by another, 69 v Middlesex at Lord’s. Two matches later, against Nottinghamshire, at the start of Tunbridge Wells week, came his maiden century.

In a way, the match was typical of Fleming’s early career. Dismissed for one in the first innings and conceding 78 from ten wicketless overs, following on, Kent were 104 for 5 when he came to the wicket. His hundred duly came in 175 minutes with one six and 13 fours and set Kent up with a comfortable draw.

At the season’s end he finished with 980 runs (avge.37.69) which would remain the highest of his first-class career. Among his five half centuries were 76 v Hampshire at Bournemouth, 50 of them in boundaries. At 48.72 each his 22 wickets were costly but his 3 for 65 v Sussex at Hove was his best return to date, In limited overs cricket Fleming’s game was somewhat reversed. His top score was 29\* but only Richard Davis (21) claimed more than Fleming’s 20 wickets (avge.27.35).

Under a new captain, Mark Benson, Fleming again passed 900 first-class runs in 1991, with two hundreds and six half-centuries. Both centuries were, in their different ways, noteworthy. Against West Indies, after three declarations, Kent needed 342 from 70 overs and were 80 for 3 when Fleming joined Graham Cowdrey. Together they added 192 from 34 overs when Fleming was bowled by his *bête noire* Courtney Walsh for 116. There were 3 sixes, including a straight hit off Patrick Patterson, and 16 fours. Kent failed by five runs with two balls remaining.

In the next match, at Taunton, he hit 54 & 59 and against Surrey at Canterbury scored 113 in a little under two hours with 1 six and 17 fours, adding 178 for the fifth-wicket in 33 overs with Benson (142). Against Gloucestershire at Canterbury in August he suffered his first pair but held 14 catches, which remained his highest.

In List A matches Fleming reached his highest return to date, 430 (avge.22.63). He was one of five batsmen tried as opener, doing so seven times with a top score of 44. He hit three half centuries, his highest 77 at Hove in the Refuge Assurance League. It was in the Refuge Assurance League that he achieved his best bowling figures to date – 4 for 45 at Taunton. He finished second highest wicket-taker with 23.

Although never again exceeding 900 in a first-class season, from 1992 until taking over the captaincy in 1999, Fleming’s form remained relatively stable, In first-class cricket his total only once fell below 500, three times exceeding 800 in a season, twice with an average over 30.

Over this period, he scored six hundreds, and 26 half centuries. At Canterbury in 1992. Kent’s Championship victory over Hampshire was all the more satisfying in the light of the painfully remembered Benson & Hedges Final against Hampshire at Lord’s in the previous month. Martin McCague, 8 for 26, was of course the hero of the hour at Canterbury but it was Fleming, coming in at 103 for 4, who set up victory with 100\*, scored out of 149. Against Glamorgan in August he suffered a second pair, again at Canterbury, but redressed the balance somewhat with 3 for 31 & 4 for 63 and closed his season with 24 wickets at 29.00.

Against Essex at Maidstone in 1993 Fleming was 39\* overnight., Next day he was dismissed for exactly 100 after a 120-run sixth wicket partnership with Mark Ealham (32) . There were six half-centuries and with the ball he improved on his previous year with 34 first-class wickets at 31.94.

Fleming had opened at times in List A matches but in 1996, under the captaincy of Steve Marsh deputising for the injured Benson, he opened as a so-called pinch hitter in 11 first-class matches with David Fulton. In the second innings at Grace Road the pair put on 195 (Fulton 88, Fleming 114). Altogether the 11 matches yielded 516 runs (avge.27.15) with, in addition to the century, three half-centuries. The pitch hitting experiment was short-lived and on his return to the middle order he collected an 88 ball hundred at Derby.

In 1997, up to Canterbury Week Fleming had struggled, with a top score of 44 and 13 times departed for under 20. At Canterbury against Essex, he reached his personal highest score, 138, scored from 195 balls with four sixes. In the remainder of the season, he registered four half centuries and with the ball took five in an innings in a first-class match for the first time, 5 for 51 at Trent Bridge, the last three in eight balls. Three matches later he went further - 5 for 55 & 4 for 34 in a losing cause against Durham at Darlington, the first (and last) time he claimed nine in a match. He ended the season with 37 wickets at 30.95.

1998 was a curious first-class season for Fleming in that, with his top score a modest 51, he still managed to finish with 612 runs (avge.23.53). With the ball he had his most prolific season, 38 wickets at 26.52 including 4 for 24 & 3 for 76 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells.

In List A cricket over the same seven-year period, Fleming exceeded 500 runs three times, 661 (avge.28.73) in 1992, 546 (avge.28.73) in 1994, 706 (avge.29.41) in 1996. In the latter year he returned as pinch hitter for the entire one-day season with one century and four half-centuries.

It should perhaps be added that nine times he lost his wicket for single figures but, as the nominated pinch hitter this rather went with the territory. His century, his first in one-day cricket, came at Ilford in the Axa Equity & Law Sunday League, scored from 86 balls with 5 sixes and 11 fours. In the following match, against Yorkshire at Canterbury, after picking up 4 for 13, Fleming struck 63\* with 7 sixes and 3 fours, the 50 coming from 16 balls and, with Ward ( 25\*), shared an unbroken partnership of 90 from 25 balls to give Kent a ten wicket victory.

By 1992 he had become a more than useful component of his county's limited overs attack, never taking fewer than 25 wickets in this period and ending leading wicket-taker in 1997 with 44 at 18.38 each. In successive matches he took 5 for 54 at The Oval and 5 for 27 v Hampshire at Canterbury in successive Benson & Hedges matches and 4 for 56 v Warwickshire in the Quarter Final at Canterbury only to lose to Surrey in the Final. There was some consolation in three Gold Awards.

In September 1997 Fleming played four matches for England under Adam Hollioake, in the International Sixes competition in Hong Kong. This involved Pakistan and Sri Lanka as well as England and the home side. In the 1997/1998 winter came his debut in a List A match overseas, for an England Eleven v Pakistan A at Lahore. and then went on to play in four ODIs in the Singer-Akal Champions Trophy in Sharjah against India, West Indies, Pakistan and West Indies again in the Final. On his ODI debut he took 4 for 45 against India and in the Final contributed to England's victory with 33 (run out) and 3 for 42 including the wicket of his teammate Carl Hooper

Picked for the England party for the ODI section of the 1997/1998 tour of West Indies, he played in all five matches scoring 74 runs with a top score of 28 in the Second ODI at Bridgetown and claiming seven wickets. Three more times he claimed Hooper's wicket. In the 1998 English season he played two more, ODIs, against South Africa, with a top score of 18 and one wicket. This was the end of his international involvement.

It was a disappointing international career, particularly in comparison with his Kent rival Mark Ealham, but he had of course come rather late to international cricket. Of the 19 cricketers who played alongside Fleming in his ODI career, all but Alec Stewart and Jack Russell were younger.

There had been rumours linking Matthew Fleming's name with the captaincy from quite early in his time with Kent but when injury led to Mark Benson's resignation in 1995, Steve Marsh., vice-captain since 1991 and skipper in twelve matches in the previous season, was clearly the logical successor for 1996. There was however by now an influential 'Fleming for captaincy lobby' and his cherished leadership ambitions were pretty much an open secret. Over and above events on the field, Fleming had to some extent enhanced his status within the game when in 1996 he was appointed vice-chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association, becoming Chairman two years later. One way and another, it came as no surprise therefore when at the end of the 1998 season he was appointed captain for 1999.

Although the appointment was hardly unexpected, it was not universally popular, more controversial in its way perhaps than at the time of Chris Cowdrey's appointment. There were a few resignations including long-serving Kent player and committee member Bob Wilson who was also the deposed skipper's son-in-law. There seems little doubt that there were some among the core of regular players who were unhappy about the change-over but there were widely varying versions of what went on, even a few perhaps not altogether unconnected with inverted snobbery. If they have not already done so, readers wishing to dig deeper might like to consult *Trophies & Tribulations* by Clive Ellis & Mark Pennell.

Events on the field began shakily with one win in the first eight Championship fixtures and only one in the first five one day matches. July however brought about a change with successive Championship victories, against Warwickshire at Maidstone, Worcestershire at New Road, Notts at Trent Bridge and Essex at Canterbury and at the end of the season Kent finished fifth. In fact, Kent and Somerset were level on points and equal on playing results but the Westerners finished fourth thanks to their having taken more wickets. In the 45-over CGU National League Kent were third and progressed to the Quarter Finals in the NatWest Trophy.

With 830 runs (avge.39.52) in 1999 Fleming had his best first-class batting season since 1996. In the first innings at Worcester, where the pitch inspectors were summoned, he scored 45 while the rest struggled, and nine Kent players failed to reach double figures. In the second innings he equalled his highest score, 138, his second 50 coming from 30 balls. With Julian Thompson (23\*), 101 were added for the last wicket. He narrowly missed two further centuries, 94 v Glamorgan and 99 v Gloucestershire, both at Canterbury. In the same match he claimed 3 for 59 (3 for 18 in his last 28 balls) but 23 wickets were his lowest return since 1996.

Although averaging over 30 in limited overs cricket, Fleming only once passed 50, 117\* with 13 sixes and 5 fours against Cheshire at Bowden in the third round of the NatWest Trophy. With Nigel Long (123) 226 were added in 134 minutes for the sixth-wicket. In contrast with 1998, he took only 15 wickets in the season.

A thoroughly unsatisfactory season, 2000 was one of the wettest in the memory of most, coupled with an horrendous injury list and Kent came close to losing their First Division status in both the Championship and the Norwich Union National League. At different times Kent were without the services of Dean Headley, Julian Thompson, Ben Phillips, Mark Ealham, Min Patel and Alan Wells, the two first-named permanently as far as the Club was concerned. Fleming himself missed three Championship matches with a torn calf.

For the first time since his debut year Fleming failed to score a first-class half-century but he was not the only one to suffer and 471 runs (avge.29.43) still placed the captain third in the Kent averages. Only three bowlers took more than his 28 first-class wickets at an economical 26.89.

There were two half-centuries in limited overs cricket including the first half-century in Kent's inaugural floodlit match at Canterbury. Kent's victory, against Yorkshire in the Norwich Union National League, was not only decisive in securing Kent's First Division status for another year but also deprived the visitors of the Trophy. Opening the innings, Fleming struck 79 from 85 balls, putting

on 76 for the first wicket-with Marsh (14) who was playing his final match for the County. With the ball he disposed of the Yorkshire middle order with 3 for 19 from nine overs.

Greeted by many with gloomy forecasts of further battles with relegation, 2001 proved to be quite the opposite. First however there was more controversy, Fleming was granted a benefit. By chance, on the day of the announcement, the Fleming family business, the Robert Fleming Investment Bank, was sold to Chase Manhattan Bank for far more than even the most lucrative of cricketers' benefits.

There were mutterings within sections of both membership and press but, although Fleming had not quite followed Asif Iqbal's example by reducing fund-raising functions to the minimum, it was all rather a storm in a tea cup. His was only a peripheral involvement with the Bank, he was, after all, a professional cricketer not a banker, and was by no means the first already well-heeled cricketer to be awarded a benefit. Benefits are granted for long term services to the Club not as a form of income support and, thanks perhaps to a successful season, it seems to have been largely forgotten.

In the Championship Kent won four, lost three, drawn nine which did not look anything remarkable but with five batsmen averaging between 78 and 41 and three bowlers averaging under 25, a haul of 92 bonus points took Kent to third place, their highest since 1997. Although Kent did not progress beyond the zonal stage in the Benson & Hedges and departed from the C & G Trophy in a Quarter Final, they won the Norwich Union League, the first silverware since 1995.

In what turned out to be his final full season, Fleming had a moderate 2001, 393 first-class runs (avge.21.83) with one half-century and 22 wickets (avge.41.36). In the shorter game it was different; He topped the averages with 454 runs (avge.30.26), leading from the front and reverting to pinch hitting mode for ten of the matches. Against Northants at Canterbury in the Norwich Union League he put on 98 for the first wicket with Fulton (39) and was eventually run out for 125. Against Gloucestershire at Bristol in the same competition, when Kent won by one run, Fleming struck 58 and put on 89 for the second wicket at five an over with James Hockley (39), rounding the match off with 5 for 40. Possibly his finest hour was in the floodlit match against Surrey at St. Lawrence when he ran out Ian Ward, Martin Bicknell, Jon Batty and Saqlain Mushtaq, all with direct hits, three in four balls.

Readers wishing to know more of the epic celebration that followed the Norwich Union triumph at the Copthorne Hotel, Birmingham should consult the account in the Clive Ellis/Mark Pennell book already referred to. When the euphoria had passed Fleming decided he had had enough. Despite the on-field success, he was not seemingly *en rapport* with some of the more experienced members of the team. Eventually it was decided that he would remain club captain and run the one-day team for one more year; in first-class cricket the team would be captained by David Fulton.

On Fleming's second first-class match of the 2002 season, he won the Walter Lawrence Trophy, the sixth Kent cricketer to do so, hitting 102 v Sri Lanka at Canterbury, scored from 66 balls with 3 sixes and 12 fours, adding 176 for the sixth-wicket in 20 overs with Geraint Jones (76). For the second year running, Kent finished third in the Championship but Fleming's participation ended at The Oval on June 14th, signing off with 4 for 68. His top score in the Championship that year was 42\* v Yorkshire at Canterbury.

In the one-day competitions Kent finished fifth in the Norwich Union League, lost in the semi-final of the C & G Trophy by five runs and went out of the B & H at the group stage .but Fleming had a good final season Opening in all but two of his 22 matches, he hit six half centuries, with two century opening partnerships, 101 at Worcester (Fleming 68, Key 46) and 100 at Taunton (Fleming 63, Key 42). With the ball he took 4 for 22 v Warwickshire at Canterbury in the Norwich Union, 3 for 4 v Norfolk at Horsford, 3 for 45 v Gloucestershire in the C & G and 3 for 12 v Hampshire in the Benson & Hedges., In all he scored 589 runs (avge.28.05) and claimed 27 wickets (avge.26.48).

Fleming's penultimate appearance, Kent's last home match, against Glamorgan in the Norwich Union National League in front of more than 5,000, was an emotional affair, a tearful one for the main

participant, with banners adorning the players' balcony. Between innings he was presented with a silver salver by the Chairman Carl Openshaw. Untypically in Fleming's career, there was something of an anti-climax, ending in a 4-run defeat, another by 79 runs in the last game at Headingley, signed off with one run and 0 for 58. At the season's end, uniquely probably for a Kent County captain, Fleming was presented with sponsors Shepherd Neame's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Fleming only captained Kent in three seasons and it can be difficult to determine his place in the pantheon of Kent captains. His first-class record of played 50, won 15, places him joint third among the Kent captains of his period, below Fulton and Marsh, level with Benson, with Chris Cowdrey and Alan Ealham below him. In limited-overs cricket his 41 wins out of 78 again places him third, below Benson and Ealham.

Although sometimes categorised as possessing many of the characteristics of the old-time amateur, judging from the Ellis/Pennell book already quoted, Fleming as captain was clearly not one of the easy going, 'back at the hotel in time for breakfast' persuasion. He is critical, sometimes severely critical, of team members - or some of them - for behaviour both off and on the field. More so it seems than his immediate predecessors. The thought occurs that, like one or two other captains of similar vintage, there might have been something to be said for the now long defunct combination of amateur captain guided by a battle-hardened senior pro.

In 2001, as well as providing bottles of champagne to every player who scored a hundred or took five in an innings, after the Norwich Union League triumph Fleming presented every member of the team with a set of silver cufflinks. A similar presentation had been made in 1906 to members of the Kent team who won the Club's first championship and Fleming may have believed the gifts to have come from Lord Harris. The actual presentation had indeed been by Lady Harris but, in truth, according to Club records, it was the Club who had paid for the 18 pairs of gold cufflinks. Three similar presentations after later Championships, 1909 (silver inkstand), 1910 (silver candlesticks) and 1913 (a silver paper knife), were all apparently the gift of the Club. With the amateur/professional distinction now ancient history, Fleming's gift, however well meant, seems to have stuck in a few gullets.

Fleming never came near to scoring a thousand first-class runs against any individual county but there were over 500 against seven counties, led by Essex 640 (avge.40.00 including two centuries) and Middlesex 609 (avge.40.60).

The most successful bowlers against Fleming (first-class only) were C.A.Walsh 9, I.D.K.Salisbury 6, S.J.E.Brown, P.A.J de Freitas, C.E.W.Silverwood, N.F.Williams 5. The batsman dismissed most frequently by him in first-class cricket was P.R.Prichard (6). No other batsman was dismissed more than four times, among whom M.P.Vaughan was the most notable.

When Fleming was nominated President of MCC in 2016 he was the youngest President since Peter May in 1980. As well as a Trustee, he was MCC representative with Afghanistan, a difficult assignment at the time and immeasurably more so now. Among his extensive business interests, he is a partner with Stonehage Fleming. In his young days he was a considerable footballer, given a trial at England Under-Eighteen level as goalkeeper and there was professional interest at both Coventry City and Notts County.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

**James Antony Ford (No: 773).**

*Born:* 30.03.1976, Pembury.

Right-handed batsman, slow-left arm bowler.

Kent 1996.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Durham University.

Parents: Christopher & Jane Ford.

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	0							

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	68	1	54	0				

**List A Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	4	4	0	63	38	15.75	0	0	2

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	30	0	27	0				5.40

In the Tonbridge Eleven from 1992 to 1994, Jamie Ford impressed with Kent Colts and as a member of the AKCC Under- 19 side which won the NAYC Festival Trophy before going on to a highly successful first season for Kent Second Eleven in 1995. Beginning with 125 v Glamorgan Seconds on debut at St Lawrence, he hit 105 v Northants at Wellingborough and 212 v Derbyshire at Mote Park as well as 98 v Sussex at Hove in a Bain Hogg limited overs match. Despite a spell of three successive ducks, he finished with over 800 runs in the two competitions. `

Following this promising start, in 1996 Ford played what proved to be his only first-class match, v Oxford University at Canterbury. Unfortunately, the game was ruined by rain and his participation was limited to fielding and a short spell of bowling. He joined the full-time staff in 1997 but, although he enjoyed some further success in Second team matches and with Holmesdale, at the end of the 1999 season he left to take up a career in business management consultancy.

**David Paul Fulton (No. 760).**

*Born:* 15. 11. 1971, Lewisham, London.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler, occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1992-2006. Cap 1998.

County captain 2003-2005.

Educated: Judd School Tonbridge and the University of Kent,

Parents: John & Ann Fulton.

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	199	350	19	12049	208*	36.40	28	53	266
<b>Overall</b>	200	352	20	12125	208*	36.52	28	53	266

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	193	6	120	1	120.00	1-37		

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	108	99	5	1962	82	20.87	0	7	46

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	0	9	0				9.00

## Twenty20 Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	4	2	40	15	20.00	0	0	1

### Bowling

Did not bowl

When at Canterbury in 1993 David Fulton, on only his sixth first-class appearance, scored 75 and 52 against a Northants attack including Curtly Ambrose, many good judges forecast a glittering future. As it turned out, he proved a slow developer, not becoming a first-team regular until 1996 and reaching his first Championship century in the very last match in 1997. From the beginning however he was among the finest close catchers of his generation. In his 200 first-class matches he held 1.33 catches per match, a Kent record (wicketkeepers excluded).

David Fulton graduated from the University of Kent & Canterbury with a BA (hons) degree in Politics and International Relations. With a cricketing father who played for Otford, the son progressed through the Kent Youth Coaching Scheme, MCC Schools, ESCA and represented the University at cricket, Association Football and boxing and in 1990 made his Kent Seconds Eleven debut in 1990 against Worcestershire at Ombersley and scored his first half century on his second appearance, against Yorkshire at Marske by-the-sea. His performances for Sevenoaks Vine led to his being voted Kent League Young Player of the Year in 1991 and in the same year scored his first century for Kent Seconds, at Sophia Gardens, Cardiff.

In 1992, his first year on the Kent staff, he led the Second Eleven averages, 1,022 runs (avge.63.88) with three centuries including a double hundred against Worcestershire Seconds. He also made his first-class debut, 16 and 42 at Fenner's. In 1994 it was at Fenner's that he registered his maiden hundred and in the following year attracted wider attention by declining to wear a helmet in the Benson & Hedges Cup Final against an attack which included (among others) Wasim Akram.

By 1996 he had become a first team regular, averaged over 30 in every first-class season from 1994 to 1998 and had exceeded 900 runs in 1997 and 1998 but, although he had done enough to retain his place, up to the latter year, he still had only two Championship centuries to his credit, albeit the second a remarkable double hundred, and there followed a substantial dip in form – 722 runs in 1999, 512 in 2000.

As a result, when in 2001 early hopes were fully vindicated, his *annus mirabilis* came as a surprise to many. He had become categorised as a sheet anchor, inclined to concentrate on seeing the shine off and laying a foundation. Never entirely happy in the role and encouraged by new coach John Inverarity, he decided to play his own way and, never having previously reached 1,000, he scored 1,892 runs, average of 75.68. There were nine centuries, eight of them in the Championship, including 208\* and

104\* against Somerset at Canterbury, part of a sequence of 509 runs without dismissal. He also held seven catches and was on the field for every ball of the match.

There were three other 'big hundreds' that year – 197 v Northants at Wantage Road, 196 against the same opponents at Canterbury and 179 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells. Reputedly, only a last minute selectorial volte-face deprived him of an England cap and at the end of the season, although ignored by *Wisden*, he was voted the Professional Cricketers Association's Cricketer of the Year.

This ability to occupy the crease always characterised his cricket. When scoring his second Championship century, 207 against Yorkshire at Mote Park in 1998, he faced 505 balls and batted for 623 minutes, the longest innings in Kent history. At Canterbury, in his final season, he scored 134\* in 366 minutes with Rob Key (136\*) to deny Hampshire (and Shane Warne) victory and 155 in 361 minutes against Middlesex, his last innings in first-class cricket. At his most effective when opening, he took part in 27 century opening partnerships (17 with Robert Key) including four over 200 (three with Key).

An innovative skipper who thought deeply about the game, he had led the side in first-class matches in 2002, while club captain Fleming led them in limited-overs cricket. Not perhaps an ideal arrangement and he was appointed club captain for all forms in 2003. Although some of his decisions attracted criticism, his positive approach brought 26 wins from 59 matches, a wins to matches ratio superior to any of his post-war predecessors.

With the additional responsibility of the Championship captaincy notwithstanding, Fulton totalled over 1,300 runs and averaged of 40 with four centuries in 2002 but a freak accident with a bowling machine before the start of the 2003 season jeopardised his career. A blow to his right eye from a ball travelling at around 90 mph resulted in a split eyelid and torn tear duct requiring 30 stitches.

Despite only partial sight in one eye, he was back in the side by the end of May, scored a courageous 93 at Chelmsford in his second match back in the side and carried his bat for 94\* in the return at Canterbury a month later and finished the season sixth in the averages with 674 runs (avge.37.44) with five half-centuries. Despite his injury he still took four catches in the championship and another five in the two limited-over competitions.

He had another successful season in 2004, scoring over 1,106 runs (avge.40.96), hitting five centuries and leading the side to second in the Championship. Still there was no silverware and when he suffered another lapse of form in 2005 and there was criticism – not all of it well-informed - of what some considered an over generous declaration against Notts, he resigned the captaincy.

He finished 2006 - his final season and his benefit year - with 969 runs at 38.76, ending on a high note with 155 in his final innings, against Middlesex at Canterbury with partnerships of 123 for the first wicket with Joe Denly (66) and 196 for the third with Matthew Walker (104). He captained the side in the final session.

40% of the proceeds of his benefit were donated to the Samantha Dickson Research Trust in remembrance of his friend and brother-in-law Richard Davis and 10% to Ridge View School, Tonbridge.

Although approached by other counties, Fulton opted for retirement and now maintains a difficult balance working in the media while operating as a players' agent. Among his other talents, at junior level he represented England at chess.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

**James Matthew Golding (No. 786).**



*Born:* 19. 07.1977, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast-medium bowler

Kent 1999-2002.

Educated: St Anne's School, Sturry, Kent College, Canterbury and University College, Worcester.

Parents: Adrian & Marilyn Golding.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11	16	7	224	32	24.88	0	0	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1162	38	637	14	45.50	4-76		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	36	26	9	321	47*	18.88	0	0	6
<b>Overall</b>	40	29	9	383	47*	19.15	0	0	8

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1334	17	1034	46	22.47	4-42	0	4.65
<b>Overall</b>	1544	17	1221	48	25.43	4-42	0	4.74

Tall, six foot four (1.93m), and heavily built – at one time he weighed seventeen stones (107.95.kg) – it was probably inevitable that James Golding when he first appeared for Kent would be compared with Andrew Flintoff, then just beginning to establish himself as England's leading all-rounder. Sadly, although much less injury prone than the Lancastrian, in first-class and List A cricket Golding rarely ranked much beyond the category of 'useful'.

Golding was spotted as a promising seam bowler with Chestfield and made his first appearance for Kent Colts in 1995, followed shortly afterwards by his Second Eleven debut against Derbyshire at Mote Park. Later that year he was a member of the Kent Under-19 side competing in the Oxford & Cambridge Festival. He played further Second Eleven matches in 1997-1998 as well as appearing twice for the Kent Cricket Board in M.C.C. Trophy matches.

In 1999 came his first-class debut against New Zealand at Canterbury. In addition, he made three appearances for the Kent Cricket Board Eleven in the National Westminster Bank Trophy, in the third of which he scored 47 v Hampshire at Canterbury.

Golding joined the Kent staff in 2000 but never established himself in the first team and was released at the end of 2002. Most of his better performances were reserved for his final season. Against Sri Lanka at Canterbury, he took 4 for 76 and his three final first-class innings were 32, 24\* and 26. In, his last List A match, against Nottinghamshire in the Norwich Union League in 2001, he took 3 for 25. In Second Eleven matches, where he generally batted higher up the order, he hit five half centuries including 89 v Worcestershire at Ashford (where he captained the side) in 2000 and 94 v Surrey at The Oval in 2001.

Between 1998 and 2003 Golding played club cricket for St Lawrence and between 2005 and 2009 played Minor Counties cricket for Wiltshire, scoring three centuries. Against Herefordshire at

Trowbridge in 2006 he scored 112\* and 45, supplemented by bowling figures of 5 for 17 and 3 for 55. He is currently a PE teacher in Bath and director of Cricket at Abingdon.

### Steven Clive Goldsmith (No. 739).

*Born:* 19. 12. 1964, Ashford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1986-1987.

Educated: Simon Langton School, Canterbury

Parents: Tony & Daphne Goldsmith.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	4	0	49	25	12.25	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	75	118	12	2646	127	24.96	2	12	37

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	36	0	37	1	37.00	1-37		
<b>Overall</b>	2898	84	1571	29	54.17	3-42		

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	3	1	49	43*	24.50	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	98	85	14	1435	67*	20.21	0	3	34

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	1987	25	1682	39	43.12	4-64	0	5.07

With a father who had played for Folkestone but was perhaps best known as the one-time landlord of the *Phoenix* in Old Dover Road, Canterbury, a pub much used by real ale *aficionados* among the cricket watching fraternity, Steve Goldsmith joined the Kent staff in 1984. He already had experience of representative cricket for AKCC Under-19 when in 1982 he made his Second Eleven debut against Sussex at Hastings, the first of six appearances that season. He began with scores of 39, 41\*, 46 (retired hurt) and 95 and finished with an average over 50.

As often happens to instinctive stroke players early in their careers, Goldsmith was inconsistent over the next three seasons, averaging under 30 in the Second Eleven Championship. In 1985 the Second Eleven report highlighted a need to deal with 'odd technical difficulties'. Even so, in the 1984 Under-25 competition he led the averages, hitting a century against Hampshire and 93 against Surrey. Improvement came in 1986 with over 1,000 runs in all Second team matches and a first team call up against Sussex at Hove in the John Player League. In that year he scored 28 opening the batting for Lavinia Duchess of Norfolk's Eleven against the New Zealanders at Arundel.

Progress continued in 1987 with two Championship appearances and two in the Refuge Sunday League, in the first of which, against Hampshire at Maidstone, he was top scorer with 43\*. In the Second Eleven Championship he had his best season - 920 runs (ave.40.00) and three centuries including 152\* v Hampshire at Dover and 149 v Middlesex (with Angus Fraser, Norman Cowans and Phil Tufnell) at Uxbridge but at the end of the season Kent decided not to renew his contract.

Goldsmith's potential had not gone unnoticed and Derbyshire's coach Phil Russell secured his services for the 1988 season. In his first year with his new county, he scored over 1,000 first-class runs but in 1989 he played only eleven matches due to the need for an operation and for the rest of his career he only once more passed the 500 mark. Batting mainly at number six in three-day matches was no help and he did not hit a century until 1991, an uncharacteristically pedestrian 127 against Sri Lanka.

His aggressive batting and accurate medium pace bowling – little used by Kent – were suited to the shorter game and he was an important member of Derbyshire's Refuge Assurance League winning side in 1990. 1992 began well but his Derbyshire career ended with a freak fielding accident at The Oval leaving a gash which proved unaccountably slow to heal. He first learned of the decision not to renew his contract through local radio, an echo of his experience with Kent where the first intimation came through a third party.

From 1993 to 2008 Goldsmith had a successful career with Norfolk scoring 6,063 runs (avge.44.25) in Minor Counties Championship matches with ten centuries including a memorable 200\* v Cumberland at Lakenham in his first season. He also took 181 wickets. A highly respected coach with an innovative coaching network in the region, he was a major influence as both player and coach with Vauxhall Mallards, five times champions of the East Anglian Premier League. He is currently Director of Red Mist Cricket based in Norfolk.

### **John Norman Graham (No. 695).**

*Born:* 08. 05.1943, Hexham, Northumberland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1964-1977. Cap 1967.

Educated: Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Hexham.

Parents: John Graham & Margaret Graham (*née* Crowe).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	186	175	71	408	23	4.04	0	0	40
<b>Overall</b>	189	178	73	408	23	3.88	0	0	40

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	35735	1746	13462	600	22.43	8-20	25	3
<b>Overall</b>	36409	1784	13722	614	22.34	8-20	26	3

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	122	45	32	85	13	6.53	0	0	24
<b>Overall</b>	123	46	32	85	13	6.07	0	0	24

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6182	181	3183	169	18.83	5-7	1	3.08
<b>Overall</b>	6254	186	3213	172	18.68	5-7	1	3.08

Norman Graham made full use of his six feet seven and a half inches, troubling the best of batsmen with steep bounce at a sharp medium pace, obviating the need to drop short on all but the most somnolent of pitches. Capable of long spells he was first and foremost a line and length bowler, meanest

of the mean, grudging every run and reputedly capable of landing on the seam five times out of six. When conditions were right, Derek Underwood himself could not be more difficult to score off and reluctant to concede a run. Perhaps above all he was, in the words of colleague Alan Dixon (*q.v.*) ‘first out the hat as a team player’.

Norman Graham was one of the distinguished group who took more wickets than they scored runs – in both first-class and List A cricket. Not built for acrobatics, he was perhaps something of a one-dimensional cricketer by modern standards, but he had a powerful, accurate throw and held 40 catches in first-class cricket

Unlikely as it seems, as a boy he wore callipers on his legs. His father John (Jack), who worked for the Trustee Savings Bank in Hexham, played ten matches for Northumberland between 1931 and 1946, as did his uncle Norman (1949-1953) and cousin Peter (1976-1996). ‘Big Norm’ as he became known, like his father, played for Tynedale in the Northumberland Division A and in 1961 in addition played for Northumberland Colts and Northumberland Juniors. Against Cumberland Juniors he took 5 for 44.

In 1962 he had a trial for Warwickshire, taking the field alongside Dennis Amiss and John Jameson, picking up four wickets against Nottinghamshire Seconds at Newark. When not required by Warwickshire he returned north to carry on with Tynedale.

In the 1962 winter he had a successful trial at Eltham and joined the Kent staff in 1963, playing a ‘friendly’ against something approaching the full Middlesex side at Sittingbourne in April and making his Second Eleven debut against Somerset Seconds at Taunton in the opening game of the season. His first wicket (Tony Davies) came at a cost of 15 runs. Quickly settling in, he played 13 matches in all, finishing with 25 wickets (avge.27.42) with a best effort of 5 for 28 v Middlesex at Winchmore Hill. For the Club & Ground he headed the averages with 17 wickets (avge.5.88).

According to the report on the 1964 Kent Second Eleven season in the Kent Annual, Graham ‘carried the main burden of the bowling’, capturing 51 wickets at an average of 22. He also, rather unexpectedly, made his first-class debut. At the time, the Kent opening attack was normally permuted from any two among Alan Brown, David Sayer, John Dye and Alan Dixon but, due to injury, Brown missed the complete season and Graham received his chance when Dye also picked up an injury prior to the Worcestershire match at Hesketh Park. The debutant, coming on as second change after Derek Underwood, claimed the wickets of Duncan Fearnley, Jack Flavell and Bob Carter for 52 in the first innings.

He was retained for the following match at Old Trafford when Kent lost on their second appearance in the Gillette Cup. In August he made his third appearance, at Wellingborough, where his four wickets included the prized scalp of Colin Milburn.

On the advice of Colin Page, Graham had shortened his run up and gained more control, particularly in the latter part of the season when he took 5 for 41 v Hampshire Seconds at Portsmouth, 4 for 37 at Worcester and 3 for 33 & 3 for 25 v Gloucestershire Seconds at the Metrogas ground, Greenwich.

Although Brown, Dixon, Dye and Sayer were all now available in 1965, there were sufficient strains and niggles among the bowlers for Graham to come into the side for four first team matches, three of them in August, commencing in Canterbury Week. The outcome was 11 wickets (avge.29.27) including 4 for 30 at Southampton and 3 for 52 at Northampton. Twice more he claimed the wicket of Colin Milburn (bowled on both occasions) as well as other notable names – Roy Marshall, Clive Radley and David Steele. For the Second Eleven he led the averages with 39 wickets (avge.16.66). Impressed, the Sub-committee report commented that Graham was ‘perhaps the most accurate of all our faster bowlers and certainly did not let the side down when given a few games for the First Eleven’.

Still the backbone of the Second Eleven attack in 1966, Graham did not get a call from the first team until July 2nd when he was again brought in to replace the injured Brown, against Surrey at Rectory

Field. Belying the sometimes doubtful lasting properties of the Blackheath pitch at the time, the Brown Caps declared at 360 for 7 (J.H. Edrich 132), Graham bowling an economical 28 overs for 2 for 54 and having Edrich missed before he had reached double figures.

Batting from the unaccustomed heights of number ten, Graham had a rare moment of batting glory, coming in at 343-8, scoring 12 and seeing his side through to 362 all out, a two run lead. The wicket reverted to type on the last day with Surrey subsiding to 76 for 9 until rain before lunch brought matters to an end (Graham 4 for 20, Dixon 5 for 33).

Graham was given two first team matches at the end of July and took 4 for 68 at Bristol but was dropped again, returning for the remaining four matches of the season and recording his best figures to date, 7 for 70 on a damp, green pitch against Lancashire at Dover. Unfortunately, Statham 10 for 74 and Higgs 8 for 83 still gave the visitors a four-wicket victory. Graham ended his season with 26 wickets at 18.96 as well as leading wicket-taker for the Second Eleven with 63 inexpensive wickets at 14.74 apiece.

1967 was to prove Norman Graham's *annus mirabilis*. At the Kent AGM, Colin Cowdrey had suggested that if one of his pace bowlers would get him a hundred wickets, Kent would win the Championship. They did not quite manage the second part of the forecast although they came close, as well as winning the Gillette Cup. Given a regular place in the County side Graham reached his hundred in the last game of the season.

It was an eventful season, beginning with 3 for 45 & 5 for 58 at Trent Bridge in a game ruined by a rainstorm. After another damp squib against Gloucestershire at Dartford which brought two wickets, there followed a damp pitch at Bradford on which there was no play on the first day and only an hour on the second, but Yorkshire were bowled out for 40 (Graham 23-16-14-6), Kent declared at 94 for 4 and the home side finished 13 for 2. Graham's victims were Ken Taylor, Brian Close, Ray Illingworth, Fred Trueman, Don Wilson and, most memorably, Geoffrey Boycott twice, bowled Graham 0, c Knott b Graham 0. In fairness to the great man, he scored three centuries against Kent and never lost his wicket to Graham again in first-class or List A cricket.

In the next fixture he took 4 for 43 and 4 for 49, on a lively wicket in near freezing conditions at Taunton and 5 for 41 on a more benign surface in the return at Gravesend. There followed 3 for 52 at Grace Road and 4 for 58 v Middlesex at Blackheath, culminating in Tunbridge Wells Week when he claimed 22 of the 40 wickets taken. - 6 for 48 & 6 for 29 v Sussex and 3 for 37 and 7 for 27 against Worcestershire. In the Sussex match, Colin Cowdrey awarded Graham his county cap on the field. Both pitches were at some stage described by *Wisden* as 'virtually unplayable'.

Without achieving anything spectacular, he claimed 23 wickets in the next twelve matches between Tunbridge Wells Week and Glamorgan at Cardiff in late August. His best efforts were 3 for 33 and two for 43 at The Oval but he was wicketless at Hastings and drew a blank at Southampton where he tore a shoulder muscle and bowled only three overs.

When it came to the last two fixtures, in Dover Week, he was still 12 short of the hundred. Against Warwickshire he took 2 for 33 & 2 for 43 when Alan Dixon put the visitors in and won by three wickets on a green pitch. On another, if anything greener pitch, Essex were bowled out for 93 & 102, Graham 6 for 45 & 6 for 35. Kent won by nine wickets and ended the season in second place, Graham finishing with 104 wickets (avg. 13.90) from 906.2 overs, third in the national averages.

In Kent's Gillette Cup win Graham was the pick of the bowlers against Essex in the Second Round - 12-3-19-4 -, missed the Semi Final but bowled his 12 overs for 26 runs and one wicket against Somerset in the Final.

In 1968 Kent were Championship runners-up for the second successive year. Graham was unable to emulate his achievements of the previous season and missed five county matches due to injury as well

as the fixture with the Rest of The World. Nevertheless, he claimed 74 wickets at a frugal 20.35 in all first-class matches.

In 1967 there had been references in the press to possible selectorial interest and it is possibly for this reason he was chosen on May 1st for MCC against Surrey. He did well, bowling 52.3 overs (more than anyone else) on a bland early season wicket for 2 for 49 & 5 for 54, including John Edrich.

In the first Championship fixture, against Lancashire at Canterbury, he failed to take a wicket when the visitors were dismissed by Shepherd and Asif for 69 but, although the wicket had eased in the second innings, Graham took 6 for 37 and Kent won by four wickets. At Leicester, Graham (5 for 22) and Dye (5 for 26) disposed of the home side's first innings for 53.

In the return against Lancashire at Old Trafford, Graham was again unchanged when the visitors, were bowled out for 80 (Graham 5 for 27 from 21.5 overs, Shepherd 5 for 28 from 14) and had taken 3 for 25 when Kent ran out of time in the second innings. In the final game of the season, against Glamorgan at Folkestone, the match was a decider for second place in the table. Kent totalled 330 and dismissed the visitors for 103 & 150, Graham 5 for 41 & 2 for 28.

He again shone, albeit briefly, with the bat. Against Cambridge University at Fenner's, he achieved his top score of 23, sharing a ninth-wicket partnership of 52 with Stuart Leary (109\*)

In the 1969 season *Wisden* considered that, had he not again missed half a dozen matches, Graham would once again have reached his hundred wickets, judging him 'by far the county's most successful bowler', bowling 'courageously and with ability, both on pitches which helped him, or which gave him not the slightest assistance'. The latter was perhaps a feature of his cricket not fully recognised at the time or later.

As it turned out he finished with 79 wickets (avge.18.48), eighth in the national averages, second to Underwood for Kent. In his second match, at Brentwood, exploiting the effect of heavy rain followed by hot sunshine, he produced his best-ever bowling figures when the Essex were bowled out for 34 in their second innings – 10-3-20-8. Not all his most notable performances were in such bowler-friendly conditions. At Hastings, he delivered 41 overs for his 7-105, although Sussex totalled 317 with three half-centuries. At Bournemouth he took 6-57 from 39.3 overs on what *Wisden* considered 'a slow but true wicket'. In a rain-ruined game against Nottinghamshire at Newark, his second innings figures were 17-10-8-2 and on a lifeless pitch in Leicestershire's only innings in Canterbury Week 50.4 -24-70-3.

In the inaugural 40-over 'Players County League' he took 22 wickets (avge.18.31) including 3 for 19 at Leicester, 3 for 20 at Bath and 3 for 33 at Northampton.

In Kent's epic 1970 Championship winning year, due to assorted injuries, Graham missed 13 of the 24 Championship fixtures, spaced throughout most of the season, one in May, three in June, three in July, four in August and both matches in September when he underwent an operation for the removal of the nail beds of both big toes.

His feet had plagued him for much of his career. Alan Dixon recounts the story that on one occasion on a bland wicket at Edgbaston, Graham had to wring the blood out of his socks and apply liberal quantities of talc before carrying on. The operation alleviated the problem, although, like many tall pace bowlers, he remained injury prone. He also missed all but three matches in the John Player League and both Gillette Cup fixtures.

In such a disrupted season, Graham bowled only 384.1 overs compared with over 700 in 1968 and 1969, his 40 wickets costing 25.90 each, his most expensive since 1965. His most timely contribution was at Harlow. On what *Wisden* termed 'a sub-standard pitch, Graham contributed 2 for 63 and 6 for 67 and Kent won by an innings.

Although again missing half a dozen Championship matches, Graham was back in form in 1971, second in the Kent averages with 78 wickets at 21.12; only Underwood claimed more.

Economical, whether on bland wickets or bowler - friendly surfaces, his figures included 5 for 31 v Yorkshire at Canterbury when the visitors were caught on a wet pitch, drying under hot sun., 5 for 47 v Worcestershire on a placid Folkestone wicket on which Ron Headley (109 & 92) narrowly missed a hundred in each innings, and 3 for 11 & 3 for 25 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, on another wicket drying after heavy rain where only Mike Denness reached 50. In nine matches in the Gillette Cup and John Player League, his 15 wickets cost 13.60 each, including 3 - 12 against Essex at Purfleet.

In contrast, 1972 was a disappointing season, injuries keeping Graham out of five Championship matches but, although only John Shepherd bowled more than his 501.5 overs, he failed to reach 50 first-class wickets for the first time since 1966. He also took his wickets at more than 30 runs apiece, which he had not done since his first season.

Starting 1973 at Eastbourne with 4 for 25 for Derrick Robins' Eleven against the New Zealanders which ended with a crucial 29 ball last-wicket unfinished partnership with Fred Titmus to avoid defeat, Graham was back near his best with 98 wickets in combined first-class and List A cricket.

For Kent alone he bowled 596.3 first-class overs for 53 wickets (avge.27.11) plus 38 wickets (avge.13.63) in limited -overs matches, when Kent won the John Player League Trophy and the Benson & Hedges Cup.

In the Championship, he took 5 for 13 at Hastings when Sussex were all out for 67, as well as 4 for 63 & 3 for 35 at Leyton. Nine times that season he delivered 40 or more overs in a match. As the Kent Annual put it 'getting through a tremendous amount of work' possibly his best performance was at Dartford where his analysis was 44-8-115-5 as Worcestershire scored 463 (Ormrod 204\*). In the John Player League, his figures included 3 for 6 v Northants at Brackley, 3 for 24 v Yorkshire at Dover while in the Benson & Hedges he took 2 for 17 in eleven overs at The Oval and 3 for 45 in the Quarter Final at Southampton.

Although playing 17 first-class matches in 1974 the result was a relatively modest 39 wickets (avge.29.17), plus 21 in limited overs cricket. He still contributed usefully, 3 for 45 from 25 overs at Taunton, 4 for 26 at Hove and his last five in an innings, 5 for 60 at Fenner's but, with more frequent fitness problems his first-class appearances became fewer. Nine matches and 26 wickets in 1975 and nine in 1976 (25 wickets). In the former season he claimed 18 wickets in List A matches at an economical 17.77 each which included 5 for 7 v Northants at Tring in the John Player League and 3-26 (Brearley & Radley both for 0) v Middlesex at Lord's in the Benson & Hedges Cup. In both seasons he had captained the Seconds in some half dozen matches.

Graham planned to leave Kent at the end of the 1977 season, his Benefit year, but there were still surprises to come. He played one Championship match, at The Oval (last wicket Geoff Howarth), one against Cambridge, four List A matches and five Second Eleven matches in which he finished second in the averages with 30 wickets (avge.9.40).

Thanks to playing far fewer matches and able to devote more time to his benefit, the amount raised was a then record £58,000, double the amount for Alan Knott in the previous season. His easy-going and gregarious personality undoubtedly helped. From his early days with Kent he had formed a close relationship with Kent members and the wider cricketing public, reinforced perhaps by the strong element in East Kent whose families originated from the Northumberland and Durham coalfields.

In the process, according to legend, Graham visited over one thousand pubs in Kent. The figure is probably exaggerated, but even if the true figure is Graham's own estimation of 727 or thereabouts, it has been suggested that he called on some of them twice, if only to thank them.

On leaving Kent, from 1980 and 1984 Graham played 47 matches for Northumberland in the Minor Counties Championship, taking a further 153 wickets (avge.21.99), six times 5 in an innings with a best of 6 for 27 v Lincolnshire at Stamford in 1981 and in the same year 6 for 42 & 5 for 68 v Cumberland at Kendal. He also made half a dozen appearances in matches in the Minor Counties Trophy and one List A match against Middlesex in the National Westminster Bank Trophy at Jesmond in which he took the wickets of Mike Gatting, Paul Downton and Norman Cowans at a cost of 30 runs. Among his pace bowling partners while with Northumberland were his cousin Peter and the Australian Stuart Gillespie.

While with Kent and later with Northumberland, he had a successful parallel career in financial services and became Northumberland's Commercial Manager.

Batsmen dismissed most frequently by Graham in first-class cricket were - 8: K.D.Boyce, 7: B.E.Edmeades, H.Pilling, 6: M.A.Buss, C.G.Greenidge, P.J.Sainsbury, G.R.Stephenson, D.R.Turner. Among those dismissed five times were K.W.R.Fletcher, C. Milburn, B.A.Richards and K.G.Suttle.

#### *Further Reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

### **James Martin Hilary Graham-Brown (No. 713).**

*Born:* 11. 07.1951, Thetford, Norfolk.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1974-1976.

Educated: Sevenoaks School, University of Kent & Bristol University.

Parents: Lewis Graham-Brown & Elizabeth Graham-Brown (née Blaxland).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	13	15	5	149	29*	14.90	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	30	37	7	368	43	12.26	0	0	8

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	492	17	239	3	79.66	1-4		
<b>Overall</b>	1340	48	696	12	58.00	2-23		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11	6	3	53	34*	17.66	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	27	20	3	227	58	13.35	0	1	6

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	402	11	287	10	28.70	3-4	0	4.28
<b>Overall</b>	486	11	374	11	34.00	3-4	0	4.61

In 1970, the last of his four years in the eleven at Sevenoaks, James Graham-Brown was captain, leading scorer and leading wicket- taker and by the end of the season had played representative cricket for MCC Schools, ESCA, National Association of Young Cricketers and England Young Cricketers. Apart from 2 for 39 and 4 for 39 for MCC Schools v Combined Services at Lord's in 1969 and 56\* and 5 for 43



for NAYC South v NAYC North at Edgbaston in 1970, he achieved nothing outstanding, but Kent sensed all-round potential. He had played his first Club & Ground match in 1969 and at the beginning of the following season he made his Second Eleven debut, against Surrey at Aylesford.

Although treated primarily as a bowler, in his first season his best effort was 60 against Surrey Seconds at Norbury but over the next two years, combining Second team cricket with university commitments, he took 72 wickets at an economical 20.11. In 1974 he made his first appearances in the John Player League, against Derbyshire at Mote Park, and shortly afterwards made his first-class debut, against Middlesex in Canterbury Week. He began with a duck, failed to take a wicket and claimed only one in six subsequent first team appearances but did better as a lower order batsman.

Against Yorkshire at Scarborough, he hit 24\*, 21 against Northants and 29\* against Derbyshire, both at Folkestone. In the shorter game he had figures of 5-3-4-3 v Lancashire at Old Trafford in the John Player League and, unexpectedly chosen for the Gillette Cup final against the same opponents at Lord's, must have been a contender of the Man of the Match Award with figures of 12-5-15-2.

Free of university, Graham-Brown joined the staff in 1975 but, while continuing to look a good cricketer, was unable to deliver on the field in first team cricket. He failed to score or take a wicket in his only first-class match that year and managed only 50 runs and two wickets in the following season. Four appearances in the John Player League were similarly disappointing apart from an innings of 34\* against Somerset at Taunton. Although scoring well, bowling usefully and on occasions captaining in Second Eleven matches, Graham-Brown was released at the end of 1976, showing some of his best form in his final matches. In all he hit seven 50s for Kent Second Eleven the highest 75 v Essex at Purfleet in 1975.

While seeking another county, he scored in successive Second team matches, 66 for Gloucestershire v Leicestershire at Bristol, 60 for Northants v Surrey at Roehampton and 66\* for Kent v Hampshire at Folkestone.

In 1977 he signed a two-year contract with Derbyshire for whom his great-uncle Lionel Blaxland had played between 1925 and 1947. On his second appearance for his new county, at Chesterfield against Worcestershire in the Benson & Hedges Cup, he scored 44, adding 94 for the fifth-wicket with John Wright, but did little subsequently. In 31 first-class and List A matches for Derbyshire his record was 317 runs and ten wickets. Handicapped, like so many other middle-order batsmen in the closing years of three-day cricket by insufficient time to build an innings, he passed 20 only four times.

On leaving Derbyshire he entered the teaching profession while playing Minor Counties cricket with Cornwall (1981-1984) and Dorset (1989-1991). Playing for the latter against Glamorgan in the National Westminster Bank Trophy in 1990, he contributed 58 to a total of 261 for 8, a record total for a Minor County in the competition.

Graham-Brown gained an Honours Degree in English Literature at the University of Kent and a master's degree in philosophy at Bristol and for eight years taught at Truro High School. For a further eleven years he was Headmaster of Royal High School, Lansdown, an independent girls' school near Bath from which he retired in 2009.

Under the name Dougie Blaxland, he has built up a considerable reputation as a playwright with some 30 plays including *The Tamworth Two*, *Jane Eyre: An Autobiography*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The Musical* and *Hands Up for Jonny Wilkinson's Right Boot*. His most recent play 'When the Eye has gone, based on the life of the late Colin Milburn' has been widely praised and has been performed at venues throughout the country including St Lawrence, Canterbury. Graham-Brown himself lost the sight of one eye in 2013. An accomplished mimic, he is also in demand as an after-dinner speaker. He is the father of the actress Annie Hemingway.

**Brian George Herbert Gunn (No. 615).**

*Born:* 19. 09.1921, Gravesend. *Died:* 03. 09. 2001, Cairns, Queensland, Australia.

Right-handed batsman. right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1946.

Parents: Malcolm Gunn & Mrs Gunn (*née* Clinch)

## **First Class Career Record**

### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	7	0	105	39	15.00	0	0	7

### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

A prolific scorer in club cricket who, like his newspaper advertising executive father, captained the Gravesend club, Brian Gunn had his first serious encounter with first-class cricketers in 1940 playing for Gravesend against London Counties, a strong touring team made up entirely of county cricketers. He was bowled without scoring by the immortal Arthur Wellard and fared no better in the same fixture in the following year although he had the consolation of taking three top order wickets – Frank Lee, Jack O'Connor and Leslie Compton.

In July 1945, by now in the Army, he was bowled for another duck by Keith Miller while playing under his father's captaincy for Gravesend Sunday against Australian Services. The match, played for charity at Central Avenue, Gravesend, is a curiosity in that it was played between the first and second days of the Third 'Victory' Test Match at Lord's. In addition to Miller, four other members of the Australian side – Lindsay Hassett, Ross Whittington, Cec Pepper and Bert Cheetham - were taking part. Sunday cricket was not permitted on the Bat & Ball ground and Gravesend Sunday was formed specifically by Malcolm Gunn to perform on the Sabbath, using the Central Avenue Ground. Against Australian Services they had a distinguished guest player, G.O. Allen.

A fortnight later Gunn scored 13 on his debut in Kent colours for a 'Kent Eleven' v Northamptonshire in a one-day match at Beckenham. In the following week, playing for the Rest v Kent at Canterbury, he failed to score again, one of Norman Harding's ten victims. In September, playing alongside Captain Alan Hilder and Lieutenant Eddie Crush (*qv*), Private Gunn scored 75 for Aldershot Command against a Desert Air Force touring side.

Although given a formal trial, Gunn was not taken on the staff, possibly because he was profitably employed in the Gravesend Borough Architect's Department. In the opening Club & Ground game of the 1946 season he hit 91 against St Lawrence which brought promotion to the Second Eleven. He failed to score on his debut, v Surrey at Beckenham, but hit 133 and took four wickets on his second appearance, against Sussex Seconds at Hastings. This resulted in further promotion and on his first-class debut he scored 39 and 11 against Nottinghamshire at Gillingham. Unfortunately, he failed to build on his early promise. In three further matches, though three times reaching double figures, his top score was 19. Two of these matches were at his Gravesend home ground and six of his seven catches were taken at the Bat & Ball.

Gunn played no further first-class cricket but appeared four times in the Minor Counties Championship in 1947 with a top score of 70 v Gloucestershire Seconds at Beckenham. Thereafter he devoted himself to the Gravesend club. In 1951, having played in Gravesend's opening games, he suddenly emigrated to Australia, reputedly for financial considerations. While working, first in sales then as a theatre manager, he played Grade cricket for Mosman alongside a future Australian Test Captain, Ian Craig. Gunn's uncle was editor of the *Guardian* and on moving to Queensland he commenced a journalistic career in Townsville, Ingham and finally for more than 20 years on the *Cairns Post* primarily as court and crime reporter.

Accomplished in other sports, he was briefly on Tottenham Hotspur's books, had racing interests and played golf until well into his 70s. In 1941 he married Barbara Fleet in Chatham.

### **David John Halfyard (No. 671).**

*Born:* 03. 04.1931, Winchmore Hill, London. *Died:* 23. 08.1996, Westward Ho, Devonshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium/medium pace bowler.

Kent 1956-1964. Kent Cap 1957. Second Eleven Cap 1956.

Educated: Purley County Grammar School.

Parents: Augustus Fritz Halfyard & Muriel Evelyn Halfyard (née Sims).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	185	274	31	2538	79	10.44	0	2	88
<b>Overall</b>	264	348	51	3242	79	10.91	0	2	112

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	41558	1872	18822	769	24.47	9-39	49	13
<b>Overall</b>	55815	2586	24822	963	25.77	9-39	55	13

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	44	30	0	228	25	7.60	0	0	13

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	2353	56	1398	59	23.69	4-19	0	3.56

One of the most remarkable – not to say hardest worked – cricketers ever to play for Kent, David Halfyard took over 100 wickets in every season from 1957 to 1961, delivering 5,228 overs in the process. He had bowled another 1,111.5 overs and was only two short of his hundred wickets in 1962 when his Vespa motor scooter, which took him between matches, was involved in a head on collision on the way to a game at Weston-super-Mare. This seemed to be the end of his cricket career, Kent gave him a testimonial and he subsequently joined the first-class umpires list but, after Nottinghamshire players saw him bowling in the nets, he played for a further three seasons at Trent Bridge.

When he first came into professional cricket, Halfyard bowled a lively fast medium and that remained his method when he came on the Kent staff. After a couple of seasons with Kent, he reduced his run up, still bowling quick on occasions but bowling mainly on the sharp side of medium pace, moving the ball off the seam, varying his pace and, when pitches suited, employing a lethal leg cutter. Combining stamina with accuracy, he became known as 'the human bowling machine' and, although critics sometimes blamed captains for over-bowling him, on the field the problem was to get the ball away from him, particularly when he was approaching his hundred wickets for the season, which became something of an obsession.

Although what used to be called a 'rustic' batsman, Halfyard was a bit more than a tailender, with a career average in double figures, hitting two half-centuries and in 1960 scoring over 500 runs. He could

hold up an end when it mattered but was at his best as a hitter. Hardly built for athletics, he was nevertheless a reliable catcher and in 1960 held 18 catches.

The son of a litho printer, the family moved from Middlesex to Surrey when young David was still at primary school and grew to establish a considerable cricketing reputation, first with Beddington, then with Banstead. For the former he took 10 for 44 v Old Whitgiftians in 1951 and over 100 wickets in the following season when he also made his first appearance for Surrey Seconds. During his National Service he took 4 for 48 for the Army v Hampshire at Southampton in 1954.

In 1954 he headed the Surrey Seconds averages and was leading wicket taker in the following season with 54 at 16.29. Such however was the abundance of talent at The Oval at the time, he never came near the first team. His last appearance for Surrey was in September 1955 when the Brown Caps beat Northumberland by 14 runs in the Challenge Match at The Oval, Halfyard signing off with 4 for 46 & 5 for 54.

Halfyard approached Kent in March 1956 and a two-week trial at £10 per week plus expenses was agreed. Subsequently he was specially registered and awarded a contract at £325. He made a rather unusual start to his Kent career, beginning with a two-day match for a strong Kent Eleven v the Association of Kent Cricket Clubs at Ashford. Kent won by an innings, Colin Cowdrey and Peter Jones scoring hundreds and, opening with Fred Ridgway, the new recruit contributed 2 for 16 & 6 for 21.

A week later he took 1 for 37 for Kent Seconds in a one day match against United Hospitals at Canterbury but was left out of Club & Ground v the South Australian touring team at St. Lawrence. Instead, he was chosen, still wearing his Surrey Seconds sweater, for his first-class debut, against Cambridge University at Fenner's on May 12th. Bowling 33 overs in the first innings, more than anyone else – a portent of things to come – his 3 for 99 & 1 for 55 included Robin O'Brien, who went on to score 146 in the 1956 University match, and the future Nottinghamshire and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) allrounder Gamini Goonesena.

He was left out again, for Second Eleven games against Somerset at Bath and Surrey at the Oval as well as Club & Ground matches at Dartford, Ashford and Broadstairs and four first-class Championship fixtures. Not until 26th May was he picked, for Club & Ground v Folkestone AKCC. This brought him 5 for 23 but two days later he took just one wicket against Surrey Seconds at Beckenham. On the following day however, he made his Championship debut, against Derbyshire at Gravesend.

Halfyard's first innings 3 for 68 in support of Ridgway's 6 for 74 was probably enough to keep him in the side and he stayed for the rest of the season except for Canterbury Week. For the Week he was replaced by the amateur Geoffrey Smith who had sacrificed some of his annual holiday to take part. Halfyard's first-class season brought him 58 wickets, a little expensive at 33.25 each. Among his three five wicket hauls was 5 for 84 at Bath and 5 for 74 against Warwickshire at Dover. Although he had appeared in only two Second Eleven matches, he was awarded his Second Eleven cap.

It was a promising, if unremarkable, beginning but few would have predicted his second season – 117 wickets (avge.21.38), nine times five in an innings, three times ten in a match.

Starting with 5 for 46 & 4 for 61 on a helpful wicket at Lord's where Kent won by an innings, for Kent there followed a depressing run of five draws and eight defeats. Nevertheless, Halfyard continued to take wickets – 4 for 36 at Old Trafford, 5 for 81 & 5 for 60 at Rushden. On a drying pitch at Neath, he produced his career best, 9 for 39 in the first innings but, although Glamorgan had been bowled out for 89 and trailed by 146, they finished winners by 46 runs. Fortunes changed when Kent met Worcestershire at Folkestone, considerably so for Halfyard – 7 for 45 & 6 for 49 including a first innings hat trick, Roy.Booth, Martin.Horton, and Roley Jenkins, all caught.

He continued with five in an innings in three successive matches, against Gloucestershire and Lancashire, both in Maidstone Week, and Surrey at Blackheath as well as 4 for 33 & 4 for 31 when

Kent won by an innings at Derby. Bowling over 200 overs more than any other Kent bowler, only twice did he fail to take a wicket in a match and received a well-deserved County cap.

At the end of the 1958 season Kent were eighth in the table, their best position since 1947, and Halfyard, with 135 wickets (avg.20.39), had done as much as anyone, bowling consistently throughout the season and contributing almost 300 overs more than anyone else. 12 times he took five in an innings, four times ten in match. In May his 3 for 12 & 5 for 63 helped Kent to a two day victory over Somerset and when Lancashire were beaten by 258 runs at Gravesend his match return of 12 for 109 included three wickets in four balls, all bowled, and four in six balls for two runs to end the match.

In late June/early July in three successive innings he took 8 for 49 & 2 for 45 at Hastings, 3 for 67 & 6 for 43 v Middlesex at Lord's where he bowled unchanged for two and a quarter hours in the second innings, and 5 for 21 & 5 for 81 v Leicestershire at Gillingham. Heavy rain followed by hot sun saw Leicestershire routed for 39 in the first innings, Halfyard taking his second hat trick, Ray Julian (caught slip), Ray Smith (bowled) and Terry Spencer (caught & bowled). In the rain-ruined game at Canterbury against the New Zealanders his 5 for 53 included the wickets of Bert Sutcliffe and John Reid; he also played his first match for a team other than Kent, South v North in the Torquay Festival but failed to take a wicket (in 14 overs), the only match in 1958 in which he failed to do so.

Halfyard also contributed usefully on occasions with the bat, top scoring with a hard hit 78 against Hampshire in Ridgway's benefit match in Canterbury Week, as well as 47 (1 six, 7 fours) v Surrey at The Oval and finishing in all first-class matches with 552 runs (avge.13.46).

In the fine, long summer of 1959, despite missing four matches through injury, Halfyard reached the thousand overs milestone for the first time, one of 15 bowlers to do so that year. His 1,051.2 overs were 320 more than the nearest Kent bowler, Colin Page. Top of the Kent averages with 125 wickets (avge.25.42) seven times five in an innings, twice ten in a match, the highlight 6 for 56 & 9 for 61 against Worcestershire at Mote Park, his second nine in an innings.

Against Northamptonshire on 'an indifferent wicket' in the words of *Wisden*, he took 7 for 46 & 4 for 35 at Dover and against Middlesex at Lord's, 4 for 61 & 5 for 71, nine in a match in the fixture for the third successive season, but whereas Kent had won by an innings in 1957 and 1958, this time Kent lost by two runs.

With 123 wickets (avge.22.11) in 1960, Halfyard emulated Arthur Fielder by becoming the second Kent pace bowler to take 100 wickets in a season four times. Fielder did so between 1906 and 1913, Halfyard in four successive seasons. In all, he bowled 1087.2 overs, approximately 26% of the total for the County, Alan Brown coming second with 691.1. Eight times he took five in an innings, twice ten in a match.

Again, Halfyard did well on 'a lively and imperfect pitch' (*Wisden*) at Dartford – 2 for 24 in support of Ridgway's 8 for 39 in the Lancashire first innings, 6 for 55 on his own behalf in the second, Kent wrapping up the innings victory in a day and a half. There followed a bleak run of seven matches, won one, drawn two, lost four in which Halfyard's 17 wickets cost a relatively expensive 670 runs.

Thanks to a combination of weather and a new groundsman, Tunbridge Wells Week would be different, not least, 19 wickets for Halfyard. Following a heavy storm the previous day followed by a warm and sunny morning, Kent won the toss and chose to bat on a pitch bare of grass and soft at first with wet and dry patches.

All who saw it agreed it was bound to break up sooner rather than later but nobody seems to have predicted it would be all over in a day. Before the wicket dried out, Kent totalled 187 (Peter Jones 73) but already the surface was disintegrating. Worcestershire began batting at ten to four and, with tea intervening, were all out for 25 by 5.25., top score nine, Halfyard 4 for 7 from nine overs, mainly leg cutters, Alan Brown 6 for 12 from 8.1 overs. Batting again, Worcestershire were 51 for 7 at seven pm

and, with Cowdrey claiming the extra half hour, they were all out 61 by 7.15, Halfyard 5 for 20, unchanged from 13 overs, Brown 3 for 22, Peter Shenton 2 for 12.

Despite a freshly prepared wicket for the second match, Sussex were dismissed for 69, Halfyard 4 for 20 from 17.2 overs unchanged, and, although they rallied to 269 (Halfyard 6 for 122 from 40 overs) in the second innings, the visitors still lost by an innings and 53. On more conventional pitches,, Halfyard took 6 for 36 and 3 for 59 when Derbyshire were beaten in the second match of Canterbury Week and 4 for 35 & 6 for 61 when Gloucestershire lost by 156 runs in the Cheltenham Festival. At Lord's against Middlesex, Halfyard achieved his highest score in first-class cricket. Coming in to join Derek Ufton at 88 for 7, - he hit 79 out of 106 in 73 minutes, with three sixes and nine fours.

In what turned out to be his final full season for Kent, in 1961 Halfyard reached his hundred wickets for the fifth successive season, a record unequalled by any Kent pace bowler and equalled or exceeded only by Colin Blythe, 'Tich' Freeman and Doug Wright among the spinners. In a batsman-friendly season, Halfyard bowled 1,233.4 overs, the most of his career, his 112 wickets at 29.26 apiece proving the most expensive since 1956, his debut season.

The Annual Report in the 1962 Kent Annual was rather more critical than usual. 'Before the season commenced, the main bowling hopes were based on Half yard, Brown and David Sayer, but on the perfect wickets prevailing they were seldom able to dispose of the opposition twice and were far too expensive to be potential match winners'. Of Halfyard, commenting that he liked to be known as 'the bowling machine'. – 'His love of bowling is a tremendous asset and his strength and endurance remarkable, but it might be at times be an advantage to both the side and himself if he were given more rest periods'.

Historically, Kent Annual Reports, though often admirable in their way, were not always models of accuracy. While Halfyard again bowled over 300 overs more than anyone else, of Kent's 30 matches, in 11 of them at least one bowler bowled more overs, four under Cowdrey's captaincy, five under Phebey and two under Richardson. As for failing to bowl the opposition out twice, Kent claimed all 20 wickets twice against Gloucestershire, twice against Yorkshire, once each against Glamorgan, Hampshire, Middlesex, Warwickshire and Worcestershire resulting in six wins, one draw and two losses. Of these Halfyard's share included 5 for 39 at Worcester, 8 for 60 & 4 for 59 at Edgbaston, 4 for 73 & 4 for 41 v Middlesex at Mote Park and 4 for 98 & 4 for 37 at Scarborough.

Although admittedly more expensive than usual, he took 4 for 37 from 17 overs against Lancashire at Folkestone, 5 for 101 from 40.4 overs at Hastings and at Dover 5 for 55 from 17.4 overs against Northants.

1962 began satisfactorily with 30 wickets in the first seven matches, twice five in an innings including 6 for 33 against Gloucestershire at Hesketh Park. By mid-season he was back to some of his best days - 4 for 88 & 7 for 56 from 30 overs at The Oval, 4 for 35 & 3 for 39 v Middlesex at Dover, 7 for 107 & 2 for 42 v Surrey at Blackheath, and 6 for 66 & 3 for 93 at Hastings. At Middlesbrough he took 5 for 86 including the wickets of Geoffrey Boycott, Phil Sharpe, Brian Close and Ray Illingworth but was wicketless in the second innings and the next two matches yielded only one wicket. At this stage he had bowled 1,111.5 overs, claimed 98 wickets (avge.24.52), six times five in an innings, once ten in a match.

Travelling from Canterbury to Weston-super-Mare on his faithful Vespa, he suffered multiple injuries from the collision including a broken leg although, according to witnesses, he appeared more worried about missing his hundred wickets than his injuries. He finished second in the Kent averages and, although missing the last half dozen matches, he still bowled over 350 overs more than anyone else – Alan Dixon was the nearest with 640.5.

Inevitably David Halfyard played no cricket in 1963 but thanks to a strenuous rehabilitation programme which included regular travel from his home in Cornwall to his physiotherapy specialist in Gillingham,

he attempted to renew his playing career in 1964. Still with a pronounced limp, to the surprise of many by May 9th he was back in the side for the opening game of the season against Yorkshire at Bradford where he bowled 31 overs for one wicket. He played in the next match at Ilford but failed to take a wicket in 34 overs and then moved down to the Seconds.

For a while it looked promising, - 6 for 35 v Somerset at Taunton, 5 for 46 v Worcestershire at Gravesend – but by the beginning of July he had decided he could not continue. In the words of the 1965 Annual ‘his broken leg has never recovered sufficiently to allow him to bowl with anything approaching his old vigour and speed’. He had played in nine Second Eleven matches in 1964 and taken 23 wickets (avge.23.95). He even played one match for the Club & Ground. The Club granted him a Testimonial in 1965 which raised £3,216.

This was by no means the end of the Halfyard saga. By now graduating to a Messerschmitt bubble car, in 1967 he was appointed to the First-Class umpires list but he still played club cricket and while he was officiating in the Derbyshire v Nottinghamshire match at Ilkeston in July, members of the Nottinghamshire team saw him bowling in the nets. Impressed, he was signed on at Trent Bridge in 1968 for a further three seasons. Capped in 1968, he played 77 first-class matches adding another 2,345.1 overs to his record with 194 wickets (avge.30.41). He also added a further 50 wickets for Notts in List A matches.

For Minor Counties, in 1971-1972 he took 81 wickets for Durham, 52 for Northumberland in 1973 and 209 for Cornwall from 1974 to 1977 and in 1982, 199 of them in his first three seasons. For Cornwall v Devonshire at Penzance in 1974, he took 10 for 29 in the first innings, 16 for 78 in the match, all 16 wickets that fell. He also played two List A matches for Minor Counties North.

He played for numerous clubs including Devonshire Over 50s, Forty Club, MCC, Trent Bridge Taverners and until the year before his death he was still taking wickets, chiefly with leg breaks in Devonshire club cricket notably with Tiverton Heathcoat in the Devon Premier League.

He returned to the first-class umpires list from 1977 to 1981 and was on the Minor Counties List in 1974 and from 1983 to 1986, always liable to combine umpiring with recreational cricket.

He changed again, graduating from a bubble car to a camper van, estimated to have travelled 400,000 miles. He also branched into boat building.

David Halfyard's haul of wickets included some notable names - 11: F.J.Titmus, 10: Khalid Ibadulla, P.J.Sainsbury, 9: A.C.D. Ingleby-Mackenzie, D.Kenyon, D.W.Richardson, M.J.Stewart. 8: R.Booth, R.A.Gale, M.Hallam. 7: D.B.Carr, J.H.Edrich, A.Lightfoot, R.G.Marlar, J.T.Murray, A.S.M Oakman, G.R.Stephenson. Batsmen dismissed six times included R.W.Barber, R.G.A.Headley, D.E.V.Padgett, W.G.A.Parkhouse, J.D.B.Robertson, K.G.Suttle and W.Watson.

In his career he took 50 or more wickets against eleven first-class counties including Middlesex 76 (avge.21.89), Worcestershire 75 (avge.16.38), Northamptonshire 74 (avge.20.74).

*Further reading,*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

### **Mark David Harman (No. 746).**

*Born:* 30. 06.1964, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1988-1989.

Educated: Frome College, Loughborough University.

Parents: Michael & Barbara Harman

### **First Class Career Record**

## Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	14	14	7	80	17*	11.42	0	0	8
<b>Overall</b>	23	27	11	201	41	12.56	0	0	16

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2162	115	841	35	24.02	5-55	3	0
<b>Overall</b>	3311	162	1359	43	31.60	5-55	3	0

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	1	8	8*		0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	4	3	1	10	8*	5.00	0	0	1

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	36	0	58	2	29.00	2-58	0	9.66
<b>Overall</b>	156	1	149	3	49.66	2-58	0	5.73

One of a number of Kent cricketers of the 1980s who might justifiably consider themselves unfortunate if not positively ill-used, Mark Harman came to Kent from Somerset. He played his first Second Eleven match for the West County side in 1981 but by 1987, although among the leading wicket takers in Second team cricket, with Vic Marks established in the side he had played only nine first team matches and taken only eight (expensive) wickets.

For Kent, although unable to command a regular place, he made twelve first team appearances in 1988, bowled well in partnership with Richard Davis when given the chance and finished second in the averages with 25 first-class wickets (ave.23.72). Against Leicestershire at Canterbury, he took 5 for 68 and 5 for 55 against Oxford University in the Parks. In the Second Eleven Championship he was the most successful bowler with 36 wickets (21.80).

In his second, and as it turned out final, season Harman continued to take wickets in the Second Eleven Championship, finishing second highest wicket taker with 34 wickets at 31.65 but with Kent often fielding five right-arm seam bowlers ranging in speed from fast to military medium, he made only two first team appearances – against Cambridge University at Fenner's where he took 4 for 56 and 5 for 80 and against his former county at Bath where his figures were 1 for 112 from 34 overs. He actually headed the first team bowling averages, albeit nominally, but was not re-engaged at the end of the season with the slight consolation of a Second Eleven cap in recognition of his services.

During his time with Somerset Harman had gained a BSc (Hons) degree in Financial Management at Loughborough and he went on to a successful career in financial services.

## Dean Warren Headley (No. 762).

*Born:* 27. 01.1970, Norton, Stourbridge, Worcestershire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast/fast medium bowler.

Kent 1993-1999. County cap 1993.

Educated: Oldwinsford Hospital School and Worcester Royal Grammar School.

Parents: Ronald George Alphonso Headley & Rene Headley ((née Saunders).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding



	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	83	118	32	1550	81	18.02	0	4	41
<b>England</b>	15	26	4	186	31	8.45	0	0	7
<b>Overall</b>	139	187	44	2373	91	16.59	0	6	60

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	15931	542	8133	285	28.53	8-98	14	1
<b>England</b>	3026	82	1671	60	27.85	6-60	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	25801	858	13293	466	28.52	8-98	25	2

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	111	44	24	207	29*	10.35	0	0	19
<b>England</b>	13	6	4	22	10*	11.00	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	166	62	34	352	29*	12.57	0	0	29

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5286	78	3636	155	23.45	6-42	2	4.12
<b>England</b>	594	2	520	11	47.27	2-38	0	5.25
<b>Overall</b>	7738	104	5541	204	27.16	6-42	3	4.29

The third of a family of Test cricketers, Dean Headley was grandson of the immortal George Headley, still considered by many the greatest of all West Indian batsmen, and son of Ron Headley, who played two Tests and one ODI for West Indies, 403 first-class matches for Worcestershire and nine for Jamaica as well as 40 List A matches for Derbyshire. The youngest of the Headleys looked set to reach the heights as a pace bowler for Kent and England had not injuries intervened.

Thanks to a smooth, almost languidly easy, action, Headley was a 'skiddy' bowlers, deceptively quicker than he looked at first viewing and capable of keeping a tight line at around 90 mph for long periods. He could swing the ball both ways, bring it back off the seam and reverse swing. On his day he could be lethal, especially in moving the ball away from left handers. He was also an ever reliable 'at the death' bowler in one-day cricket.

An athletic outfielder with a powerful, accurate throw, if not quite qualifying as an out and out allrounder, he was afforded few chances of batting above number eight although he averaged double figures in every one of his seven seasons with Kent and hit four half-centuries for the County,

Having attracted attention at Worcester Royal Grammar School and begun playing regularly for Old Hill, in 1988 he played for the Rest against Headmaster's Conference Southern Schools, for NAYC v MCC and for ESCA as well as for Worcestershire Cricket Association under-19s. He made one appearance for Worcestershire Seconds that year and nine in 1989 but was not re-engaged at the end of the season.

Through Clive Lloyd, who was a friend of the family, he played a season for Leycett in the North Staffordshire/South Cheshire League in 1990 and made five appearances for Staffordshire, taking 17 wickets at 27.35, including 4 for 58 v Northumberland at Jesmond and match figures of 8 for 82 at Burton-on-Trent.

Approached by Derbyshire, Middlesex and Somerset, he was accepted by all three, opted for the Londoners and stayed with them for two years, 1991 and 1992, playing 29 first-class matches, scoring 472 runs (avge.18.88) with a top score of 91 at Leicester in 1992 and took 60 wickets (avge.41.93). He won his first Benson & Hedges Gold Award against Sussex at Hove in 1992. Offered a new fixed term contract for 1993, he was unhappy with the financial set up and decided to go elsewhere.

Following initial informal talks with Carl Hooper and skipper Mark Benson, he joined Kent in time for the 1993 season. First however, he had to go before a TCCB board, Middlesex having maintained that Kent had approached him before his Middlesex contract had expired. In fact he had told Middlesex Chairman of Cricket Bob Gale he would be leaving Middlesex before he had spoken formally to Kent but, rightly or wrongly, he was banned for one Championship fixture.

Kent undertook a short pre-season tour of Zimbabwe in March and Headley made his first-class debut for the County at Harare, against Zimbabwe B. It was uneventful, 0 for 27 runs and not asked to bat, but when the English season commenced, he played against the University at Fenner's – 26\*, 1 for 28 & 0 for 17. Not until what would have been his third match for his new county did he actually serve his ban, ironically, against Middlesex at Lord's.

After an uneventful start, in his fourth Championship match, against Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells, he produced his best bowling figures, 7 for 79, and scored 30\* in a 70 run ninth-wicket partnership with Mark Ealham (55). Missing the next two matches, subsequently identified as a hernia which eventually necessitated an operation, his next appearance was v Middlesex in the Nat West Trophy at Canterbury in which he took 3 for 45, including the wicket of his erstwhile skipper, Mike Gatting. In the last game of the season, against Glamorgan at Canterbury, his figures were 3 for 29 & 4 for 97 and, despite having missed a further four Championship matches that season, finished second highest wicket-taker with 42 at 28.36.

In the 1993/1994 winter Headley had his hernia operation before departing to South Africa where, with the declared objective of improving his batting, he played for the Cape Town Premier League side Primrose. Come the 1994 English season however, due to time needed to recuperate and a persistent ankle injury, he ended up playing no cricket after the end of July, nine first-class matches and 15 in limited-overs cricket. Against the South African tourists he took 5 for 60 and played his one innings of substance, 46\* in seventh wicket partnership of 110 with Graham Cowdrey (114). In first-class and the three limited-overs formats he gathered a combined total of 58 wickets.

1995 was a season of mixed fortunes for Kent depending upon your point of view. Victory in the Axa, Equity & Law Sunday League, the Club's first silverware for 17 years, runners-up in the NatWest but bottom of the Championship table. For Headley, despite missing five first-class and four limited-overs matches. it was a year redolent with positives, topped off with a place in the England A team's tour of Pakistan. There had even been talk in influential circles of a place in the forthcoming World Cup.

In the Championship, he improved his best bowling figures for the second time in two years, 7 for 58 at Hove - as well as 5 for 32 at Chester-le - Street, 5 for 68 v Gloucestershire at Canterbury, a rapid half-century at Worcester, his first since joining Kent, and 47\* in a last wicket stand of 74 in 11 overs with Min Patel (26) against Surrey at Canterbury. Receiving the Shepherd Neame bowling award for his 24 wickets in the Axa, Equity & Law League, his figures included 6 for 42 v Surrey at Canterbury and 4 for 59 v Glamorgan at Tunbridge Wells. In all List A matches he was leading wicket-taker, 33 at 24.21 and picked up 44 first-class wickets at 29.00 apiece.

Headley was a late choice for the England A team in Pakistan, replacing Peter Martin who was switched to the England Test team to South Africa. In the words of the A team captain, Nasser Hussain, 'he was the find of the tour'. Left out of the first match, he bowled more first-class overs, 176, and took more wickets, 25 at a parsimonious 15.36 than anyone, his figures including 5 for 68 v the Pakistan Cricket Board Combined Eleven at Lahore, 5 for 34 in the First Unofficial Test at Multan, despite a severe stomach upset, 6 for 73 in the second at Rawalpindi and 5 for 109 in the third at Peshawar. In the latter

match, he was on a hat trick in the first over when a slip catch was missed off the fifth ball; he also survived for 50 minutes in bad light for 4\*.

Kent rose from bottom to fourth place in the 1996 Championship table but outrageous fortune continued to afflict Kent pace bowlers. Headley's hip problems kept him out of the Championship until mid-June, he missed the whole of the Benson & Hedges Cup and half of the Axa Equity & Law Sunday League programme but, once fit again, very quickly made up for lost time. At Derby, he took a hat trick in his first over, Kim Barnett and Chris Adams, both caught by stand-in wicketkeeper David Fulton, Dean Jones lbw without offering a stroke, and finished with 8 for 98. In the very next match, against Worcestershire in the second innings at St. Lawrence, he performed a second hat trick, Tom Moody bowled from the last ball of one over, Ruben Spiring caught at slip by Carl Hooper and Vikram Solanki bowled by the first two balls of the next, only the fourth first-class cricketer to produce consecutive hat tricks.

At Canterbury in September, the penultimate Championship match of the season, Headley took 5 for 83 and performed his third hat trick of the season, finishing off Hampshire's first innings, John Stephenson caught by Mark Ealham at third-man, James Bovill and Simon Renshaw lbw, equalling the record of Charlie Parker in 1924 and Jaginder Rao in 1963. There was yet another hat trick, by McCague in Hampshire's second innings.

Headley was chosen for the first two of the three ODIs against Pakistan but failed to take a wicket in his 17 overs but for the first time reached 50 first-class wickets, 51 at 27.20. Against Somerset at Canterbury when Matt Walker amassed his 275\*. Headley hit 63\*, sharing an unfinished seventh wicket partnership of 137 with Walker.

In the 1996/1997 Headley was again picked for the England A tour, this time to Australia and once again he was the best of the bowlers, with 6 for 60 & 5 for 38 against South Australia at Adelaide the highlight.

Selected for one ODI and the third, fourth and fifth of the six Test matches against Australia in 1997, as well as suffering two injury spells, one way or another Headley missed eleven of Kent's first-class and nine limited-overs matches and it is for his England performances for which he is best remembered that year. Nevertheless, his hostile 5 for 92 was crucial in Kent's victory over third-placed Gloucestershire at Canterbury in the closing weeks of the season, and among his 23 one-day wickets were 3 for 36 against Northants at Canterbury in the Benson & Hedges semi-final which brought him a Gold Award.

In his first Test Match, the third at Old Trafford, played on a moist green pitch with bare patches, he shared the new ball with Darren Gough and struck the left-handed Mark Taylor on the helmet in his first over and had him caught at slip in his third. He followed with three more, all caught behind the wicket by Alec Stewart, two more left-handers, Matthew Elliott and Michael Bevan, and Jason Gillespie, 4 for 72. He again claimed four in the second innings at the cost of 104 runs, the same three left-handers plus Steve Waugh, who scored a century in both innings.

At Headingley, Australia declared at 501 for 9, Headley accounting for both Waugh's for single figures but his own figures were 25 – 2 – 125 – 2. At Trent Bridge, although England were once more outplayed, he again took four wickets including Elliott, caught at the wicket again, and Ricky Ponting, and 2 for 56 in the second innings, including Mark Waugh. There was a sixth Test, which he missed through injury but played at Leeds in one of the three ODIs.

At the end of the 1997 season he was chosen for the Test series against West Indies and for the One-Day Internationals which followed. He did not get on the field for the first Test at Kingston, Jamaica which was called off due to the state of the wicket, but played in the remaining five, finishing third in the averages with 19 wickets at 28.73 and with best bowling figures of 4 for 77 at in the third Test at Port-of- Spain. He also took four wickets in the second Test at Port-of-Spain, six at Georgetown and

three at Bridgetown, Barbados, as well as 5 for 32 and 4 for 14 against Jamaica at Montego Bay in the opening first-class match of the tour. Including his two appearances in ODIs, among his victims were Jimmy Adams, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, teammate Carl Hooper (three times) and Brian Lara (twice).

Called on for only one Test match, against South Africa, in 1998, in terms of figures Headley had by far his best season for the County, top of both first-class and List A averages with 52 wickets at 21.27, four times five in an innings for the former and 30 at 19.83 in the shorter game. He also reached his highest score for the County, 81 v Hampshire at Canterbury. Nobody on the Kent side bowled more than his 546.1 overs in all competitions.

Among highlights of the season were 3 for 49 & 6 for 71 on a greenish pitch v Durham at Canterbury in May and, in successive matches in August/September, 5 for 64 at Derby, 81 (8 fours), against Hampshire at Canterbury when he shared a last wicket partnership of 123 with Patel (58\*), 5 for 79 on a somnolent Northampton pitch and 6 for 97, again at Canterbury, against Somerset.

Although missing three limited-overs matches, he was the most economical of the bowlers, 23 wickets at 17.13 in the Axa Life League including 4 for 36 v Durham at St. Lawrence and, 3 for 14 at Leicester. Taking just two lower order wickets in his one Test match appearance, in the second at Lord's, he was nevertheless picked for the Ashes series in the winter.

Not selected for the first two Tests, he still finished top of the England Test averages, 19 wickets at 22.26. Having achieved nothing remarkable in pre-Test states matches at Adelaide and Queensland, he bowled his way into contention against Victoria at Melbourne with 5 for 58 and 2 for 54, plus two catches and a run out via a direct hit, admittedly against a team lacking eight first-team regulars.

Australia won the third Test at Adelaide and with it the Ashes but Headley came into the side to take 4 for 97 in the first innings and his only victim, Mark Waugh, in the second, Spared the debacle of the England Eleven's collapse at Hobart, he was Man of the Match when England produced a rare victory at Melbourne in the fourth Test. Wicketless in the first innings, he took England to a twelve-run win with 6 for 60 including a spell of four for four from 13 balls and reducing the Australian score from 130 for 3 to 162 all out. His bag included Michael Slater, Mark Waugh (again) and another distinguished left-hander, Darren Lehmann.

Australia returned to their winning ways in the final Test at Sydney but Headley did more than his share – 4 for 62 & 4 for 40 including Slater and Mark Waugh in both innings, Taylor, Justin Langer and Steve Waugh once each, six of his wickets coming from slip catches or to the keeper. In the seemingly interminable number of ODIs played that year in the Carlton United series he played twice against Australia and twice against Sri Lanka.

In 1999, what eventually became his final season, due to two Test matches and, ominously as it transpired, injuries, Dean Headley played in only 12 of Kent's 19 first-class fixtures and 13 of 19 limited-overs matches, for once, faring better in the shorter game. Three times he took four Championship wickets in an innings but his final haul of first-class wickets, 37 at 38.97 was the most expensive since his last season with Middlesex. In the newly launched CGU National League (45 overs), against Warwickshire at Maidstone, he produced figures of 5 for 43 which included four for 7 in 17 balls and a straight hit for four in the final over for a one wicket victory. He also took 4 for 21 v Hampshire at Canterbury, three of his wickets coming in the first two overs.

Thought by many unlucky not be selected for England's World Cup squad, the nearest he got was playing for Kent in two World Cup warm up matches. His Test career ended even more sadly. For no obvious reason he was not picked for the first Test against New Zealand but, brought into the side to replace the injured Alex Tudor in the drawn second Test at Lord's, he claimed three from the top order for 74. In the third Test at Old Trafford the visitors declared at 496 for 9 and Headley (1 for 115), suffered like the rest. And, injured again for the fourth Test, this not only terminated his Test career, but it also eventually ended his career as a first-class cricketer.

At the end of the 1999 season he was among those chosen for the new Central Contracts and was in the party for the tour of South Africa but returned after being diagnosed with a spinal stress fracture. Hopes were still high, helped by insertion of two stainless steel screws into his spine, but by March 2001 it was all over.

‘Deano’ was immensely popular among the Kentish following, particularly among the younger element, and has remained considerably involved with the social media and much in demand as an after-dinner speaker. Although he has been concerned with a variety of business activities beyond cricket including advertising, marketing, design and print and public relations, he has remained closely involved with cricket.

Post retirement, he played a great deal of recreational cricket for the PCA Masters Eleven, Old Kent etc, for Upchurch in the Shepherd Neame Kent League from 2005 to 2009, Papplewick & Linby in the Nottinghamshire Cricket Board League in 2010, and Highfield in the Taurus Hampshire League in 2014. For Upchurch he took 9 for 35 v Wye in 2005 and among his four centuries and 14 half-centuries were 181 with 9 sixes & 14 fours v Old Colfeians at Lee in 2007 and 174 with 8 sixes & 16 fours v Gravesend at Upchurch in 2009. He was Director of Cricket at Stamford Endowed Schools from 2018 to February 2023 and became Head of Cricket at Blundell’s School at the beginning of the Summer Term in 2023.

Headley’s was a relatively short career and only three players fell victim to him five times in first-class cricket— John Stephenson (Essex & Hampshire), Vikram Solanki and Mark Waugh, the latter all in Test matches. Those reaching four included Kim Barnett, Sherwin Campbell (West Indies), Jason Gillespie, Steve James, Tom Moody and Steve Waugh. A little surprisingly, no left handers.

#### *Further reading*

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Flatley, John. *The Headleys. Three generations of Test cricketers*. Von Krumm, 2022.

Headley, Dean. *Kent County Cricket Club Annual*, 2002 pp 48-49.

#### **Peter Hearn (No. 625).**

*Born:* 18. 11.1925, Tunbridge Wells. *Died:* 25. 3. 2013, Hospice in the Weald, Pembury.

Left-handed batsman. slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1947-1956. County cap 1947.

Educated: Skinner’s School, Tunbridge Wells.

Parents. William Hearn & Mary Hearn (née Walters)

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	196	344	31	7892	172	25.21	6	46	64
<b>Overall</b>	200	351	32	8138	172	25.51	7	46	66

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2176	74	1093	19	57.52	3-34		
<b>Overall</b>	2530	90	1245	22	56.59	3-34		

Scoring a century on debut can sometimes be a kiss of death for a batsman. If it was not quite that for Peter Hearn, he certainly never produced the volume of runs (or consistency) his technique seemed to promise. From a cricketing family, he was born in Nevill Cottage on the Tunbridge Wells ground, where his grandfather was groundsman for many years. His father Bill Hearn, an audit clerk, played for Tunbridge Wells as an all-rounder and, after retiring in 1947, continued to serve the club as umpire and

later as one of the auditors. His uncle was Sidney Hearn (*qv.*), one of the more tragic figures of Kent's cricket history. While still at school Peter Hearn played for Linden Park and by 1942 had attracted sufficient attention for find himself playing for C.H. Knott's Kent Eleven at the Angel Ground Tonbridge in a team including Frank Woolley, Les Todd and Jack Davies.

On leaving school, he worked for the Tunbridge Wells Borough Surveyor's Department but was called up and posted to the Royal Engineers. He landed in France in July in 1944 and in September was taken prisoner near Dieppe. Within a few weeks he found himself in Leipzig, being driven daily out into the countryside to work on local farms. As the end of the war approached, in common with many thousands of POWs, he was obliged to undertake a gruelling 500 mile march as the Germans endeavoured to keep their prisoners away from Allied forces advancing from both east and west.

Repatriated in 1945 and some way below full fitness, while on leave he nevertheless played some good quality cricket, scoring 33 for Tunbridge Wells v the Commandos and 96 for Sutton Valence & District v London Counties, a team consisting almost entirely of county professionals. For the Rest v Kent at Canterbury, he failed to score, one of Norman Harding's ten victims. In the following year he hit 76\* against Surrey Second Eleven at The Oval, his first official game in Kent colours.

In 1947, still in the Army, he made his first-class debut after just two more Second team matches. Against a Warwickshire attack including Eric Hollies and Tom Pritchard, then the fastest bowler in England, he scored 124 in 210 minutes with 15 fours and only one chance. Service duties intervened and he passed 50 only once more for Kent but hit 138 for Combined Services v Northants and 106 for the Army v the RAF (not first-class), ending the season with 681 first-class runs at 28.37.

Although now free of Army duties, Peter Hearn disappointed in 1948 apart from a spell in June when in successive matches he hit 58 v Middlesex at Lord's, 96 v Yorkshire at Bradford and 60 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. 12 times he failed to reach double figures.

His career followed a similar pattern in 1949 and, although he scored over 1,000 runs for the first time in 1950 – 1,211 (avge.24.71) with one century and seven 50s – he was still dismissed on 22 occasions before he was into double figures and in his career as a whole, he was out for ten or under in over in 36% of his completed innings. While never appearing anything other than a high class batsman when set, he often looked a nervous starter and reached the landmark 1,000 runs only twice more, in 1951 and 1954.

His best seasons were 1953 when he scored 867 runs (avge.30.86) with centuries against Warwickshire at Edgbaston (as an opener), Sussex at Hastings and Northants at Wantage Road, and 1954 when his 1,413 runs (avge.30.06) included one century and ten half-centuries. Against Worcestershire at Dudley, he achieved his personal best, 172 with 19 fours, his last 72 coming in an hour. With Doug Wright (34\*), Hearn scored 77 of a ninth-wicket partnership of 98.

For much of 1955 Hearn struggled for runs and after only three first team appearances in 1956 he was not re-engaged at the end of the season. A reliable fielder excelling at cover, in 1949 he held 16 catches. His left-arm bowling was little used in first-class matches but in 1955 in a Minor Counties Championship match he took 5 for 54 against Essex at Woodford Wells.

In 1956 he was professional at Tonbridge School and in 1957 accepted an engagement at Kirkcaldy where he remained until 1958, working in a linoleum factory in the close season. His wife Betty, whom he married in 1955, is Canadian and they spent a year or so in Canada, returning to the UK in 1965. For two years he worked in a local chocolate factory before taking up in employment as stationery controller with PPP (Private Patients Care). He retired in 1987.

An unselfish and extremely well-liked cricketer, he was a stalwart of the Tunbridge Wells Club, not only as a player but in fostering young talent. In 1968 he scored five successive 50s and was on his way to another when a damaged tendon ended his cricket career. He other sports included local football,

badminton and golf. Though struck with Parkinson's disease at the age of 80, he continued to play golf until he was 85.

### **Leon Hellmuth (No. 655).**

*Born:* 14. 08.1934, Blackheath. *Died:* 29. 12.1981, Sidcup.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1951-1952. Second Eleven Cap 1951

Educated: Haberdashers' Aske's Boys School.

Parents: Arthur Howard Hellmuth & Annie Helmuth ((née Evans).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7	13	1	34	11	2.83	0	0	8

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	934	46	383	8	47.87	2-11		

The son of a welder, following a trial at the age of 14, Leon Hellmuth joined the staff in 1950 and played his first Club & Ground game that season. In 1951, following success in Club & Ground matches, he made his Second Eleven debut against Norfolk at Canterbury at the beginning of July and 20 wickets in his first three matches brought further promotion – his first team debut against Essex at Blackheath (then the third youngest to do so). He took 1 for 86 (Paul Gibb) as Essex totalled 435 for 5 and was not picked again that season but for the Second Eleven he finished with 38 wickets (avge.15.55) and was awarded his Second Eleven cap. For the Club & Ground he was second highest wicket taker with 48 (avge.10.31).

In 1952 Hellmuth took seven wickets in half a dozen first team games without doing enough to claim a regular place in the side but again bowled with considerable success for the Seconds. At this point National Service with the Royal Army Service Corps (as it then was) intervened but when on leave he continued to take wickets in Second team games. In 1954 he played in only four matches but headed the bowling averages with 24 wickets (avge.14.54). Against Middlesex at Winchmore Hill, he took 5 for 18 from 21 overs in the first innings and 6 for 43 in the second. Unfortunately, like a number of aspiring county cricketers, when he returned from National Service he seemed to have regressed and after a disappointing season in 1955 he was not re-engaged.

He subsequently worked in the offices of the prominent engineering company GA Harvey Ltd in Greenwich and played for the firm's cricket team but while still relatively young he was struck by multiple sclerosis. For some years Kent C.C.C. provided him with a bedside television set. In 1957 he married Pauline Dix in Croydon. He died in St Mary's Hospital, Sidcup. National Probate Records show his estate valued at 'less than £25,000'.

### **Steven Herzberg (No. 769).**

*Born:* 25. 05.1967, Carshalton, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1995

Educated: Claremont and Hollywood School, Hollywood Senior School, Western Australia and Curtin University.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	5	9	2	61	18	8.71	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	21	26	8	394	57*	21.88	0	2	6

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	694	21	401	9	44.55	5-33	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	3568	114	1813	47	38.57	5-33	1	0

#### List A Career Record

##### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	5	0							

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	138	0	127	1	127.00	1-37	0	5.52

After a promising debut at Canterbury in which he followed a first ball duck with 5 for 33 in Leicestershire's second innings, Steve Herzberg took only three wickets in four further appearances and left at the end of the season. Despite being troubled by a torn stomach muscle, he had picked up 35 wickets and scored over 500 runs in Second Eleven matches and many thought he had shown sufficient all round potential to justify further chances, but spinners were going out of fashion and, in any case, Kent's star overseas player, Carl Hooper, bowled highly effective off spin.

Steve Hertzberg had emigrated to Australia with his family at the age of nine but returned to England in search of a career as a professional cricketer. He had been around before joining Kent. In two seasons for Worcestershire (1990-1991) he had scored over 1,000 runs and taken 73 wickets in the Second Eleven Championship without managing to break into the first team. In Australia he took six wickets in two first-class matches for Western Australia in 1991/1992 and 1992/1993 and 22 in seven appearances for Tasmania in 1993/1994. His top score was 57\* for Western Australia v New South Wales at Sydney. After leaving Kent he had one season (1997) with Somerset where he made seven first team appearances.

He was subsequently cricket master at Watsonians College, Edinburgh where he also played league cricket for the Watsonian Club and in 1997 he returned to Australia to become coach at Sydney Grammar School.

#### Richard William Hills (No. 709).

*Born:*08. 01.1951, Borough Green.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1973-1980. County cap 1977.

Educated: Holmesdale School, Snodland

#### First Class Career Record

##### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	85	95	25	995	45	14.21	0	0	33

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9066	335	4494	161	27.91	6-64	2	0



## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	101	64	24	518	34	12.95	0	0	26

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3995	58	2706	99	27.33	5-28	1	4.06

Richard Hills was the type of ‘bits and pieces’ cricketer who had rather fallen out of fashion but came back very much into vogue with the advent of limited-overs cricket. His unspectacular but far from insignificant contribution to Kent’s success in the 1970s – particularly in one-day cricket - is not readily apparent from the statistics and has gone largely unrecognized. If he seldom looked likely to bowl a side out on all but the blandest wickets but his ability to bowl tight line and length with just enough movement to discourage batsman from taking liberties proved invaluable in all forms of cricket. His teammates christened him ‘Vicar’ because he so often played on Sundays.

Confined to the lower middle order, he never had time to build an innings but, whether holding up an end for one of Kent’s array of stroke players or teasing runs out of the tail, checking a collapse or sneaking an extra bonus point, he had a gift for scoring useful 20s, unobtrusively working the ball around for ones and twos.

Hills was with the Frindsbury club when he took 4 for 60 on his Second Eleven debut against Middlesex Seconds at South Hampstead in 1968. Later that year he represented Kent Young Cricketers against Derbyshire juniors at Borrowash. Over the next four seasons, while working for Aylesford Paper Mills and playing for the company team, he made intermittent Second team appearances.

In 1969 he scored over 400 runs in nine matches and hit 62 v Worcestershire Second Eleven batting number three at Stourbridge, his first half-century. He played for the Under-25 side in 1972 and in 1973 joined the staff, making his first team debut in May against Sussex at Hove in the Benson & Hedges Cup and claimed his first wicket, Roger Prideaux. Following an uneventful first-class debut against West Indies, at Folkestone in August he took 4 for 24 in Lancashire’s first innings and when quick runs were needed for a declaration, scored a valuable 36\*.

With both John Shepherd and Bob Woolmer bowlers of broadly similar method, for much of his career Hills was not an automatic choice for the first team - when achieving his first-class best, 6 for 64 v Gloucestershire at Folkestone, he was in the side only because Shepherd was injured. Nevertheless, what with injuries and increasingly frequent Test calls, he progressed from 18 first team appearances in 1975 to 40 in 1976, 39 in the following season and never fewer than 21 in the remainder of his time with the county.

A typical Richard Hills performance was against Derbyshire at Chesterfield in 1975 when, put on as fourth change, he took 4 for 16 in 14.1overs including three wickets in seven balls. Against Surrey at Folkestone that year he scored 41\*, sharing a 70-run eighth-wicket partnership with Shepherd (46). In 1976 he had three four-wicket returns – 4 for 55 & 4 for 57 v Northants at Maidstone, 4 for 55 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells. Against Hampshire at Canterbury next season, again fourth change, he had figures of 4.4-4-0-3. At Swansea, he twice wrecked Glamorgan’s middle order with 4 for 44 & 3 for 39 and in an innings of 43 helped Chris Cowdrey (101\*) to his maiden century, adding 73 for the ninth-wicket. At Canterbury he strangled Nottinghamshire’s batsmen in their second innings with figures of 24-7-44-5.

In the 40 over John Player League he took 4 for 21 v Sussex at Mote Park in 1977, followed by 3 for 21 and 25 (top score) v Northants at Tring. In 1979, when he finished second in Kent’s limited overs

averages with 30 wickets (avge.15.96), he took in successive JPL matches, 4 for 23 v Somerset at Taunton, 4 for 21 v Glamorgan at Cardiff and 3 for 45 v Middlesex at Canterbury as well as 4 for 34 in a one-day friendly with the Australians and 4 for 14 v Minor Counties (North) in the Benson & Hedges Cup.

When not playing in the first team Richard Hills had perhaps more than his fair share of twelfth man duties but he scored almost 2,500 runs in the Second Eleven Championship including one century, 147 v Gloucestershire at Orpington, fourteen half-centuries as well as taking 131 wickets. In 1980 he still turned in some useful performances including 3 for 37 and 3 for 70 against Sussex at Hove but overall he had a moderate season and in September his contract was terminated by mutual consent. For the remainder of his working life he was coach at Eltham College.

### **Simon Graham Hinks (No. 732).**

*Born:* 12. 10. October 1960, Northfleet.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1982-1991.

Kent cap. 1985

Educated: St.George's School, Gravesend.

Parents: Graham Hinks & Mary Hinks (*née* Welch)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	154	267	15	7569	234	30.03	11	35	96
<b>Overall</b>	182	319	19	8715	234	29.05	11	43	114

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	580	11	367	8	45.87	2-18		
<b>Overall</b>	603	12	383	8	47.87	2-18		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	137	135	11	3233	99	26.07	0	21	39
<b>Overall</b>	174	170	12	4026	99	25.48	0	26	48

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	414	1	360	9	40.00	1-3	0	5.21
<b>Overall</b>	426	1	370	11	33.63	2-10	0	5.21

A tall, elegant batsman 'apt to get himself out when seemingly well set' (*History of Kent County Cricket Club vol.3*) Simon Hinks could sometimes frustrate. For much of his career 'he found the really big scores elusive' but in 1990 he shared in Kent's (then) highest partnership for any wicket. The following season he was released.

Hinks was born into a cricket-loving family with his parents, brother and sister all deeply associated with Gravesend Cricket Club. Kevin Jarvis remembers that his father 'had a lovely relaxed manner. .he captained the side to win but in the correct manner'. The 1972 team photo features both of them, captain and the team's 11 year old scorer, Simon Hinks. His brother Jonathan followed as player (for over 30 years) and captain and his sister, Jane, as scorer.

Before long Hinks was playing for Gravesend and he joined Kent in 1980. In 1982 he made a record number of runs for the Second XI (1,165 average 52.95) with three centuries and three scores in the 90s. He made his first class debut in June, dismissed for 1 in the midst of a hostile Marshall spell but hitting the winning run in the second innings. He played six times in 1983, the highlight 'an impressive' 87 at Cardiff. He scored another three Second XI hundreds in 1984 but, although described by Colin Page (along with Laurie Potter) as 'worthy of County cricket', eight first team appearances brought just 182 runs at 11.57, only Kevin Jarvis averaged fewer.

The breakthrough came in 1985 when 'with powerful stroke play' he made 1,536 runs (avge.34.13). He had rarely previously opened but started the season opening with Mark Benson. After 65 in the first game against Hampshire, his 92 against Surrey in the next (adding 173 with the new captain Chris Cowdrey ('159') as Kent recovered from 16-3) cemented his place. In the return match at The Oval he made 81 and 117 (his maiden first-class hundred). At Eastbourne he was left on 99\* 'when a gale-force wind finally gave way to persistent rain'. In the Nat West he and Benson shared a then Kent List A record first wicket partnership of 188 as Kent beat Surrey, Hinks' 95 winning him the Man of the Match award.

1986 was disappointing (936 runs at 26.00). He made two centuries, 103 against Somerset at Maidstone and 131 against Hampshire (adding 191 for the first wicket with Benson, Kent's highest opening stand for 13 years) but with only two other scores over 50 he remained inconsistent. His average was similar in one day cricket, his top score 99 (run out) at Maidstone. This remained the closest he ever came to a one day century.

He spent most of 1987 at number three as the Benson and Taylor opening partnership resumed. His only Championship hundred came at Lord's (reached with a six the fielder carried over the boundary) although his season's aggregate (992 runs at 32.00) was helped by another hundred at Oxford. He scored consistently in the Benson and Hedges Cup, top score 85 against Sussex, but failed as Kent lost their semi-final match against Northamptonshire.

1988 was another moderate year (764 runs at 29.38). The Annual noted 'he sometimes finds it hard to curb his aggression'. His only hundred came against Oxford (in a total of 539-3 dec) and in July he was replaced in the Championship team by Trevor Ward. Returning near the end of the season he made a 'fine' 92 in the last match (an innings victory against Surrey) and the Annual felt, with Chris Tavare's departure, he 'could emerge to play a key role in the county's earlier order'.

1989 saw a slight improvement (1,038 runs at 32.12) but his only hundred came against mainly declaration bowling – 'too often the fatal flirt outside the off stump causes his demise'. That season he was caught 19 times, eight times by the keeper and five or six other times by regular slip/gulley fielders.

That winter Hinks worked as a fitness instructor at Great Danes at Hollingbourne and, announcing he lost half a stone, the Kent Annual suggested his fitness had improved. In 1990 he scored 1,588 runs at an average of 36.93. In that batsman-friendly summer this was only 105th in the national averages but at 29 Hinks had finally shown he could play the long innings. He followed a 'sublime' 120 at Guildford with a career best 234 against that season's champions Middlesex at Canterbury. His partnership of 366 for the second wicket with Neil Taylor was at the time Kent's highest partnership for any wicket. In August he faced 350 balls making 163 (after being dropped twice on 14) against Leicestershire.

But this was to be his last hundred. Within a year (after 275 runs avge.22.91 in 1992) he had played his last match for Kent (making just 5 and 9). That month 23-year-old Trevor Ward ('able to hold back his natural instinct to attack') made 235\* and, to the disappointment of many, Hinks was (one of five players) released.

Hinks signed for Gloucestershire but there was little more to come. He suffered a bad cartilage injury in 1992 and, he said, a loss of confidence after being released by Kent. In three seasons for Gloucestershire he made just 1,146 average 23.87 with a best of 88\*.

He retired in 1994 joining the University of Bristol as a fundraiser, moving on to become deputy director of sport. Whilst playing he had coached in South Africa and Tasmania and continued coaching afterwards in Gloucestershire whilst still playing regularly. In 2015 he scored a match-winning 108\* out of 191 for Gloucestershire Over 50s. In 2021 he became an ECB match referee, maintaining his life-long involvement in and love of cricket.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

*John Winnifrith.*

### **James Bernard Hockley (No. 781).**

*Born:* 16. 04. 1979, Beckenham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1998-2010.

Educated: Kelsey Park Secondary School, Beckenham.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	30	49	5	804	82	18.27	0	4	21

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	624	16	408	5	81.60	1-8		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	71	68	7	1595	121	26.14	1	8	24

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	90	0	96	3	32.00	2-32	0	6.40

James Hockley came to Kent via the Bexley Club and ESCA, having attracted notice in 1994 by emulating Trevor Ward (*q.v.*) and reaching 1,000 runs in Kent Under-15 matches. He made his Second Eleven debut in 1996, against Hampshire Seconds at Canterbury where, stumped for a duck batting number seven in the first innings, he was promoted to number five in the second, scored 20, and remained in the side for the next match against Essex Seconds at Coggeshall.

He registered two half-centuries in the Second Eleven Championship in 1997 and finished second in the Aon One-Day Trophy batting averages. Against Surrey he hit 60 against an attack led by first team opening bowlers Alex Tudor and Joey Benjamin. In the Second Eleven summary in the Kent Annual in 1998, coach Alan Ealham singled him out for his allround promise.

Hockley joined the Kent staff in 1998 and in June made his first-class debut, opening the batting against Oxford University in the Parks with scores of 21 and 9. This was his only experience of first-class cricket that season but played nine Second Team matches, headed the averages in the Aon Trophy and

reached his highest score in Kent matches to date with 86 against Middlesex at Vine Lane in the Under-19 Championship.

In the following year he again played one first-class match, his Championship debut v Gloucestershire at Canterbury, which brought him his first wicket, Jack Russell. In the Second Eleven he played 13 Championship matches, ten in the Aon one-day competition, leading scorer in the former, 719 runs (avge.39.94). This included his one century, a remarkable 236 v Glamorgan Seconds at Ammanford, with 37 fours and four sixes. With Nigel Llong (84) he shared a 134 run stand for the fourth-wicket and 253 in 161 minutes for the seventh with Andrew Patterson (132). He also hit two centuries for Bexley and at the end of the season was voted Kent Cricket League Young Cricketer of the Year.

Unfortunately, over the next three seasons, he never lived up to his early promise. In 2000 he began with his maiden first-class half century, 74 v Zimbabwe at Canterbury with 11 fours and putting on 208 in 54 overs for the fifth-wicket with Rahul Dravid (182). Apart from 33 against Durham at Chester-le-Street, he did not reach double figures again in his remaining four first-class appearances and, with seven further matches in 2001 and five in 2002, his top score was 46. He did rather better in one-day cricket with four half centuries in 2001 including 90 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston in the Norwich Union Sunday League and in 2002 his only first team century, 121 v Warwickshire in the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy at Canterbury. It was not enough and his contract was not renewed for 2003.

Hockley became a Sports teacher at Marlborough House, Cranbrook but it proved to be not quite the end with Kent. Largely it seems due to his free-scoring career with his new club Hartley Country Club, including a League record 283\* v Gore Court in 2008, he was offered a two-year contract for 2009.

Again however, the runs did not come, or at least not enough of them. In 2009 he played five first-class matches, scored 240 runs with a top score of 72 at Chelmsford. In his first Championship match in 2010 he hit 82 from 152 balls, sharing a seventh-wicket partnership of 113 with James Tredwell (72\*) but in his five remaining matches, including one against the Pakistanis, his top score was 20. and the remainder were single figures.

In Second Eleven Championship matches he totalled 429 runs (avge.35.74) in 2009 with one century, 152 v Essex at Beckenham, and two half-centuries but appeared only twice in 2010 and three times in the Second Eleven Trophy, with one half-century. He also appeared eight times for the County in Twenty20 matches and eight times in the Twenty/20 Blast.

He continued as a prolific scorer with Hartley Country Club and, in 2018 and 2019 with Eastbourne.

### **Andrew James Mendez Hooper (No.702).**

*Born:* 17. 09.1945, Denmark Hill, London.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1966-1969.

Educated: Shooter's Hill Grammar School.

Second Eleven Cap 1967.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	13	13	4	70	37	7.77	0	0	7

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	959	37	493	16	30.81	6-92	1	0

At a time when Test cricketers played regularly for their counties, any aspiring Kent left-arm spin bowler was always likely to lack opportunity during Derek Underwood's long reign as premier spinner. Such was the case with Andy Hooper who, after some impressive performances for Blackheath, made his Club & Ground debut in 1964. In 1966 he joined the staff and had played only three Second Eleven games (and taken only one wicket) when he made his first-class debut against Warwickshire in Canterbury Week. In two first-class matches he claimed three wickets, all Test cricketers – Dennis Amiss, John Jameson and Roger Tolchard.

Although Underwood played two Test matches in 1967, no further first team opportunities came Hooper's way but 52 wickets (ave.17.63) made him leading Second team wicket-taker. For the most part he was consistent rather than deadly but there were two outstanding performances, both against Sussex Seconds – 4 for 7 at Sittingbourne and 5 for 51 and 8 for 28 at Bexhill-on-Sea, the latter a record for Kent in the Second Eleven Competition.

Next year, with Underwood occupied against the Australians, Hooper played four first team games but bowled only 18 overs and failed to take a wicket and his haul in Second team matches fell to 30 (ave.22.10). In the Cricket Sub-Committee report he was criticised for bowling too flat but looking back he seems to have bowled rather less than his record in the previous season warranted. In 1969, in what proved to be his final season, he took thirteen wickets in seven first team matches including 6 for 92 against Oxford University in the Parks and 3 for 44 v Middlesex at Canterbury. For the Second Eleven, despite 6 for 65 v Gloucestershire at Canterbury and 3 for 6 and 3 for 57 in his last match v Essex at Sittingbourne, his final record mirrored 1968, 29 wickets at 25.00. He was not re-engaged for 1970 and returned to club cricket.

In 1974 Andy Hooper represented the Kent Cricket League against Canada at Gore Court in 1974, played for the Club Cricket Conference against Cambridge University at Fenner's in 1981 and against the Sri Lankans in a World Cup warm-up at Bushey Park in 1983. He was in the Blackheath side beaten by Scarborough at Lord's in the Haig Trophy Final at Lord's in 1981. In 1978 he made one final appearance for Kent Second Eleven when he took 2 for 81 from 40 overs against Essex at Dartford.

He continued to take wickets for Blackheath until 1984 when, on his employers Sun Life of Canada moving their head office to Basingstoke, he set up home in Andover where he was recruited by the local club and played for them for another 20 years. In 1972 he married Mary Boyce in Greenwich.

### **Carl Llewellyn Hooper (No. 759).**

*Born:* 15. 12. 1966, Georgetown, Guyana.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1992-1998.

Kent cap 1992

Educated: Christchurch Secondary School, Georgetown, Guyana.

Walter Lawrence Trophy Winner 1998 (joint).

Test Captain: 22, ODIs: 45. All for West Indies

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	85	142	9	6714	236*	50.48	22	30	121
<b>West Indies</b>	102	173	15	5762	233	36.46	13	27	115
<b>Overall</b>	339	535	52	23034	236*	47.68	69	104	375

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	13007	520	5389	154	34.99	7-93	2	0
<b>West Indies</b>	13794	531	5635	114	49.42	5-26	4	0

<b>Overall</b>	46464	1741	19595	555	35.30	7-93	18	0
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### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	113	106	11	4158	145	43.76	6	30	59
<b>West Indies</b>	227	206	43	5761	113*	35.34	7	29	120
<b>Overall</b>	457	414	81	13357	145	40.11	15	85	242

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
<b>Kent</b>	5056	45	3393	91	37.28	5-41	1	4.02
<b>West Indies</b>	9573	53	6958	193	36.05	4-34	0	4.36
<b>Overall</b>	19718	142	13611	396	34.37	5-41	1	4.14

### Twenty20 Career Record Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	10	9	2	162	49*	23.14	0	0	6

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	204	0	197	8	24.62	4-18	0	5.79

When Carl Hooper joined Kent in 1992 he was 25 years old and an experienced Test cricketer with 32 Test matches and 80 ODIs to his credit. Although at Test level he had not at that time achieved the consistency or weight of runs of some of his contemporaries, when he ended his career he stood 12th among the leading run scorers in the list of West Indian Test batsmen, with 5,762 runs (avge.36.46) in 102 Test matches. plus 114 wickets and 115 catches. He added in another 5,761 runs and 193 wickets in 227 ODIs.

Tall, elegant, powerfully built and quick on his feet, few matched his power and variety of stroke play and for Kent he must surely rank among the greatest of the post-war generation of Kent batsmen. It was not just a matter of the runs he scored, but the speed and panache with which the runs came. Nor was he just a flat-track specialist. Like a number of Guyanese batsman, of which Rohan Kanhai was an earlier example, he excelled on spin-friendly or simply sub-standard pitches. In his five Kentish seasons, he twice averaged over 50 and his figures never fell below 45. Of Kent batsmen who played 25 matches for the County, he alone averaged over 50 (50.48).

He scored 14% of Kent's first-class runs and, even more remarkable considering he rarely opened, 18% of the limited-overs runs scored during his time with the County. He struck 139 sixes in his 142 first-class innings for Kent and 66 in 122 limited-overs matches.

Although his bowling figures may not be startling and perhaps in some quarters under-rated, his rather flat, highly accurate off spin earned him 555 wickets in first-class cricket and, particularly in limited-overs cricket, could be relied on to keep things under control. As a slip fielder, Kent have surely never had a better.

Originating from a casual conversation with Dean Headley about joining Kent, Hooper began informal talks with skipper Mark Benson but, although matters moved swiftly, in 1992, his debut year for Kent, he was still involved in an ODI with South Africa at Sabina Park at the beginning of the English season

and, as a result missed the first Championship match, two Benson & Hedges and one Sunday League fixture.

Hooper had flourished on English wickets in 1986 for Werneth in the Central Lancashire League, Kent had first encountered him when West Indies came to Canterbury two years later. It was a rather unusual affair. Thanks to injuries and others who were 'resting', Kent fielded only four first team regulars. Invited to bat, the visitors lost Desmond Haynes, Richie Richardson, Viv Richards and Jeffrey Dujon cheaply and it was Hooper 87 (one six, 14 fours) who did most to take the tourists to a respectable 275. Perhaps unsurprisingly, despite their relatively modest total, West Indies won in two days.

In the same fixture in 1991, when Kent narrowly lost by four runs, he struck 61\* including three sixes and one four from one over from the late Richard Davis, and 54\* in the second innings. He also claimed his first Kent wicket, Simon Hinks.

Hooper's first appearance for Kent was against Yorkshire at Headingley in the Benson & Hedges Cup. His innings of 17 and 3 for 28, including two in two balls, was rather over-shadowed by the debut for the home team of Sachin Tendulkar, Yorkshire's first- ever overseas cricketer. Two days later he was at Northampton in the Sunday League where he was run out for 36 and again bowled well with 2 for 23 from his eight overs without conceding a boundary. On his first-class Kent debut, against Durham at Canterbury, he was lbw to Simon Brown for 1 but Kent saw some of his true quality in the second innings. Against an attack including Ian Botham and Simon Hughes, he scored 115\*, his hundred coming from 82 balls with five sixes and 13 fours with an unfinished third wicket partnership of 197\* in 28 overs with Neil Taylor (78\*).

According to the Kent Annual and the 1993 *Wisden*, one of Hooper's sixes, off Brown, cleared the famous and now sadly departed lime tree, and was said to be the first hit over the tree since 1933. In fact, there seems to be nothing in the 1934 *Wisden*, *The Cricketer* magazine, or apparently anything written by any participants to indicate by whom or off whom the hit was made. Learie Constantine was suggested in some quarters but he did not play against Kent in 1933. According to Brodribb he cleared the tree playing against Kent but in 1928 not 1933.

Over the rest of the season he hit four more centuries, 121 at Hove, 131 off 157 balls at Guildford, 100 from 75 balls at Swansea, and 102 in the last game of the season at Edgbaston where 141 runs were scored from 32 overs for the third-wicket with Taylor (78). He also hit seven half-centuries. On the other hand, he was 11 times dismissed for single figures, including three ducks and his 1,329 runs (avge.47.46), left him fourth behind Benson, Graham Cowdrey and Trevor Ward. In the remainder of his time with Kent, he only once failed to lead the averages, when he was second.

Apart from Richard Davis, Hooper bowled more overs than anyone else and took 35 wickets at 37.34 which included 4 for 57 in the final match at Edgbaston when, with Davis (5 for 41), they helped clinch Kent's second place in the Championship.

Hooper had a fairly low-key limited-overs season – 516 runs (avge.25.80) apart from 3 for 28 v Yorkshire at Headingley in the Benson & Hedges, 50 in 46 balls v Surrey at Canterbury in the Semi-final in the same competition and 90 when Kent beat Surrey at The Oval in the Sunday League.

Wicketkeepers excluded, he was joint leading catcher with Ward for Kent with 25.

In 1993, his second season, Hooper was comfortably top of the Kent first-class and limited-overs averages and leading run-getter in all competitions except the Benson & Hedges Cup from which Kent had been eliminated before he arrived in England. With 1,304 runs (avge.59.27), 2,258 in all competitions, nobody else reached the 1,000 in first-class matches and only Mark Ealham (avge.51.23) averaged over 50. He hit 17 sixes in first-class and 8 in limited-overs cricket and was also Kent's leading catcher with 22, Marsh of course excluded.



Again missing early matches due to Test commitments, after 37\* in the re-named and now 50-over Axa Equity & Law League, he began his County Championship season with 75 (three sixes, eight fours) against Warwickshire at Canterbury but it was not until the beginning of June that runs began to flow. in the longer game. He was however prolific in limited overs - 94 at Trent Bridge, 85 at Darlington and 70\* v Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells in successive innings in the Axa Equity & Law League.

In the four-day match at Tunbridge Wells he scored 96 and shared a 206 run second-wicket stand with Benson (103), followed immediately by 69 (top score) at Basingstoke, all but 13 of them in boundaries. There followed 99 (played on) and 35 at Headingley, 142 against Essex at Mote Park and 65, scored out of 72, at Arundel. On the Saturday of the Mote Park match he was 108\* at close of play. On the Sunday, against the same opponents, on the same ground in the Axa League, he struck 103 from 109 balls, took 5 for 41 and held the catch which ended the match. On the Monday morning he took his Championship score to 142, coming from 134 balls.

With Surrey the visitors in the Canterbury Festival (as we were now obliged to call it) he hit 81, sharing a 148 run third-wicket partnership from 33 overs with Ward (141) and two matches later, demonstrated his penchant for scoring runs at relatively unusual venues, with 166\* at Lytham from 266 balls, including a seventh-wicket partnership of 156 with Ealham (79). In the penultimate game, v Northants at Canterbury, he produced his then best bowling return for Kent in a first-class match, 4 for 35.

For the second year running he ended the season with a century, in this case his first double century, 236\* v Glamorgan at Canterbury with three sixes and 21 fours from 330 balls in 397 minutes. Coming in after losing the first two batsmen without scoring, he put on 229 for the third-wicket with Ward (137) and 171 for the fourth with Nigel Llong (62).

In the two limited-overs competitions in which he played, he headed the batting averages for both with one century and 9 half-centuries. He bowled more overs, 168, than any other Kent bowler and claimed 21 wickets (avge.27.10). Only Fleming took more, Ealham the same number.

Arguably his best season, in 1994 he totalled 1,579 first-class runs (avge.54.44) with five centuries and seven half-centuries, five of the latter ranging between 79 and 89. In List A cricket he scored 1,005 (avge.52.89) with three hundreds and six fifties. He was top of the Kent averages in both tables, by more than ten runs in first-class cricket and more than 17 in the shorter game. He hit 36 first-class sixes, 18 in one-day matches. Only four times did he play in a first-class match without scoring at least a half-century and, even then, in two of them he was out in the 40s.

Among his best innings was a 79 ball hundred before lunch on a turning Chelmsford pitch, going on to 160 with nine sixes and adding 153 for the third-wicket with Ward (50). Against Yorkshire at Maidstone, he was obliged to retire due to a dizzy spell at 38\* but returned at 178 for 3 to score 183 with ten sixes and 11 fours from 151 balls. Against Hampshire, on a newly laid Canterbury pitch with cracks and irregular bounce which triggered a visit from pitch inspector Harry Brind, he reached 100 from 102 balls, hitting 138 with two sixes, one through a pavilion window, and ten fours. 27 extras were next highest scorer in a total of 273.

Against Durham at Canterbury he improved on his best bowling figures, 5 for 52 from 25 overs. For the third season running he hit a century in his last first-class match of the season, v Somerset at Canterbury, where he hit two sixes and 20 fours in his 127 and put on 218 in 46 overs with Taylor (120).

Of his three one-day hundreds, his first was 136\* against Berkshire at Finchamstead in the National Westminster Bank Trophy where, with Ward (120), 169 were added for the third-wicket at eight an over. In the Axa Equity & Law Sunday League – now reverted to 40-over format – after of a run of four successive half-centuries, he captained the side at Derby and struck 113 from 83 balls followed by 122 at Northampton with two sixes, ten fours and a 143- run fourth-wicket partnership in 24 overs with Graham Cowdrey (82) - two hundreds and four fifties in successive innings. He was awarded £3,000 as leading run-scorer in the competition.

Hooper spent the 1995 English season touring with West Indies with Aravinda de Silva as a highly successful replacement. When the Sri Lankan was obliged to return for Test duties with one, possibly vital, Sunday League game still to go, Kent tried to sign Hooper but TCCB regulations would not permit.

Back again in 1996, he again finished leading scorer with 1,287 first-class runs (avge.47.66) and 884 (avge.38.43) in limited overs. He headed the Kent averages in the latter but Matt Walker averaged 60 in first-class cricket, thanks to three not outs in his 13 innings, not to mention his 275\* against Somerset. As well as three hundreds, Hooper's nine half centuries included two over 80 and four in the seventies and in List A matches one century and seven half-centuries.

On a bitterly cold day in May on a spin friendly pitch at Ilford, Hooper hit 155 from 174 balls with three sixes and 20 fours and a partnership of 224 with Graham Cowdrey (111). This was his third successive Championship century against Essex. Together Hooper and Patel bowled all but 20 of the 198 overs delivered in Kent's innings victory – Patel 88.3 - 25- 225-10, Hooper 89-19-218-7.

Against Durham at Maidstone he scored 105, his third successive hundred at Mote Park, from 78 balls and followed in the next innings with 103 at Derby, a more restrained effort in 153 balls.

With Steve Marsh injured, Hooper was appointed captain against Worcestershire in Canterbury Week. The Week had been promoted as a celebration of '150 years of cricket at Canterbury' but things went horribly wrong. Worcestershire totalled 459-9 declared (Hick 148) but, although Hooper finished top scorer with 76, and Headley contributed the second of his hat tricks in the second innings, Kent, with Ealham absent hurt, eventually needed 301 from 84 overs and folded for 108 from 32 overs, Hooper one of five who failed to reach double figures.

Clearly disheartened, Hooper resigned the captaincy but continued to score runs, five half-centuries before the end of the season, with 4 for 7 at Northampton in the very next match for good measure but, after his last match hundreds in previous years, the end came on a disappointing note at Bristol, lbw Andrew Symonds 6, bowled Courtney Walsh 0.

His one century in limited- overs cricket that season, 145 at Leicester in the Axa Equity & Law Sunday League, was rated by many, including Hooper himself, as his finest ever in a match which produced 625 runs from 78.2 overs. Pacing himself to reach a target of 311, he hit his first 50 in 59 balls with only one four, the remaining 95 coming from 51 balls with three sixes and 11 fours. In the Benson & Hedges Cup against Somerset at Maidstone his 98 came from 94 balls and in the Axa League match against Durham on the same ground he struck 76\*, bringing his aggregate in four one-day matches at Mote Park to 329 at an average of 164.5.

With 33 catches for Kent in first-class matches he took more than anyone, keepers included, and hit 28 sixes plus another 18 in limited-overs.

With Hooper occupied with West Indies in 1997, 1998 proved to be his fifth and final season. He took up his customary place top of Kent's first-class averages and leading run-scorer – 1,215 runs (avge.45.00), the next highest being David Fulton with 954 (avge.31.80). Nobody else averaged over 30 or reached 700 runs. Hooper scored six centuries including his second double hundred and two scores over 150 but it was in some respects a strange season.

Until the second week of July he had played eight matches, batted eight times in the first innings and scored 24 runs with two ducks and a top score of 11. In the second innings he ran up 502 runs in six innings including 203 against Lancashire at Canterbury, from 210 balls with six sixes and 23 fours, 94 at The Oval and 122 against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury. In limited overs cricket, over the same period, he scored over 500 runs so clearly there was no loss of form.

Commencing with 100 in the first innings at Southend on July 16th, for the rest of the season things returned more or less to normal, 359 runs in the first innings with two centuries, 334 in the second, again with two centuries. Included were hundred in three successive matches, 111 in the second innings at Bristol, 154 (19 fours, three sixes from 157 balls ) v Worcestershire in the first innings at Canterbury, the hundred coming in 72 balls, and at Northampton when, in his last Kentish century, seemingly disenchanted with carrying the Kent batting, he preferred to bat at number seven in the second innings and hit 157\* (16 fours, four sixes) and added 176 in 51 overs with Alan Wells (77).

Still batting number seven, his last first-class match, against Somerset at Canterbury, was pure anti-climax – lbw van Troost 8 and, moved up to six, c Burns b Caddick 14. He failed to take a wicket but held a superb slip catch to dispose of leading scorer Mark Lathwell.

Hooper's bowling was often rather taken for granted but in 1998 he produced two outstanding bowling performances, at The Oval his best ever - 39.1 overs for 7 for 93 including the wickets of Mark Butcher, Graham Thorpe, both Hollioakes, and 'Ali' Brown and against Hampshire in the Canterbury Festival 4 for 14 and 4 for 29, his scalps including Robin Smith (twice), Adrian Aymes (twice), Kevan James and Dmitri Mascarenhas.

Although second to Alan Wells in the one-day averages, his 784 runs (avge.46.12) again placed him leading scorer and only twice did he fail to reach double figures. His one century, 100 v Durham at Canterbury in the Axa Life League, came from 90 balls. There were six half-centuries, including four in the Axa League, 62 from 58 balls v Somerset at Canterbury in his last match for the County. He departed to a standing ovation.

The customary Annual Report on the 1998 season was not perhaps a model of its kind. According to the author, Hooper was 'a joy to watch but for us he lacked consistency'. Unfortunately, he rarely seemed to find his true form in the all-important first innings of the Championship games'.

Not everyone would subscribe to the suggestion that first innings runs are necessarily more important than second innings runs but, even allowing for the freakish rash of low first innings scores in the first half of his last Kentish season, many followers of cricket, not confined to just the Kentish faithful, found the comments puzzling to say the least and to some the use of the word 'inconsistent' downright insulting. To use the word to describe his record for Kent as 'inconsistent' simply defies belief. Only five, Ames (44.33), Colin Cowdrey (42.01), Woolley (41.77), Rob Key (40.63) and Benson (40.27) averaged 40, let alone 50.

During his career with Kent, in the first innings Hooper scored 11 hundreds and 23 half-centuries, in the second 11 hundreds and seven half-centuries. In the first innings he totalled 3,887 runs (avge.47.98), in the second 2,827 (avge.54.36).

In 2003/2004 he played two seasons for Lancashire, scoring a further 1,912 first-class runs, 966 in limited-overs cricket and hitting another eight first-class centuries including another double hundred. He captained his country in 22 Test matches, won five, drawn seven, lost ten with four centuries, including a double century and nine half-centuries.

Hooper scored a century for Kent against every other county except Middlesex and of course Kent, four against Essex, two against Durham, Glamorgan, Lancashire and Warwickshire. While with Lancashire he added both Kent and Middlesex to complete the list. He exceeded 500 runs for Kent against three counties, Essex 783 (avge.78.30), Glamorgan 549 (avge.61.00) and Lancashire 539 (avge.89.83).

The bowlers who dismissed Hooper most frequently during his Kent career were S.L Watkin (6), R.K.Illingworth (4). With his off spin he had an impressive list of distinguished victims while with Kent – A.D.Brown, M.A.Butcher, A.Flintoff, G.A.Gooch, G.A.Hick, N.Hussain (2), B.C.Lara, I.V.A. Richards, P.V.Simmons (2), R.A.Smith (2), C.J.Tavaré, G.P.Thorpe.

Writing in praise of Hooper in a farewell piece in the 1999 Kent Annual, former Kent President, the late Robin Baker-White added that he was ‘perhaps his own man’. If he was no lover of bonding sessions, reluctant to spend time in the nets, usually content with a few dozen throw-downs and liked to go his own way, there have been quite a few great cricketers with a similar outlook. So long as the runs kept coming and came quickly, it hardly mattered. If some of his teammates found him a bit of an enigma, aloof or whatever, it is not unusual in cricket, as in most team games, and one senses there seem to have been substantial elements of the ‘Tall Poppy syndrome’. If Hooper himself at times often felt he was carrying most of Kent’s batting on his back, it was difficult, judging by figures alone, not to disagree.

Suggestions of finance being his primary consideration, if true, he would certainly not be the first still less the last but, again judging by figures alone, he undoubtedly delivered value for money.

Some of the criticism was a bit odd. Hooper was a devotee of Formula One but one teammate suggested that when FI was on TV, Hooper was apt to ‘score a quick 50’, get out, put his feet up and watch the cars. Leaving aside the problem of time difference, there were remarkably few ‘quick 50s’. Of his 30 half-centuries, 83% were scores of between 65 and 99. One distinguished former Kent captain judged him ‘a really tough man to captain’ but Hooper never played under this particular skipper and he was hardly in a position to pass judgement. In his 85 first-class matches Hooper played under Benson in 47 matches, Marsh 34, Trevor Ward 3 and one under Hooper himself. In List A, under Marsh 55, Benson 50, Ward 4, Hooper 3.

As for his record at the highest level, his 13 Test centuries were made against a variety of bowlers including Abdul Quadir, Andy Caddick, Imran Khan, Kapil Dev, Anil Kumble (twice), Glenn McGrath, Devon Malcolm, Mushtaq Ahmed, Saqlain Mushtaq, Javagal Srinath (three times), Waqar Younis (three times), Shane Warne and Wasim Akram (three times). In West Indian first-class domestic cricket he captained Guyana 25 times, and claimed centuries against some distinguished names including Ian Bishop, Wayne Daniel and Malcolm Marshall. One notable absentee was Muttiah Muralitharan but he scored two half-centuries against him in Tests with a top score of 81.

#### *Further reading*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

*Kent County Annual* 1999 pp 201-203.

#### **William John House (No. 776).**

*Born:* 16. 03. 1976, Sheffield, South Yorkshire.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1996-1999.

Educated: Sevenoaks School and Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	6	1	65	22*	13.00	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	37	57	8	1443	136	29.44	2	8	21

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	53	0	36	0				
<b>Overall</b>	1463	32	964	4	241.00	1-34		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	22	18	1	336	49	19.76	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	97	87	12	1501	93	20.01	0	3	22

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	75	0	77	1	77.00	1-4	0	6.16
<b>Overall</b>	1091	3	932	31	30.06	5-58	1	5.12

When in 1996, in only his second first-class match, Will House smote 136 from 123 balls for Cambridge University at Fenner's against a Derbyshire attack including Devon Malcolm and Dominic Cork, many predicted great things. He hit 127 against Middlesex two matches later, scored 47\* (from 30 balls) and 54 against Oxford and ended his University season top of the averages with over 500 runs. He did not quite maintain this form in his two subsequent seasons at Cambridge, but he hit 94 with fourteen fours and two sixes against Oxford in 1997 and averaged over 40 in 1998.

Unfortunately, in the county game it was different. His top Championship score was 46, for Sussex in 2001, and his only half-century outside University cricket was 50 for MCC v Bangladesh at Dhaka in 2000.

Because he was not inclined hang about at the crease both Kent and Sussex tended to stereotype him as a limited overs specialist but even here, apart from a memorable Norwich Union League 80\* for Sussex against Lancashire at Hove in 2000, most of his best efforts were for British Universities in the Benson & Hedges Cup – 93 v Surrey at The Oval in 1997 which earned him a Gold Award, and 64 v Gloucestershire at Bristol in 1998 when he also took 5 for 58.

At Sevenoaks School, House averaged over 70 and took 28 wickets in 1993, a performance which earned him the Cricket Society Wetherall Award as the leading all-rounder in English schools cricket. In 1994 he captained the Sevenoaks Eleven, headed the batting averages and played three games for Kent Second Eleven. Next season he played three times for the National Association of Young Cricketers and appeared for Kent Under-19 in the Oxford and Cambridge Festival in addition to becoming a regular for Kent Seconds.

In 1996 House made his first team debut for Kent against Derbyshire at Derby in the AXA Equity & Law League, the first of four League appearances that year, his Championship debut coming in the following season. He played once more in 1997 and once in each of the following seasons without achieving anything of note but in limited overs matches, he was top scorer with 38 when Kent struggled at Derby in 1998 and hit 40, 46 and 39 in three successive Cheltenham & Gloucestershire National League matches in 1999. In Second team cricket he had more success, scoring over 500 runs in 1996, 1997 and 1999 with two centuries and three 90s.

At the end of 1999 House decided to try his luck with Sussex where his career followed a broadly similar pattern. At the end of 2001 he opted for a career in the City. He continues to play for Sevenoaks Vine and for MCC. In 2003 he appeared for the Duke of Norfolk's Eleven at Arundel and the late Jim Swanton's Arabs.

#### **James Alan Howgego (No. 718).**

*Born:* 03. 08.1948, Folkestone.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1977.

Educated: Southlands Secondary School, New Romney.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	1	2	0	91	52	45.50	0	1	0
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## Bowling

Did not bowl

A prolific batsman during a long career with Folkestone CC, Jim Howgego played only one first-class match but did enough to suggest that, had he chosen, he might have succeeded at county level. On his debut he was top scorer with 52 in the first innings and second highest scorer with 39 in the second against a Cambridge University team containing five players who would go on to become full time county cricketers. In 1966, not yet 18, he appeared for Kent Young Amateurs and on Second Eleven debut in 1975 scored 82 and 30 v Sussex Second Eleven at Canterbury. He was awarded his Second Eleven cap and in all played ten matches in the Kent Second Eleven Championship between 1975 and 1979 with a top score of 126\* v Essex Seconds at Dartford.

In 1977 he toured the West Indies with the Club Cricket Conference. As well as Folkestone, he played on occasions for MCC, notably v Minor Counties at Lord's in 1979 and against Scotland in 1980, as well as for Ashford, Forty Club, Gravesend and Hythe. Between 2003 and 2010 he appeared regularly, usually as opening batsman, for Kent in the Over-50s Championship, a competition in which he registered four centuries, and two 90s.

A cousin of Graham Barlow (Middlesex & England), he was a teacher by profession and retired as headmaster of a Secondary School in Gillingham.

## Christopher Burfield Howland (No. 697).

*Born:* 06. 02.1936, Whitstable. *Died:* 14. 5. 2010 Farnborough.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1965.

Educated: Dulwich College & Clare College Cambridge.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	2	2	0	21	13	10.50	0	0	3/1
<b>Overall</b>	64	103	7	1629	124	16.96	1	5	130/21

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	12	0	11	0				

An outstanding schoolboy wicketkeeper, Christopher Howland was in the Dulwich College Eleven from 1952 to 1955, captain from 1953. His final season in charge was the most successful in College history – won ten, lost one, drawn five. He kept wicket for Southern Schools at Lord's against Combined Services in 1954 and the Rest in 1954 and 1955. In 1955 he appeared for Young Amateurs of Kent and played twice for Kent Second Eleven, scoring 72 v Norfolk at Lakenham on debut; his two first-class appearances for Kent would follow ten years later.

During National Service in the Army in 1956 he played his first first-class match, for Combined Services v Glamorgan at Cardiff. At Cambridge in 1958, fine keeper though he was, he might not have been first choice had the highly acclaimed Brian Swift not been killed pre-season in a car crash. In the event, he was an outstanding performer, gaining a Blue in each of his three seasons at university, captaining the side in 1960, catching 108, stumping 15 and scoring over 1,000 runs, 500 of them in 1959. In that year he was selected for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's.

In 1958-1959 he toured Brazil and Argentina with MCC and at the latter end of 1959 took part in a 25 match MCC tour of North America. In 1960, with Jim Parks on Test match duty and Rupert Webb injured, he played four County Championship and one Second Eleven Championship matches for Sussex.

Howland's two matches for Kent in 1965, at Trent Bridge and against Oxford University in the Parks, resulted from an injury to Alan Knott, Kent having at the time no ready-made replacement following Tony Catt's departure for South Africa. He caught three, stumped one and scored eight in his only innings. He played frequently for MCC, including half a dozen first-class matches for Free Foresters, for whom he hit his only first-class century, as well as for Band of Brothers, West Kent and Old Alleynians.

Possibly his greatest contribution to cricket was via the Lord's Taverners of which he was Chairman from 1978 to 1980. In the words of the Director Tony Swainson, 'he gave his heart and soul to the club', attending events even when, in later life he was ill. His business career was in the City.

### **Alan Paul Igglesden (No.738).**

*Born*, 08.10. 1964, Farnborough. *Died*, 01.11.2021, Apperley Bridge, Bradford, Yorkshire.

Right-handed batsman, right arm fast, later fast medium bowler.

Kent 1986-1998.

Educated: Churchill School, Westerham.

County Cap: 1989.

Tests: Three for England. ODIs four for England.

Parents: Alan Trevor & Gillian Catherine Igglesden.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	135	147	59	773	41	8.78	0	0	34
<b>England</b>	3	5	3	6	3*	3.00	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	154	170	65	876	41	8.34	0	0	40

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	22446	725	11599	409	28.35	7-37	17	2
<b>England</b>	555	11	329	6	54.83	2-91	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	26579	864	13488	503	26.81	7-28	23	4

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	141	46	31	164	26*	10.93	0	0	27
<b>England</b>	4	3	1	20	18	10.00	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	160	52	32	191	26*	9.55	0	0	30

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6715	100	4346	178	24.41	5-13	2	3.88
<b>England</b>	168	4	122	2	61.00	2-12	0	4.35
<b>Overall</b>	7639	116	4966	200	24.83	5-13	2	3.90

6 ft.6in. tall and making full use of his height, Alan Igglesden could bowl a lethal outswinger combined with accuracy and could gain lift and bounce on even the most docile of wickets. Considered one of

the most promising pace bowlers on the county circuit when he first came into the side, his career was plagued by a seemingly endless succession of injuries, primarily back, knee, ankle and hamstring. In his own words 'discs slip out at a moment's notice'. Subsequently he faced, with enormous courage, 21 years of living with a life threatening health condition following the discovery of an inoperable brain tumour.

Injuries and health notwithstanding, he played three Tests for England, as well as four ODIs, toured with England A and took over 500 first-class wickets. For his native Kent he took 587 wickets in first-class and limited overs cricket.

Coming to Kent via the Holmesdale Club in Sevenoaks, he played his first match for Kent Seconds in 1983, made ten second team appearances in the following season and joined the staff in 1985. Colin Page, in his 1985 review in the Kent Annual, rated Igglesden as having 'much potential' but is 'probably the most inconsistent bowler I have ever had dealings with. At the beginning of the season, he was nothing short of an embarrassment. With a considerable amount of pushing, and I must be fair, hard work on his side, things began to happen'.

They did indeed. On 31st July 1985 he took 7 for 60 v Middlesex Seconds at Canterbury including the wickets of Mike Roseberry. Keith Tomlins, Simon Hughes and Angus Fraser, picked up another four in the second innings and ended top of the Second Eleven averages. By July the next season he had made his first-class debut and on his second appearance announced himself with 4 for 46 & 2 for 46 at The Oval, including the wickets of Alec Stewart and Monte Lynch (twice). As would become all too familiar however, on his fifth appearance, against Hampshire in Canterbury Week, he suffered a side strain which brought his season to a premature end.

In the following season, he took 23 first-class wickets in his first four matches but by the second week of May he was out with injury and eventually appeared in only 14 of the team's 26 first-class matches. He nevertheless took 52 first-class wickets (avge.25.98), the first of four seasons in which he would reach the 50 wicket landmark. Nevertheless injuries restricted him and between 1986 and 1998, only once, in 1989, did he reach 20 first-class matches and in 1996 injuries prevented him from playing at all.

His best seasons were 1993 when he led the County's bowling averages (fourth in the national averages) and, despite being restricted to only 13 first-class appearances, took 54 wickets (avge.19.77), 1988 when from a mere seven games he picked up 37 wickets (avge.21.75) including 5 for 40 & 5 for 51 v Hampshire at Bournemouth and 6 for 34 & 2 for 61 v Surrey at Canterbury as well as achieving his personal top score of 41, batting number 11. In 1989 he was Kent's leading wicket taker with 56, the only Kent player that year to reach 50.

In 1989 Igglesden was a very late selection for the sixth Test Match v Australia at The Oval. Devon Malcolm, Phil de Freitas, Angus Fraser, Greg Thomas and possibly one or two others had all dropped out and he learned of his selection little more than 24 hours before start of play. It was a bad year all round for English cricket but if his 3 for 146 was unremarkable statistically, his victims were Mark Taylor, Steve Waugh and Geoff Marsh. In the following year he toured Zimbabwe with England A, taking 13 wickets (avge.24.23), the only tourist to reach double figures in first-class matches, his best performance 5 for 33 v Zimbabwe at Harare. Touring Zimbabwe with Kent in 1993 he excelled again with Zimbabwe B at Harare with 7 for 37.

In 1993/1994 he toured West Indies under Mike Atherton and played two Test matches and four ODIs, claiming three wickets in the former, two in the latter. Although expensive he had the consolation of dismissing Desmond Haynes Jimmy Adams (twice), and Phil Simmons.

Igglesden coached in South Africa and played two full seasons of first-class cricket, gathering 31 wickets (avge.18.22) for Western Province B in 1987/1988 where his figures included 5 for 52 & 5 for 61 v Boland at Stellenbosch. For Boland in 1992/1993 he took 39 wickets (avg.11.79) including



his personal best, 5 for 38 & 7 for 38 v Griqualand West at Kimberley as well as 3 for 53 & 6 for 11 v Eastern Transvaal at Brackenfell.

The combination of Martin McCague's sheer pace and Igglesden's accuracy and ability to move the ball through the air and off the pitch, made them among the most formidable pairing in Kent's pace bowling history. Given the injury problems with both, there were cynics among the Kentish following who maintained that the frequency with which one or the other was missing, suggested they were the same player. In truth, South African matches excluded, Igglesden opened the bowling in first-class cricket with 25 different partners of whom McCague was the most frequent, doing so on 48 occasions. When opening together, McCague claimed 125 wickets, Igglesden 96.

In 1997 he took 24 wickets in all competitions including 4 for 67 at Headingley in the Championship but with injuries becoming more frequent, in 1998 his three first-class and 13 List A fixtures were on a match-by-match basis. At the end of the season, he decided to resign. His Testimonial that year raised £145,000.

In the following year he played four matches for Berkshire, but it was then that his luck truly ran out. He suffered an epileptic fit and was diagnosed with a brain tumour, subsequently discovered to be inoperable. With medication, he was able to teach Sports Science at Sutton Valence and later, when the family moved to Yorkshire, coached cricket and Rugby football at Woodhouse Grove School, Apperley Bridge, Bradford where his wife was teaching.

His illness was further compounded by strokes in 2018 and 2020 but he fought back, and he and his wife continued raising large amounts of money for charity to within a few years of his death. As recently as May 2021 he took part in the Professional Cricketers' Trust May Challenge. With former Kent teammate Laurie Potter, they travelled along a stretch of the Leeds Liverpool Canal near his home in Keighley, using his recently acquired mobility scooter. To quote the Professional Cricketer's Association 'His strength and courage in the face of adversity was nothing short of inspirational'.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

### **Kevin Bertram Sidney Jarvis (No. 714).**

*Born:* 23.04.1953, Dover.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1975- 1987 Cap 1975.

Educated: Sheers Green Junior School, Northfleet.

Parents: Herbert (Bert) John, Margaret Elsie (*née* Butler).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	237	180	79	321	19	3.17	0	0	55
<b>Overall</b>	260	199	87	403	32	3.59	0	0	59

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	35126	1286	18525	631	29.35	8-97	19	3
<b>Overall</b>	37954	1385	19998	674	29.67	8-97	20	3

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	224	83	49	90	8*	2.64	0	0	29
<b>Overall</b>	263	90	51	118	11	3.02	0	0	41

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10500	188	6865	298	23.03	5-24	1	3.92
<b>Overall</b>	12252	211	8094	344	23.52	5-24	2	3.96

There were few worse batsmen than Kevin Jarvis but few more whole-hearted bowlers.

At school Jarvis preferred football but he played cricket for Imperial Paper Mills Second XI at Gravesend. One Saturday Charlie Gooderham, (then Kent Second XI scorer) who knew Kevin's father as a fellow administrator in the Gravesend Football League, asked for volunteers for the Kent Colts the next day at Wilmington as some had dropped out. Kevin volunteered, having to borrow most of his equipment, including Colin Page's bat, and was amazed to receive travelling expenses. From then he played cricket more regularly, for Gravesend and English Schools (with Nigel Briers, Gehan Mendis and Phil Neale).

In 1974 he joined the Kent staff and played every Second XI Championship game, finishing as leading wicket taker (32 wickets average 21.68). He started the following season strongly with six for 16 v Middlesex seconds at Teddington (his victims including Gomes, Gatting, Gould and Emburey), then nine for 48 v Hampshire at Canterbury.

With Norman Graham 'tripping over a spectator at the Mote' and Kent without six regular first team players (the World Cup had just started), Jarvis made his debut against Worcestershire. His only wicket was a notable one – Basil D'Oliveira. Jarvis finished the season with 40 wickets average 29.65, 'genuinely fast [he]...improved with every game' (*Wisden*). His best bowling was four for 43 (match figures seven for 91) against the eventual champions Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells.

In 1976 Kent sank to 14th in the Championship and Jarvis took just 34 wickets average 38.50. However, he helped Kent win two one day tournaments. He took 14 wickets in the Benson and Hedges Cup including four in both the quarter final (when he won the Gold Award) and the final against Worcestershire. Johnson's catches in front of the Grandstand and D'Oliveira's brave innings almost on one leg, stick in the memory but it was Jarvis who bowled him and then clinched the trophy, yorking Paul Pridgeon. Jarvis was also Kent's leading wicket taker (18) in the John Player League as Kent clinched the title at Maidstone and the 8,000 crowd waited for the cup to arrive by helicopter.

Neither title was retained in 1977. Kent lost the Benson and Hedges final but were (joint) winners of the Championship (with Middlesex who were allowed to re-arrange a home game at Chelmsford when the weather was drier). Jarvis (the Kent Annual reported) 'made a significant advance as a new-ball pace spearhead' and deservedly won his cap. His 55 wickets average 23.70, were bettered only by John Shepherd (87). They shared 17 cheap wickets on a slow pitch at Bristol in May with Jarvis' performance 8 for 69) described later by Bob Woolmer as Jarvis' finest. In June he took seven for 59 against Northamptonshire.

Kent started their last match against Warwickshire five points ahead of Middlesex but behind Gloucestershire. Kent failed to gain a batting point, but Gloucestershire lost and Kent needed victory to tie with Middlesex. Set 254 to win, Warwickshire slumped to 29-5 (three wickets for Jarvis). 73 were still needed for the last wicket but the last pair batted 'with apparent ease' and tea was taken with under 30 required. Happily, Jarvis was brought back and with his second ball took the title-sharing wicket.

1978 was even better for Jarvis and Kent. He took 80 first class wickets (average 22.37) as Kent took the Championship title and 28 one day wickets, as Kent won the Benson and Hedges Cup. No one could have predicted then that Kent would fail to win another title for 17 years. Kent had a sweet double over Middlesex (Jarvis 7 for 77 at Lord's and 8 for 73 at Canterbury). His 4 for 45 against Sussex and

4 for 28 against Surrey helped Kent win both matches at Tunbridge Wells and a career best 8 for 97 'looking distinctly hostile' Kent's win at Worcester. Kent won 13 matches, Jarvis 56 wickets (average 19.12). Underwood (75 wickets average 11.57 in the 12 of those wins he played) was more devastating but if it wasn't Underwood, it was Jarvis taking the crucial wickets. Kent won the Benson and Hedges Final v Derbyshire easily by 6 wickets (Jarvis two for 19).

In 1979 Kent sank to sixth in the Championship (which seemed terrible at the time) 100 points behind the champions, Essex. Jarvis took just 38 first class wickets with a best of four for 52 against Middlesex at Tunbridge Wells. He took just 13 one day wickets, finished bottom of the averages and was dropped for the last six John Player League matches as Kent blew their title hopes by losing the last two matches at Canterbury.

If 1979 seemed terrible for Kent, 1980 undoubtedly was. 16th in the Championship, winning only twice, 14th in the JPL, swift exits from the knock-out competitions. Jarvis, however, did better – 53 wickets average 22.81. He missed Kent's first win in May but when the rain relented in Tunbridge Wells and Maidstone weeks, took 12 for 128 and 9 for 105 respectively. All four matches were drawn, and he was injured in Kent's other win (off the last ball) against Warwickshire in August. He returned for the last couple of matches before the wretched season was ended (suitably) by more rain.

In 1981 Jarvis was Kent leading wicket taker with 81 first class wickets (plus 34 List A wickets) 'always bowling his heart out' (*Wisden*). In the field he always seemed keen to bowl, often practising his bowling when fielding by the boundary. Kent's first win of the season, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, was (said the Kent Annual) 'grotesque'. Kent declared with 270-6 off 112 overs and Sussex were bowled out for 182 in 25 overs. Jarvis took 5 for 82 off 11 overs.

In Kent's next win, against Leicester, he took 7 for 78 and 4 for 69 (as Bob Willis took 8 for 43 at Headingly). Jarvis bowled little in a Canterbury week dominated by spin but took 6 for 66 on a green wicket at Eastbourne and 7 for 113 in Kent's win at Bournemouth. A final great performance (12-146) led Kent to victory at the Oval.

Jarvis took 34 one-day wickets again in 1982 but only 52 first class wickets at an expensive 38.96. He contributed plenty of overs and effort but lacked penetration, innings figures of 3 for 113 off 40 overs v Middlesex at Tunbridge Wells an example. His only five wicket haul came at Folkestone v Northamptonshire (five for 94).

Despite a modest season, Jarvis came as close as he would get to England recognition being 12th man in the Test Match at Edgbaston and one-day international at Trent Bridge. Worse players than Jarvis have played for England, but his best seasons (1978 and 1981) coincided with a strong selection of quick bowlers and playing success, so less changing by the selectors. His lack of ability with the bat also counted against him.

Kent moved up to 7th in the Championship in the hot summer of 1983 despite Jarvis taking just 30 wickets at 52.63. His best bowling (3 for 32 v Middlesex) was the only time he took three wickets in an innings. For the only time in his Kent career there were more runs than wickets.

1984 was much better, 72 wickets at 24.83 with consistent, rather than spectacular, wicket-taking. His figures were boosted by 9 for 73 against Oxford University, his best Championship figures were five for 49 against Surrey at The Oval. His most memorable performance came with the bat. Jarvis is often remembered (by non-Kent fans at least) for his notably poor batting as much as for his bowling. (Although Norman Graham came close) he is the only player dismissed over 100 times in first class cricket with more than half of them ducks (he managed this as well for Kent with 52 ducks). However, one magical evening at the Mote he made his highest score for Kent (19) against Derbyshire, adding 42 with Terry Alderman. He hit Geoff Miller for four through mid-on and then danced down the wicket to hit him over the trees for six, his first six for eight years. Bowled 'attempting what looked remarkably like a late cut' he returned to the pavilion to a standing ovation.

Jarvis took another 51 wickets at 32.82 in 1985, although troubled by a knee injury towards the end of the season. He twice took five wickets in an innings, in successive matches in early June. He was leading wicket taker and topped the average in one day- cricket (29 at 23.00), with a career best 5 for 24 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge. He started the season wearing glasses for batting, but they did not help and were soon abandoned.

1986 was ruined by injury and loss of form, just 12 wickets, average 40.58. In 1987 Jarvis had a well-deserved benefit (which raised £48,485). The absence of Alderman, Dilley and Ellison presented more opportunities, but he injured his calf (while batting) in Kent's third Championship game at Dartford, missing nearly two months.

He finished the season with 28 wickets at 31.57. His last major performance came at Lord's. Kent declared 41 behind to open up an uneventful game and, after an early collapse (two wickets for Jarvis), Middlesex recovered to 125-6. Then Jarvis took a hat trick, still Kent's only hat trick at Lord's. His victims were John Carr, Angus Fraser and Norman Cowans. Kent needed 173 to win but 14 were still required when Kent's number 11 joined Steve Marsh. He 'superbly survived' (0\*) while Marsh made the runs'. In the return match the following week Jarvis made another 0\* (surviving 22 balls) to earn Kent a draw. Jarvis's last game for Kent was at The Oval, his last victim Alec Stewart.

For most of Jarvis's career, Kent played extra fixtures against the neighbouring counties. He played most often against Sussex, Surrey and Middlesex and he took most wickets against them (76, 63 and 63 respectively). He did not take 50 wickets against anyone else. The batsmen he dismissed most came from these counties – Imran Khan (eight), Roger Knight (nine) and Alan Butcher (12). He played most often and took most wickets at Canterbury (120 at 32.01 along with a solid run a game, 53 runs in 52 appearances) but his average was much lower (21.23) at Tunbridge Wells where he took 72 wickets. Almost exactly half (315) of his Kent wickets were taken in Kent. In List A cricket, Canterbury was far and away his most successful ground (115 wickets at 20.47). The only List A fixture at Tunbridge Wells during Jarvis' career was India v Zimbabwe (Kapil Dev 175\*).

The striking thing about Jarvis's career is how much it varied from season to season. He was not greatly affected by injuries until near the end. The memory is of periods where he lost his run-up and so pace, accuracy and confidence. Efforts to help him were not obvious. In these days of large support staff, it is worth remembering that Kent did not have a first team coach until the end of Jarvis' Kent career. A bowling coach might have helped him.

Jarvis moved to Gloucestershire in 1988, primarily for one day cricket, playing 37 List A and just 18 first- class games, 13 in 1989. He played twice against Kent at Mote Park, in 1989 taking two for 76 in the Championship (Pienaar and Ward) and two for 23 in the Refuge Assurance League (Taylor and Chris Cowdrey). At Portsmouth he passed his previous best of 19, scoring 32 (out of a last wicket partnership of 37). In the second innings he scored a duck as Gloucestershire were all out for 48.

In 1994-5 Jarvis played for Herefordshire, taking 20 wickets in the Minor Counties Championship and 10 in the Minor Counties (one day) Trophy. On June 27th 1995, he played in the Nat West against Durham, taking two for 45, both Test players (John Morris and Manoj Prabhakar) but Herefordshire lost by 207 runs with Jarvis last man out second ball for four. His four for 32 in the semi-final against Cumberland helped Herefordshire to the Minor County Trophy final at Lord's (where they lost to Cambridgeshire). He played a few seasons for Clevedon (seven for 46 v Abergavenny in 1997) and, aged 46, bowling the whole innings 23 overs five for 65 v Frenchay CC in 1999.

Jarvis settled in the Pill, Bristol, attending former players' reunions at both of his counties, occasions to jog memories of both the players and those who saw them play. For one of them an unexpected highlight one year was seeing Kevin Jarvis walking briskly across the St Lawrence outfield, just as he walked back to his mark - always eager to bowl, always ready to bowl his heart out for Kent.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

*John Winniffrith.*

**Graham William Johnson (No. 698).**

*Born:* 08.11.1946 Penge.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off break bowler

Kent 1965-1985. Cap 1970

Educated: Beckenham & Penge Grammar School, Shooters Hill Grammar School, London School of Economics.

Parents: William & Marnie Johnson

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	376	581	76	12509	168	24.77	11	53	302
<b>Overall</b>	390	605	78	12922	168	24.51	11	55	315

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	40413	1917	17326	560	30.93	7-76	23	3
<b>Overall</b>	41043	1946	17601	567	31.04	7-76	23	3

**List A Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	303	274	43	5666	120*	24.52	1	25	114
<b>Overall</b>	304	275	43	5666	120*	24.42	1	25	114

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3513	48	2400	104	23.07	5-26	1	4.09
<b>Overall</b>	3549	49	2433	105	23.17	5-26	1	4.11

Like many other Kent players, Graham Johnson was introduced to cricket by his father, who as a member of his local club, Parkside, took his son along to watch. Graham became the club scorer and was soon immersed in the intricacies of the game.

His record of service to Kent cricket spans more than 50 years. He made his first-class debut in 1965 and played throughout the 'Glory Years' of the 1970s. His playing career extended to the mid-1980s during which he played in 376 matches for Kent, scored more than 12,500 runs and took 560 wickets. He was a key member of Kent's one-day side, playing in just over 300 matches, scoring 5,666 runs and taking 104 wickets.

His all-round ability greatly contributed to the side's successes of the 1970s. Whether opening the batting, or going in lower down the order, his approach was determined by the situation of the match. He took crucial wickets and had the ability to influence the outcome of a game, with bat, ball or an outstanding catch.

A superb fielder especially close to the wicket, he took 315 first-class catches, many in the slips. And in limited overs games a further 114. Leslie Ames considered him to be 'probably the best all-round fielder in the eleven for many years.'

Whilst it is statistically difficult to rank allrounders, Johnson was near to Kent's top-flight. At his peak he was close to representing England and many felt he was unlucky not to win selection.

Following a promising start with the Second Eleven in 1964 he was offered terms for 1965. Initially opening the batting in the Second Eleven and taking 38 wickets at that level with his off spin.

He made his first-class debut in mid-May 1965 batting at number nine and had a lengthy bowl in both innings. Although taking only one wicket his off breaks proved economical, with figures for the two innings being 38 overs, 16 maidens and 77 runs. He played in only three first-class matches that season and was with the Second Eleven for the whole of 1966.

At that stage, partly because of Kent's strong batting line-up he was unsure of a career in cricket and decided to safeguard his future by studying for a degree at the LSE.

His appearances were limited in the next three years, showing little impact with bat or ball, although in 1969 there was an encouraging improvement in his batting. With 488 runs at an average of 30.50, he was fourth in the averages. But it was not until mid-July that he won a more permanent place in the side and in his second Championship game, against Hampshire at Maidstone, he was undefeated on 86 in the first innings. He scored a further 70\* in Canterbury Week against Gloucestershire.

Kent's 1970 Championship season was when Johnson finally cemented his place, playing a significant role in achieving Kent's first success in 57 years. He played in the full programme of Championship games. In all but two games he opened the batting or went in first wicket down. With England's demand for Kent players, he made the most of his opportunities, such that he held on to his place even when they returned from Test match duties. The award of his County Cap had been well earned.

In all first-class games he scored 927 runs at an average of 23.76. and his 26 wickets at 25.80 apiece placed him fourth.

The team got off to an indifferent start with just one win from the first ten games during which time Johnson scored 435 in 15 innings which included 92 at Old Trafford followed by his maiden first-class century (116) against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells when opening the innings for the first time that season. He scored two further hundreds, 106 against Hampshire at Maidstone (plus a second innings half-century), then in the penultimate game of the season, 108 against Leicestershire at Folkestone. In the season's early games, he bowled only 56 overs, always as the fifth bowler and sometimes only in the second innings.

The somewhat inconsistent batting that he displayed in those first nine games persisted through to the season's end. In his first fifteen innings he averaged 29.00. From early July until the final game at The Oval, he scored 450 from 23 innings. But in eleven of those 23 innings he registered single figure scores, including four ducks.

From the beginning of July, he bowled 166 overs in twelve innings. Some of his wickets played a significant part in the Championship success, most notably in the win against Surrey at Blackheath. With 6 for 35 and 6 for 116, it was a match winning performance and his career best bowling.

Kent were runners-up in the John Player League, with Johnson playing in seven of the sixteen games. He scored 110 runs at 18.33 with a highest score of 42\* against Sussex when batting at eight. He scored 44 in his only Gillette Cup game but did not bowl in any of the limited overs games.

In 1971 a pre-season injury kept Johnson out of the side until the end of May. Although he began with a couple of reasonable scores there was then a run of inconsistency that was briefly broken in July but his disappointing 477 runs from 35 innings gave him an average of only 14.90. He did not open the batting in a single game, appearing sometimes at number three but more often lower down the order.

His bowling too was below par with 21 wickets at an expensive 37.71. Five of those wickets came at Worcester and, in the next at Blackheath against Derbyshire, batting at number seven he had scores of 33 and 43.

There was nothing of significance for the next seven games until Maidstone Week in mid-July when he scored a first innings 37 and took four wickets in the victory over Somerset, followed by 53, his highest score of the season, in the second game of Maidstone Week against Nottinghamshire. He took 4 for 45 in the first innings against Glamorgan at Folkestone but against Worcestershire at the same venue his 35 overs in the two innings went wicketless at a cost of 100 runs.

Kent reached the final of the Gillette Cup, but Johnson did not participate in any of the five games. He had a disappointing season in the Players County League, playing in only eight games. He was unable to find form with the bat and bowled just nine overs in two games.

1972 was a better allround season. He contributed to the side's success as runners-up spot in the County Championship, as well as being winners of the John Player Sunday League and semi-finalists in the Gillette Cup. He played in 20 first-class matches including that against the Australian tourists. His 858 runs in 36 innings averaged 25.23. He bowled more often than in previous seasons but again proved expensive, his 30 wickets costing 35.03 each.

He opened the innings with Brian Luckhurst in all three rounds of the Gillette Cup, appeared in two of the four Benson & Hedges games and 13 of the 16 John Player League games. In the latter competition he scored 310 runs in his 13 innings. His spin bowling was not used in any of the limited overs competitions.

In the second round of the Gillette Cup, he won the Man of the Match award for his innings of 65 against Gloucestershire at Canterbury.

In the Championship he followed his first innings duck with 50 in the opening match of the season at Leicester, scored a second innings 43 at Old Trafford and, opening against Derbyshire at Tunbridge Wells, scored 81 and 28 and 25 and 18 in the second game of the Festival, against Gloucestershire. Later in June he took 3 for 41 in the draw at Trent Bridge but had a double batting failure.

At the beginning of July, the side was winless, suffering three defeats and generally being on the wrong side of seven draws. Things changed at that point and from then to the season's end there were seven victories, four draws and one defeat. Johnson dropped down the batting order for Maidstone Week but had a lengthy bowl in both innings in the first match against Middlesex, the first of which was wicketless but 3 for 85 from 31.4 overs in the second. He was back as opener for a five wicket victory against Northamptonshire at Dover, continued as opener with 48 and 31 in the draw at Southampton which followed and 42 and 20 in the defeat against Warwickshire at Dartford. .

A draw at Lord's with 87 to his name and an opening partnership of 146 with David Nicholls (60) was Johnson's best batting performance of the season. Two victories in Canterbury Week followed, the first against Glamorgan by seven wickets and the second by nine wickets against Sussex. In the latter, Johnson scored a first innings 75 and shared an opening partnership of 144 with Luckhurst. A third successive win came at Worcester with Johnson scoring 27 and 31. The winning run continued at Folkestone where Hampshire were beaten by five wickets. Johnson contributing 8 and 22 and six wickets (three in each innings) in the draw against Somerset at Glastonbury which followed.

Yorkshire were overwhelmed at Bradford in the season's final game by an innings and 28 runs, Johnson's contribution 28 runs and two short spells of economical bowling, 8- 6-6-1 and 9-3-13-1. Whilst not outstanding it had been a satisfying season for him and a marked improvement after the disappointments of 1971.

With 1,438 runs and 37 wickets, 1973 was Johnson's best season so far. In the first-class game his runs were over 400 more than his previous best and he averaged 31.26. He bowled 535 overs, the third highest of all the bowlers, and whilst his wickets came at an expensive 35.43, well over half of them were top order batsmen.

He was a valuable part of the team that gained fourth place in the Championship and won the John Player League and the Benson & Hedges Cup. He played in every one of the 24 first-class matches, opening in all but one of them with Luckhurst, Mike Denness or Nicholls. He performed a similar role for all the John Player League and the seven Benson & Hedges Cup games.

The first of his two centuries came in the second Championship game at The Oval, 108 followed by a half-century in the second innings, and another 50 in the next match, against Middlesex at Lord's. A further half-century at Northampton gave him 258 in four Championship innings. With eight wickets it was a good all round start.

He missed by three runs a further hundred against Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells, then had two half-centuries against Somerset and Surrey, both at Mote Park with 4 for 57 in Surrey's second innings. His good form accompanied him to Derby for the next game when his 130 contributed to an opening partnership of 256 with Luckhurst, at that time the second highest opening partnership in Kent's history. In Canterbury Week against Yorkshire, he scored 75 and 34 and then 85 in the second innings against Essex at Leyton to give Kent their first win since mid-June. All the while he had been taking occasional wickets including five against Lancashire at Folkestone.

In the Benson & Hedges Cup he scored 145 runs in seven innings and in the John Player League 332 in 14 innings, including, in successive matches 60\* against Yorkshire at Dover and 81 against Northamptonshire at Brackley.

1974 was another good season. Although his aggregate of first-class runs fell from the previous season, he still exceeded 1,000, averaging 29.40. He also had his best return so far with the ball, 44 wickets at 26.63. There was another victorious Final appearance in the Gillette Cup at Lord's, third place in the John Player League and a quarter final place in the Benson & Hedges Cup but a drop from fourth to tenth in the Championship.

He finished third in the Kent first-class batting averages, with 1,005 runs at 30.45, one century and a highest score of 158 against Warwickshire in Canterbury Week. His eight half-centuries included 58 against the Pakistan tourists at Canterbury. He played in all the first-class games, opening the innings with Luckhurst 35 times. He bowled 75 overs fewer than in the previous season, taking wickets in all but two of the sixteen matches in which he bowled. His best performance was in the single innings match at Leicester in which he took five of the nine wickets to fall. In the following match against Gloucestershire at Folkestone he had match figures of 7 for 99 in 58 overs, contributing largely to an innings victory. In addition to his half century in the tourists match, he also took five wickets.

He played in all but one of Kent's limited overs matches in 1974, again in partnership with Luckhurst as opening batsman. He scored 120\* in the opening Gillette Cup match against Buckinghamshire at Canterbury which was his first and only limited overs century. His total runs in the three competitions was 572, averaging 26.00. For the first time his bowling came into play, but generally as a sixth bowler if needed. He bowled in all but one of the Gillette games taking four wickets, was not used in the Benson & Hedges but as a sixth bowler in four of the John Player games. What proved to be his career best was his 5 for 26 in five overs against Surrey at The Oval; but all in vain as the home side won by 5 runs!

1975 was to be Johnson's best season with the bat. In 23 first-class matches, including two for MCC, and in 42 innings he scored 1,438 runs, averaging 35.45. In all competitions he scored 2,052 runs and bowled more overs than anyone apart from John Shepherd but each wicket cost slightly more than 32 runs. He had a good allround season in the John Player League, finishing fourth in the batting averages



with 491 runs at 35.07 and second to Derek Underwood in the bowling averages with sixteen wickets at 15.25. His economy rate was exactly four runs an over.

Johnson's all-round abilities were acknowledged in the Annual Report as 'a great source of strength'. He missed only one Championship game and with a single exception was again in partnership throughout with Luckhurst. He made a slow start with the bat but hit form in the third game with a second innings century at Southampton and a valuable 68 in the victory by two wickets against Worcestershire at Maidstone. He carried that form into the second game of Maidstone Week with an impressive 89 in Kent's innings victory against Sussex. He scored a further half-century in the win against Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells. Against Nottinghamshire at Dover, he scored a second innings 77 setting up the win in partnership with Asif Iqbal (107).

There was a first innings 58 at Edgbaston followed by a second innings 82 against Surrey at Folkestone, both drawn matches and a second innings 108\* in the victory over Somerset at Folkestone. One of his best all round performances of the season was in the match at Oxford against the University. In an opening partnership of 219 with Woolmer his share was 95, prior to which in the students' first innings he dismissed five batsmen in 18 overs at a cost of 17 runs.

The County celebrated another double success in 1976, winning the Benson & Hedges Cup and the John Player League. In both competitions and in the County Championship, Johnson continued to make an impressive allround contribution.

He played in 19 first-class matches, scoring 927 runs, bowled almost the same number of overs as in the previous season but took five fewer wickets at a higher cost.

In the Benson & Hedges Cup he failed in the first two games, did not play in the next two, scored just nine runs in the quarter-final but found form in the semi-final with an innings of 59 and a second wicket partnership of 141 with Denness. He went on to take two important Surrey wickets. Against Worcestershire in the final he opened with Bob Woolmer, scoring 78 in an opening partnership of 110. That innings and his four catches, three in the deep, won him the Gold Award.

He continued to open the batting in the John Player League but lost his place after a bad start. He returned after missing two games and immediately shared an opening partnership of 132 with Luckhurst against Sussex. His contribution of 89 was his career best in the competition. He bowled in only six games with a best return of 4 for 21 against Derbyshire at Folkestone.

Johnson continued as opener for the early Championship games after one game at first wicket down. Woolmer was his partner following an injury to Luckhurst. In the early games he had some average double figure scores but nothing of significance until the end of June when at Trent Bridge he missed a century by just four runs. Two week later he achieved his highest first-class score, 168 at The Oval, including a second wicket partnership of 208 with Asif. With the four wickets he took it was a good allround performance. He then had a run of poor form and missed four of the next five games, returning as opener once more towards the end of August but with little further success.

He had few bowling opportunities, and was wicketless until late June, with more success when the wickets became firmer. He enjoyed a friendly wicket at Dover with five in the win against Derbyshire and in the following match at Dartford he took five Middlesex second innings wickets at a cost of 40 runs, giving a second successive victory. There was little further success, and his 31 wickets was his lowest since 1972.

In 1977 Johnson's leadership qualities were recognised in his appointment as vice-captain to Asif but played in only eleven first-class matches due to a loss of form and a cartilage operation. He scored only 229 runs in 18 innings with a high of 58\*. He was restricted to 148 overs, taking 12 wickets, with 5 for 77 at Leicester being his only significant performance. He played little part in Kent's shared County Championship with Middlesex. His appearances in the one-day competitions were similarly restricted.

1978 was a much better season in which he played a significant part in the Championship and Benson & Hedges Cup successes. Although his batting lacked some consistency, he took more wickets than in any previous season and was, as always, consistently reliable in the field.

In the early season Benson & Hedges games he opened the innings and had a best score of 75 in the win over Essex at Dartford and a useful 36 batting at number four in the quarter-final against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury.

In his total of 24 one-day innings he scored 581 runs, the most of all Kent players, at 25.26 with a highest score of 76. He bowled 70 overs at less than four runs each, taking 13 wickets at an average of 21.38.

In the first-class matches he was seventh in the Kent averages scoring 685 runs at 27.40 and third in the bowling averages, with 56 wickets, his best return so far. On two occasions he took five in an innings.

The season started well with six wins in the first eight games, Johnson taking 20 wickets including 4 for 10 in 14.2 overs against Hampshire at Canterbury and 6 for 32 in 18.2 overs against Surrey at Tunbridge Wells. Maidstone Week provided two further wins in the second of which Johnson took 6 for 64 in Glamorgan's second innings.

Up to mid-June, he had only one half-century, 62 at Taunton, but he was looking more comfortable batting mainly in the middle order and there followed scores of 46\* against Northants at Dartford in late June, 45 at The Oval at the end of the month and an undefeated 40 the following week in the win at Leicester as well as 4 for 17 in the second innings of the return match, the first of Canterbury Week. In the second match of The Week, a draw against Warwickshire, he returned to opening and had scores of 30 and 44 with Charles Rowe as his opening partner. He saved some of his best batting for the penultimate game of the season at Bournemouth when after three games in the middle order he was back opening the innings. In the seven wicket win, again with Rowe as his partner, he scored 95 and 65.

The committee report of the 1979 season referred to Graham Johnson as 'a tower of strength both on and off the field'.

In 1979 he played the same number of innings as the previous year and scored marginally more runs (726) with an average of 30.25, 2.85 better than 1978. However, his bowling, with only 24 wickets at 45.29 was the worst of his career.

Finishing third in the one-day batting averages, he scored 535 runs from 22 innings, averaging 25.47. In the John Player League he scored 50 against Surrey at Maidstone, 73 at Eastbourne and 50 at Taunton as well as two scores in the 40s. Only three times was he dismissed in single figures. It was the most consistent batting of his career in the JPL.

He bowled only 42 overs taking ten wickets at 14.30, eight of them in the John Player League.

In the first Championship game he and Underwood reduced Essex to 43 for 9 in their second innings with Johnson taking 5 for 12 in 6.1 overs, but his bowling was generally inconsistent. In the next eighteen games he bowled 338 overs and took just ten wickets. In the process he conceded 826 runs. His economy rate was good but there was a surprising lack of penetration. There was little improvement in the remaining first-class games.

1980 saw an improvement in his first-class bowling performance but his batting fell away. He played in 21 matches, scoring 509 runs, his lowest since 1971 apart from his restricted season of 1977. He bowled more than 100 fewer overs but took 42 wickets at 22.83 with five in an innings on four occasions and in one match, ten wickets. These were all in the final weeks of the season: 5 for 98 in Glamorgan's

second innings at Canterbury in early August, followed immediately by 4 for 49 and 4 for 58 against Warwickshire in the second half of the Week, match figures of 10 for 111 against Gloucestershire at Folkestone and in the season's final game 5 for 88 in the Middlesex first innings at Canterbury.

He was now rarely opening the innings, being used much more as a lower middle order batsman. In the first half of the season he made little impact. In his first innings he scored 37 against Northants at Canterbury and four weeks later, 45 against Sussex at Hove. From then until late July he scored 75 in nine innings before 57 against Somerset at Taunton. A week later at Canterbury he recorded his highest score of the season, 84 against Glamorgan.

He played in 16 one-day games, scoring 322 runs at 20.02 and taking twelve wickets at 19.08. In all of those games he opened the innings with a number of scores in the 20s and 30s. His best was an impressive 87 against Yorkshire at Canterbury.

In 1981 it was recognised that Johnson's 'all-round cricket remained essential to the side'. His 698 runs came at of 23.26 with one century. He bowled more than in any previous season, a total of 627 overs in the first-class game, taking 57 wickets, twice five in an innings and finished third in the averages behind Underwood and Kevin Jarvis.

In 24 one-day games he had a good season in the John Player League and contributed to Kent's run to the Semi-Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup. His top scores were 36 at Derby in the JPL and 35 against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury in the NatWest Bank Trophy. Against Hampshire at Canterbury in the JPL he took 3 for 17 in 4.5 overs.

In the first game of the season, against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury, he took five wickets in the match, another five at Nuneaton in the following match and four against Yorkshire at Dartford. follower immediately by his one century, 107 opening the innings in the drawn match at Northampton. He contributed to Kent's defeat of Hampshire in Canterbury Week with a second innings 6 for 33, 8 for 78 in the match from 48 overs, He had six wickets against Surrey at Folkestone and in the next match at Taunton he and Underwood enjoyed a spinners' pitch sharing ten wickets in Somerset's only innings. At Bournemouth he scored a first innings 70 and took three second innings wickets in the fourth win of the season. then in the final match he took 4 for 42 against Worcestershire at Canterbury.

In 1982 Johnson played in 22 first-class and 13 one-day matches and in the former in 34 innings scored 582 runs at 21.55 with a highest score of 86 against Middlesex at Lord's. He bowled 330.4 overs, his second lowest since 1971. His 26 wickets cost 34.30 each, with two five wicket returns and a best of 5 for 36 at Trent Bridge.

His one-day returns were 223 runs at 24.77 with a highest score of 54\*against Somerset at Maidstone in the John Player League. He bowled 32 expensive overs, only two wickets at 96.00.

The Club awarded him a Benefit in 1983. Although his batting was a disappointment he repaid the support of his many admirers by bowling 631.1 first-class overs, the highest of his career, with 51 wickets, twice five in an innings, once ten in a match - 3 for 96 and 7 for 76 against Northants at Canterbury, the latter his career 'best bowling'. The affection in which he was held by members and supporters is reflected in a joint record return of £67,334, the same as Asif.

In his final seasons his batting decline reflected that of the team, unable to regain the heights of the 'Glory Years'. Leaving aside his five matches in South Africa in which he scored one half-century, he scored 1,376 first-class runs in 85 innings between 1983 and 1985, averaging 21.84, yet his bowling retained the high standard that prevailed in his peak seasons, with 51 wickets at 32.39 in 1983, a career second best and 39 in 1984 at 31.28. There was a further eleven in his final season. And he was as alert as always in the field. With 20 catches in 1982, a career best 29 in 1983 and 26 in 1984.

Graham Johnson played his last two games for Kent at Maidstone in mid-July, 1985. Although he did not make a significant contribution in either, he was a part of two Kent victories, the first by 100 runs against Yorkshire and the second by four wickets against Northamptonshire. Two weeks earlier he achieved his 23rd five wickets in an innings in the 25 run victory over Lancashire at Old Trafford.

He served on Kent's general committee for eighteen years and was Chairman of Cricket from 2004 to 2018. He was President in 2014 and, in recognition of his long service to the Club, was appointed an Honorary Vice-President in 2018.

*Further reading.*

Ellis, Clive & Pennell, Mark. *Trophies & Tribulations*. Greenwich Publications, 2010.

*David Robertson.*

### **Peter Henry Jones (No. 659).**

*Born:* 19.06.1935, Woolwich. *Died:* 29.12.2007, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.

Kent 1953-1967. Kent Cap 1961. Second Eleven Cap 1956.

Educated: Erith County Grammar School.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	140	230	32	4152	132	20.96	2	15	96
<b>Overall</b>	141	232	32	4196	132	20.98	2	15	99

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	17026	1092	6527	231	28.25	6-41	6	1
<b>Overall</b>	17098	1098	6549	231	28.35	6-41	6	1

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	2	0	79	73	39.50	0	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	6	6	0	118	73	19.66	0	1	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	90	2	63	2	31.50	2-39	0	4.20
<b>Overall</b>	282	6	154	3	51.33	2-39	0	3.27

A highly competitive cricketer with a thoroughly professional approach to the game, Peter Jones hit a century for his school at the age of fourteen, represented Kent Schoolboys against Essex Schoolboys in 1950, and joined the Kent staff in 1952.

On his Second Eleven debut that year he scored 63\* v Hampshire at Southampton and later in the season took 5 for 32 against Wiltshire at Sevenoaks. Next year he made limited progress with the bat but bowled economically and was picked as a bowler for his first team debut against Yorkshire at Scarborough. He failed to take a wicket in 23 overs but scored 19 batting number ten and nine batting as nightwatchman at number four.

Like most of his generation, further progress in his profession was retarded by National Service and, apart from half a dozen Second Eleven matches in 1954-1955, his most significant cricket over the next two years was an appearance for the Army v Oxford University in 1955. He scored 24 and 20, dismissed twice by future county colleague Jimmy Allan.

Back with Kent in 1956, he became a regular top order batsman for the Second Eleven but, despite scoring over 500 runs in 1957, opportunities at first team level were restricted to one in 1956, four in 1957, and none in 1958 with a top score of 15.

1959 proved only slightly better until August when 49 v Northants at Dover was followed by an innings of 50 at Old Trafford against Brian Statham and Ken Higgs. Picked for the opening game of 1960, Jones began with a duck against Lancashire at Dartford but followed with 43 at Ilford, 40 at Worcester, 0 and 51 at Cardiff and rounded May off with 117 v Essex at Gravesend, sharing a fifth-wicket partnership of 211 with Stuart Leary (116) and emphasising his all-round credentials with 4 for 34 from 33 overs. By September he was established as a first team regular with 1,005 runs (ave.24.51) and 36 wickets including 5 for 50 against the touring South Africans.

In 1961 1,218 runs (ave.27.06), 77 wickets (ave.25.88) and 21 catches earned him his County cap. When achieving his top score of 132 v Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells, he took part in another fifth-wicket partnership, 212, again with Stuart Leary (92). Against Surrey at The Oval, he took 3 for 68 & 6 for 61 and 5 for 12 & 4 for 44 when Gloucestershire were beaten at Cheltenham. In 1962 he produced his best bowling performance (6 for 41) when Essex won by one wicket at Romford, but his season ended prematurely. At Gillingham in August, he was hit on the jaw by a ball bowled by Fred Trueman, his seasonal run total falling to 891 and his haul of wickets to 49.

Apart from 4 for 8 v Surrey at The Oval and 5 for 34 and 5 for 98 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 1963 was a moderate season and, with form continuing to elude him in 1964 he retired at the end of the season to concentrate on his business in the motor trade. He played club cricket for St Lawrence where his was a major role in the setting up of the Kent Cricket League. In 1967 when Kent suffered from a crop of injuries, he returned to the county scene, contributing usefully in three matches with a top score of 36 at Cardiff.

In ten years from 1971, two years as captain, Peter Jones scored over 3,800 runs in 97 matches for Suffolk. Although not a big spinner of the ball, his tight line and length brought 267 wickets (ave.22.18) for the county, eleven times five or more in an innings. He also appeared four times for Suffolk in the Gillette and later NatWest Competitions. In 1977-1978 he toured Kenya with a Minor Counties Cricket Association team. He subsequently played for several clubs in the West Midlands, notably Wolverhampton where he was at different times first Eleven captain, coach, treasurer and manager. In 1988 he led the club to the final of the Club Cricket Knock-Out Competition and played for them until well into his 60s. Excellent in coaching the young, he was for some years coach to Staffordshire County Schoolboys.

As a footballer, he played once as an inside-forward for Charlton in the London Mid-Week team against West Ham in 1955 and for Hastings United in what was then the Southern League.

#### **Anthony Douglas Jose (No. 654).**

*Born:* 17.02.1929, Adelaide, South Australia. *Died:* 03.02.1972, Los Angeles, California, USA.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1951-1952. Second Eleven Cap 1951.

Educated: St Peter's Adelaide, Adelaide University & Brasenose College, Oxford.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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<b>Kent</b>	5	9	1	26	7	3.25	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	29	44	8	269	38	7.47	0	0	11

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	566	12	346	8	43.25	3-64	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	4623	127	2293	75	30.57	6-45	1	0

Bowling on the quick side of fast-medium with a near classic action, Tony Jose had played three games for South Australia in the Sheffield Shield in 1948 before going up to Oxford. His six wickets included the highly prized names of Syd Barnes, Arthur Morris and Don Tallon. He gained his Blue as a Freshman in 1950 and finished with 35 wickets (avge.25.77) including 4 for 22 v Warwickshire, 4 for 49 v Sussex and 3 for 58 v Free Foresters, all in the Parks. Usually very much a tailender, against Free Foresters he scored 39, adding 108 for the eighth-wicket with Chris Winn (146\*).

Exams intervened in his second year but he took 22 wickets (avge.29.63) and was awarded his second Blue. His best efforts were 6 for 45 when Warwickshire were dismissed for 86 at Stratford-upon-Avon (a rare venue) and 4 for 46 against Cambridge at Lord's. During his two seasons at Oxford he again demonstrated a gift for dismissing good players, his bag including John Dewes, Bill Edrich, Laurie Fishlock (twice), Len Hutton (twice), Don Kenyon, both Langridges, Jim Parks (junior), Don Smith (twice), George Emmett, Norman Yardley and the West Indian trio of Allan Rae, Gerry Gomez and Jeffrey Stollmeyer.

At the end of the 1951 Summer term Jose made four appearances for Kent. At the time there was a glaring need for a second opening bowler but apart from 3 for 64 against Warwickshire at Mote Park in his debut match, he achieved little of note. His final first-class appearance for Kent was against his old University in the Parks in 1952 and his last first-class game Free Foresters v Oxford University in 1953.

He had considerable success in Second Eleven cricket. In four matches for Kent in 1951 he claimed nineteen wickets (avge.15.26) including 5 for 44 & 6 for 81 v Norfolk at Lakenham and 6 for 32 v Wiltshire at Swindon. He played only twice in 1953, taking 4 for 74 & 5 for 42 v Norfolk at Lakenham and 7 for 67 & 1 for 19 v Wiltshire at Marlborough. As well as for Free Foresters he played club cricket for Hampstead, Middlesex Hospital, United Hospitals and Jim Swanton's Arabs.

A doctor by profession, Tony Jose was a man of high intelligence, much charm and considerable wit, known in his Oxford days as 'the dozy doctor' due to his air of pre-occupation. Watching the ageing Sir George 'Gubby' Allen getting ready for a Free Foresters match, Jose dubbed him 'Regius Professor of Elastoplast'.

A heart specialist, he worked in John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore and subsequently, back in Australia, at the Halstrom Hospital, Sydney. Finally, he joined the Cardiac Section of the Faculty of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles where he died from poisoning, apparently self-administered.

An all-round sportsman, Tony Jose excelled at Australian Rules football and during his time in the USA became an avid follower of the American game. His father Gilbert, born in China, played two matches for South Australia in 1919 and 1921. He was taken prisoner by the Japanese and died in Changi, Singapore in 1942.

### **Bernard Denis Julien (No. 706).**

*Born:* 13.03.1950, Carenage Village, Trinidad.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast medium/slow orthodox & wrist spin.

Kent 1970-1977. Kent cap 1972.

Educated: St Mary's College, Port of Spain, Trinidad.

### **First Class Career Record**

## Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	80	109	15	2056	98	21.87	0	9	47
<b>West Indies</b>	24	34	6	866	121	30.92	2	3	14
<b>Overall</b>	195	272	36	5790	127	24.53	3	27	126

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10849	439	5256	198	26.54	7-66	6	0
<b>West Indies</b>	4542	192	1868	50	37.36	5-57	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	29025	1089	13871	483	28.71	9-97	15	1

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	83	69	10	1092	87	18.50	0	3	19
<b>West Indies</b>	12	8	2	86	26*	14.33	0	0	4
<b>Overall</b>	115	95	16	1450	104	18.35	1	3	28

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3709	72	2350	112	20.98	5-21	2	3.80
<b>West Indies</b>	778	21	463	18	25.72	4-20	0	3.57
<b>Overall</b>	5450	115	3362	153	21.97	5-21	2	3.70

Bernard Julien had a highly successful Test career but the general opinion among pundits in Kent seems to be that the County did not see the best of him. Potentially one of the truly great allrounders, he was an exciting stroke player in the best Caribbean tradition and one of the most effective left arm swing bowlers of his generation. He could also bowl left arm googlies and Chinaman or switch to orthodox left arm finger spin. A versatile fielder, his party piece was to throw a ball from the far end of the Canterbury square over the pavilion without a preliminary run-up. Comparison with the incomparable Sobers was inevitable but Julien himself rejects the often-touted notion that it affected his career. It seems likely however that it fostered some unrealistic expectations in influential Kentish circles.

Several of his teammates felt that he would have achieved much more with better, more sympathetic, handling but in fact, allowing for injuries, his record for Kent is better than a casual glance at the figures suggests. He generally scored his runs quickly and usually when they were most needed. As a bowler, although there were suggestions of an inability to 'come back.' after his opening spell, 65% of his wickets in first-class matches for Kent and 62 % in List A games were batsmen in the top five. Over 17% of his wickets were opening batsmen dismissed for under 20. His batting in county cricket was not helped by the fact that he seldom batted above eight or nine, much of the time lower than for West Indies. It is perhaps significant that he averaged over 30 in Test matches and that two of his three first-class centuries were for his country.

After playing for Trinidad Colts, Julien made his first-class debut for South Trinidad v North Trinidad in the Beaumont Cup shortly after his 18th birthday and in the following year made his first appearance in the Shell Shield. In his third first-class game, for South Trinidad in the Beaumont Cup, he scored 54 and took 7 for 63 including a hat-trick. By the 1969-1970 season he was a regular in the Trinidad and Tobago side and in March 1970 took 4 for 74 against the Duke of Norfolk's touring side which included Colin Cowdrey, Mike Denness and Derek Underwood. By the start of the 1970 season, he was on the Kent staff.

Kent's reception of their young signing did not run to the red carpet. Nobody met him at the airport, and he was left to make his way to Canterbury by taxi where he found himself lodged in a pub, *The Monument*, very small and at the time not perhaps the most salubrious hostelry in the city. Nor, some might think, the ideal environment for a handsome young man who enjoyed both a drink and female company, of which he found no lack.

His first-class debut, in 1970 against Cambridge University at Fenner's, was unremarkable but on his first Second Eleven appearance he took 6 for 22 v Hampshire Seconds at Bournemouth, including the wickets of Barry Richards for 12 and Gordon Greenidge, for seven and followed with 113 and 52 v Surrey Seconds at Norbury, 136 and 51 in the next match against the same opposition at Aylesford, 7 for 52 v Essex at Hadleigh and 5 for 19 v Sussex at Hove. At the end of the season he had scored 1,011 runs (avge.33.70) and claimed 69 wickets (avge.23.52) in Second Eleven matches plus another 420 runs and 24 wickets for the Club & Ground.

Although nominally on the Kent staff for eight years, Test calls in 1973 and 1976, plus a severe and recurrent ankle injury in 1974, restricted Julien to just four full or nearly full seasons. Four times he exceeded 400 first-class runs. 1971, 1972, 1975 and 1977 and three times 40 first-class wickets, 44 in 1971, 49 in 1972 and 40 in 1975. Like many overseas players he took time to adjust to English conditions but, given the new ball for the first time against Surrey at St Lawrence in 1971, he took 4 for 46 followed by 4 for 49 v Somerset at Mote Park.

The highlight of his first season was 5 for 25 v Yorkshire at Canterbury in the Second Round of the Gillette Cup which brought him the Man of the Match award (and Geoff Boycott's wicket). In the Final he was injured, batted number ten and was unable to bowl. Next year 3 for 24 from 11 overs against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in the Benson & Hedges competition earned a Gold Award but his best effort was in the Championship. Against Northamptonshire at Dover he hit 59 at number nine and, promoted to five in the second innings, 90, in 62 minutes during a fourth-wicket partnership of 135 with an unwell Asif Iqbal (55\*). Against Middlesex at Lord's, he took 5 for 57 and v Hampshire at Folkestone 5 for 104 and 4 for 77.

In 1973 he was selected for the West Indian touring team but played a few games for Kent before joining them, hitting 81\* in 75 minutes against Cambridge University and 98 in 82 minutes at Northampton with 4 sixes and 16 fours, narrowly missing the fastest century of the season. Batting in both innings at number nine. 5 for 21 from 11 overs at The Oval won him his second Benson & Hedges Gold Award. At Lord's in his third Test match, he hit 121 from 127 balls, sharing an epic 155 run partnership in under two hours with his hero Gary Sobers (150\*). In his next fixture Julien hit his second hundred – 127 v T.N.Pearce's Eleven at Scarborough.

The ankle injury which restricted him to a handful of games in 1974 still troubled him in 1975 but, statistically at least, it was his best season – 451 runs (avge.30.06) and 40 wickets (avge.17.67). In the Championship, batting number nine against Hampshire at Southampton he scored 73\* and, promoted up the order hit half-centuries v Surrey at The Oval and Nottinghamshire at Dover. Against Somerset at Folkestone, he took 5 for 55 with left-arm spin and in his quicker method 6 for 60 against Middlesex at Lord's, 4 for 27 from 17 overs against Yorkshire at Dartford and 7 for 66 v Sussex at Hove. In limited-overs, he struck 60 off 40 balls, 46 in boundaries, at Cardiff in the John Player League. Touring with the West Indies in 1976 he had one of his best games at Canterbury – 62\*, 35\* 1 for 19 and in the second innings five of the first seven wickets to fall for 17 runs from 56 balls.

Julien's final season with Kent was generally disappointing but at Leicester in the John Player League he hit 87 in a fifth-wicket partnership of 163 from 19 overs with Alan Ealham (83) and took 4 for 45 against Middlesex at Canterbury in the Gillette Cup. In the County Championship he scored 55\* in 54 minutes against Northants at Wantage Road as well as taking 4 for 42 against Middlesex at Dartford and 4 for 49 against Leicestershire at Maidstone but he was in the first batch of players signed up for Kerry Packer's World Series and this was probably a factor in Kent's decision not to renew his contract although, in any case, some Kent committee members seemed to consider him 'difficult'.



As well as ten home Tests and twice touring England with West Indies, Julien toured India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka in 1974-1975 and Australia 1975-1976. He continued to play for Trinidad & Tobago in the Shell Shield up to the 1981-1982 season but in 1983 he joined the first West Indian 'Rebel' tour of South Africa under the captaincy of Lawrence Rowe.

Like several others of the tourists, Julien had suffered a prolonged spell of unemployment and his decision to tour was entirely financial. Ironically, although the relatively well-heeled English 'rebels' were quickly integrated back into the game, the West Indian 'rebels' suffered a prolonged spell of opprobrium, Julien more than most. Eventually there was reconciliation, and he became coach at Queen's Park, interrupted but not ended by a fight with throat cancer.

*Further reading.*

Gray, Ashley. *The Unforgiven. Mercenaries or Missionaries*. Pitch Publishing Ltd. 2020.

### **Daniel John Michael Kelleher (No. 741).**

*Born:* 05.05.1966, Southwark, London. *Died:* 12.12.1995, Barnehurst.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1987-1991.

Educated: St Mary's Grammar School, Sidcup & Erith Technical College.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	34	43	6	565	53*	15.27	0	2	8

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4906	184	2533	77	32.89	6-109	2	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	31	16	6	91	21	9.10	0	0	7

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1489	22	920	22	41.81	3-16	0	3.70

A personable, outgoing character, well-liked and with a talent for attracting women, Danny Kelleher died aged 29 from a drug overdose. He had recently broken up with a girlfriend and was thought to have been depressed at the prospect of the end to his career. A note indicated that he took his own life. There had been two previous suicide attempts.

He played both cricket and Rugby for Kent Schools, toured Canada with the Kent under-seventeen side and played for the English Schools Cricket Association. After success with Dartford, experience with Kent Colts and in the Under-25 competitions, he made his Second eleven debut against Sussex at Sittingbourne in 1983, joining the staff as an allrounder two years later. His 22 wickets for the Second Eleven that year were expensive, but he registered his maiden Second Eleven 50 at Teddington.

The 1985-1986 winter was spent in Australia and another season of Second Eleven cricket brought 25 wickets (ave.28.40) and another 50 as well as a place in Lavinia, Duchess of Norfolk's Eleven in a

one-day match against the New Zealanders at Arundel in which he opened the bowling with Sylvester Clarke and emerged with the best bowling figures – 3 for 44.

In May 1987 he was called into the first team at Northampton and claimed the wickets of Wayne Larkins and Geoff Cook. On his second appearance, against Surrey at Tunbridge Wells, he took 5 for 76 including the wickets of Alec Stewart, Trevor Jesty and Graeme Clinton. Further success followed – 6 for 109 v Somerset at Bath, 4 for 35 v Sussex at Hove, 4 for 35 v Hampshire at Maidstone - and at the end of the season he was top of the averages with 34 wickets (avge.25.82). Unfortunately, due to injury, erratic selection policy and competition from the likes of Richard Ellison, Kevin Jarvis, Chris Penn, Alan Igglesden, Mark Ealham and Matthew Fleming, his career did not develop as expected.

His appearances were intermittent and, in 1989, when he played eleven games, his 24 wickets cost over 40 runs apiece. He did however have days of success, 4 for 24 v Sussex at Hastings in 1988, 4 for 82 v the Australians at Canterbury in 1989 including the wickets of Mark Taylor, Geoff Marsh and Steve Waugh.

In the latter stages of his career with Kent he was moved up the order and treated more as a batting all-rounder. If never consistent, when he scored runs, he scored them quickly. In hitting his highest score of 53\* v Derbyshire at Dartford in 1989, with Chris Penn (60), 84 were scored from 54 balls. Probably his finest effort was against the West Indies in 1988. On an untypically lively Canterbury wicket, what was in all but name Kent Second Eleven was dismissed twice in a day by an attack including Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Winston Benjamin and Roger Harper. One of only four batsmen to achieve double figures, Kelleher restored a modicum of Kentish pride with 51 from 42 balls (4 sixes, 5 fours).

In his final two seasons Kelleher frequently led the Second Eleven and batted with some success, scoring 566 runs with four half-centuries in 1990 and 494 (avge.44.91) in 1991 including his only century, 108 from 131 balls v Northants Second Eleven at Oundle. In 1989 he visited Argentina and Brazil with a touring side, the Troubadours.

Kelleher spent 1991-1992 on a match-only contract with Surrey, without managing to break into the first team. Again treated mainly as a batsman/bowler, he scored over 500 runs for the Second Eleven with five 50s and a highest of 80 v England Under-Nineteens. In 1992 he appeared in one match for Glamorgan Second Eleven. A coaching engagement in Argentina ended unhappily.

His father was a well-known club cricketer and his uncle Herbert Robert Albert Kelleher, after success as an opening bowler with Southgate, took 112 first-class wickets, for Surrey (three matches) and Northamptonshire (52 matches), between 1955 and 1958.

### **Nicholas John Kemp (No. 716).**

*Born:* 16.12.1956, Bromley.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1977-1981. Second Eleven cap 1977.

Educated: Tonbridge.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	13	13	2	89	23	8.09	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	18	19	4	210	46*	14.00	0	0	8

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	951	19	621	12	51.71	6-119	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	1347	32	801	16	50.06	6-119	1	0

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	8	5	2	22	11	7.33	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	9	5	2	22	11	7.33	0	0	0

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	300	6	222	5	44.40	2-38	0	4.44
<b>Overall</b>	348	6	269	8	33.62	3-47	0	4.36

Three years in the Eleven at Tonbridge (1973 to 1975), Nick Kemp made his Kent Second Eleven debut in 1974, scoring 64 in the second innings against Middlesex at Sittingbourne. In his last year at Tonbridge when he totalled 488 runs and took 48 wickets at 9.27, he attracted notice beyond Kent by taking 8 for 31 for Southern Schools v the Rest and striking 76 in 80 minutes for Headmasters Conference Schools v ESCA, both at Eastbourne. He also appeared that year for England Young Cricketers, ESCA and MCC Schools as well as taking 5 for 88 for Kent Seconds v Sussex Seconds at Canterbury.

In 1976 he toured West Indies with England Young Cricketers and in 1977 joined the Kent staff, making a relatively uneventful first-class debut (0 for 37) against the Australians at Canterbury. He played two county matches that season without much success but scored over 400 runs in the Second Eleven Championship with a top score of 80 v Essex at Dagenham and took 27 inexpensive wickets.

While all were agreed Kemp was a player of huge potential, over the next five seasons he was never quite able to translate it into runs and wickets at first-class level. At Tonbridge he was rated one of the fastest bowlers in the country but later metamorphosed into a medium pacer, whether at his own instigation or at Kent's is unclear. He was also severely affected by the death of his father in 1979, following a blow on the temple from a top-edged hook in a club match.

In intermittent first team appearances, 13 in all for Kent, he only twice claimed more than two wickets in an innings – 3 for 83 v the Pakistanis at Canterbury in 1978 and 6 for 119 v Surrey at The Oval in 1980 – and only once topped 20. Nor did he make his mark in a handful of limited-overs appearances. For the Second Eleven he did better, five times five in an innings, once ten in a match, leading wicket taker in 1978 and 1979. His batting blossomed when given the Second Eleven captaincy in 1981 with 533 runs (avge.31.35), including his only century, 111 v Middlesex Seconds at Southgate. Nevertheless, it proved to be his last season with the county.

Kemp had one season with Middlesex, exceeding his previous highest score in each of his first two matches – 37 v Oxford University at Oxford, 46\* v Sussex at Lord's – but he took only four wickets in four matches and his contract was not extended.

While at school Kemp played for the Band of Brothers junior section the BaBees and subsequently for BB, Yellowhammers, MCC and Old Tonbridgians. He is currently an enthusiastic member of Old Tonbridgians Golfing Society. Outside cricket, he worked in insurance and subsequently in financial services. In 2010 he became involved with investment in the offshore oil industry with emphasis on the location and salvage of submerged wrecks.

### Graham James Kersey (No. 758).

*Born:* 19.05.1971, Plumstead. *Died:* 01.01, 1997. Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1991-1992

Educated: Bexley & Erith Technical High School.

### **First Class Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	3	2	69	27*	69.00	0	0	14/1
<b>Overall</b>	53	82	14	1578	83	23.20	0	9	169/12

### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

### **List A Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	1	0	0*		0	0	0/1
<b>Overall</b>	30	20	2	292	50	16.22	0	1	30/5

### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Graham Kersey, known as ‘Scuz’, played club cricket for Bexley and in 1987-1988 toured Singapore and New Zealand with a Kent Schools Under Seventeen side. He made his debut for Kent Colts in 1989 and joined the Kent staff in the following year. On his Club & Ground debut, against Haringey Cricket College, he took one catch, made one stumping and conceded only one bye.

He went on to keep in all the County’s Second Eleven Championship fixtures in 1990, caught 43 . stumped two, plus another 11 dismissals in limited-overs fixtures and at the end of the season, the Kent Director of Coaching Colin Page wrote ‘At the start of the season he was nothing more than a schoolboy wicketkeeper, but he’s worked tremendously hard and developed into a capable deputy for Steve Marsh’.

Barring accidents or Test calls, first team opportunities are inevitably severely limited for a reserve wicketkeeper, but Kersey impressed on each of four appearances for Kent First Eleven and in his last, against Hampshire at Canterbury, he caught five, stumped one and allowed no byes on a lively Canterbury wicket. In 1992, his last year with the club, his total in all competitions rose to caught 65, stumped/eight, in addition to over 700 runs including a century against Lancashire Seconds at Canterbury and 99\* v Sussex at Hove.

Graham Kersey’s move to Surrey was undoubtedly good for his career. Although ostensibly deputy to Alec Stewart, in practice Kersey quickly became Surrey’s regular keeper. Even when not engaged with England, Stewart tended to play for Surrey as a batsman. Except in 1994, when he shared duties with Neil Sargeant, until his death, Graham Kersey was an integral part of the Surrey team. His best season was 1995 when he caught 60, stumped five and scored over 700 first-class runs.

Although not noted for style, he missed very little and had developed into one of the best and most reliable wicketkeepers in the country - albeit not with his native county. He died, tragically young, in hospital following a car crash – a head-on collision while returning to the home of a former Surrey colleague on Christmas Eve.

### **Robert William Trevor Key (No. 780).**

*Born:* 12.05.1979, East Dulwich, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium- pace/off-spin bowler.

Kent 1998- 2015. Kent cap 2001

Tests: 15, ODIs 5, Intl 20/20 1, all for England.

Educated: Langley Park Boys School & Colfe's School, Greenwich.

Parents: Trevor Key & Lynn Key (née Crosslie).

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	266	459	31	17391	270*	40.63	49	68	132
<b>England</b>	15	26	1	775	221	31.00	1	3	11
<b>Overall</b>	299	517	37	19419	270*	40.45	54	76	154

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	460	11	324	3	108.00	2-31		
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	484	13	331	3	110.33	2-31		

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	212	205	17	6180	144*	32.87	8	36	42
<b>England</b>	5	5	0	54	19	10.80	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	225	218	17	6469	144*	32.18	8	37	44

#### Bowling

Did not bowl

### Twenty20 Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	96	96	10	2217	98*	25.77	0	13	24
<b>England</b>	1	1	1	10	10*		0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	98	98	11	2239	98*	25.73	0	13	25

#### Bowling

Did not bowl

Key was born into a sporting family. His father played club cricket, his mother played for Kent and provided early coaching in the garden. He won cups playing cricket for his primary school, Worsley Bridge, and was picked for the Kent Under 11s. There he came under the mentorship of former Kent captain Alan Ealham, the first person (after his parents) that Key thanks in his book.

Key first played for the Kent 2nd XI in 1994 and the following year made his first Second Eleven Championship appearance (captained by Ealham, making his last appearance). In 1996 Key made over 500 runs for the Seconds (now captained by Neil Taylor) in the Championship with 96 (whilst still 16) against Lancashire and 146\* against Essex at Coggleshall. That winter he won a cricket scholarship to South Africa and was awarded a Kent contract.

In 1997 Key hit 139\* against Glamorgan at Pontardulais, captained an England Under 17 team in Bermuda that won the International Youth tournament and played all three Under 19 Tests v Zimbabwe (under the captaincy of Andrew Flintoff). That winter, he played two more Tests and was a member of

the team which won the Under 19 World Cup in South Africa. In the final (although only making 27 off 55 balls) he added 100 for the first wicket with Stephen Peters.

So, although only 18 at the start of the 1998 season, Key was already experienced and well-travelled. He made 68 (out of 134), then 89 and 114 against Warwickshire for Kent Second Eleven and, for the first team, an 'impudent' 54 in a one-day game against the South Africans, coming down the wicket to Allan Donald. Three days later he became Kent's fourth youngest centurion (the youngest since 1934) mixing 'fiery aggression with a cool temperament' (*Wisden*) in his chanceless 101 against Durham. He added 168 with David Fulton (their first of 16 century opening partnerships). Another century, 115 against Nottinghamshire, swiftly followed. Called up for England Under 19s (three Tests and three ODIs), he only played six more times that season for Kent. 612 first class runs at 26.61 was unremarkable but his promise was clear.

That winter he toured South Africa and Zimbabwe with England Under 19s. He finished bottom of the averages and 'never settled, though nothing dampened his spirit' (*Wisden*). His undampened spirit, on and off the field, on this tour contributed to an impression of Rob Key that he struggled to shake off.

The next two seasons were disappointing. The Kent Annual suggested that he and his 1999 opening partner, Ed Smith, had to learn how to complement each other's style of play and improve their running between the wickets. Their only century opening stand came against Cambridge. Key finished with 836 runs at 26.97. In 2000 Fulton returned as Key's opening partner after two matches but Key scored just 562 runs at 21.62. He had topped Kent's One day averages (476 runs at 51.33) in 1999 but played just five times (scoring 41 runs) in 2000.

His batting had become overly cautious, but he had not lost his drive for self-improvement and enthusiasm for one-to-one coaching. Rahul Dravid, Kent's overseas player in 2000, scored more than twice as many runs as anyone else. His 137 out of 252 on a spinning wicket at Portsmouth against Shane Warne was a masterpiece. Key, facing Warne for the first time, had been dismissed by him for a duck the previous evening and worked with Dravid on how to counter Warne's drift. The two added 115 in Kent's second innings and Key was only twice again dismissed by Warne for Kent whilst making two centuries (with Warne bowling a total of 69 overs).

John Wright, Kent's coach since 1997, had grown increasingly frustrated by Kent's underachieving top order (Key, Fulton, Smith and Matt Walker). When he left to coach India, John Inverarity arrived and transformed Kent's top order. In Kent's first match, he taught Key to move his feet to the spinner late enough to turn the perfect length ball into a half volley. 'Thanks to Wrighty', I had the defensive game, [then with Inverarity], it was like the shackles coming off'.

In Kent's first Championship match, Key and Fulton added 198 (then a record Kent opening partnership at The Oval), both making centuries. Against Yorkshire at Canterbury, Key (97\* overnight) played on for 98 but made 119 against Pakistan (on his birthday). His next century (after being dismissed again in the 90s at Maidstone against Glamorgan) came at Southend as Kent beat Essex by an innings for the second time that season. Key's 123 took seven hours and was spread over three days, but its value was clear as Essex's two innings totalled 221. He finished the season against Lancashire with another three-day innings (132) and 1,285 runs for the season (at 45.75). With a more aggressive style of batting, Key once again became a one day regular although his top score for the season was only 59.

He spent a successful winter with the England Academy under Rod Marsh. Marsh placed great emphasis on fitness, and, after initial resistance, Key started to crave, then win Marsh's, praise. Key started the 2002 season well as he 'scythed and pulled' (*Wisden*) 160, his second career best in successive innings, adding 266 with Fulton. In the next match, at Canterbury against Yorkshire, they added 198 with Key's 114 showing 'muscular grace'. After adding 95 with Andrew Strauss for MCC v the Sri Lankans at Chesterfield, Key and Fulton resumed, adding 160 against Lancashire, 140 against Warwickshire and 121 against Surrey. In the next match Kent dismissed Leicestershire for 131, the pitch liaison officer was summonsed but Key 'drove sumptuously' reaching 127.

His next match was his England debut v India at Trent Bridge, replacing the injured Marcus Trescothick. Opening with Vaughan he made just 17 in England's only innings (617), then 30 and 34 in England's innings defeat at Headingley. *Wisden*, not for the last time, focused on his appearance, the 'chunky opener [dropped three catches] as his red face kept turning steadily redder'.

He finished 2002 with 1,255 at 41.83 in all first-class cricket (1,090 for Kent at 43.60). He also made his first one day hundred, 114 off 98 balls with four sixes, against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and made 846 List A runs (at 38.45), his most ever in a season.

Key was picked to tour Australia 2002-3 as a late replacement for Graham Thorpe. He made 59\* (off 48 balls) in a run chase against Western Australia but was not selected for the first Test. In the next match he made a match-saving 174\* in nearly 7 hours, adding 176 with an injured John Crawley and took Crawley's place for the second Test.

Despite scores of one in both innings, he retained his place at the WACA. There, in a 'stout mostly passive knock' on a very fast pitch against McGrath, Lee and Gillespie, he made 47 before falling to the gentle medium pace of Damien Martyn (two wickets in 67 Tests) just before tea. He also made a brave 52 in the fourth Test but did little in the final Test, dismissed in the first innings by Steve Waugh.

Key started 2003 with 137 against Cambridge, adding 258 in 54 overs with Kent debutant Michael Carberry. After three modest games he was selected for both Test matches against Zimbabwe. Two innings victories for England meant only two innings and with scores of 18, debatably given out caught behind, and 4 (and 11 and 0 in two ODIs that followed), he missed his opportunity.

After five matches (and eight weeks) away he returned for Kent against Nottinghamshire at Maidstone. His 140 was one of three Kent second innings centuries before Mohammed Sami, bowling thrillingly fast, completed 15 wickets in the match. Key had lost his Test place when Vaughan returned to the team and Ed Smith (with four centuries, including a double, in successive innings) not Key was called up later that summer. Key's best score in the rest of the season was just 54. With the loss of his Test place and just 754 runs (average 37.70), 2003 had proved a disappointment.

He was not picked for any England overseas tours but returned to Australia for more coaching by Neil 'Noddy' Holder. Key also worked on his fitness 'I'll never be the most athletic-looking bloke but I'm a hell of a lot fitter than I was at 19 or 20'.

Key was overweight and unfit at the start of his career. In 1999, at the end of season PCA dinner, Alec Stewart told a drunk Key not to spend the winter socialising with his friends but to go to Australia for coaching by Holder and to lose weight. Key took Stewart's advice. Not just that winter but throughout his career. He regularly returned to Australia (often at his own expense) for coaching by (his 'security blanket' in cricket) Holder. He converted to Marsh's boot camp drills. He controlled his weight (the 12 st. 7oz quoted in the Kent Annuals between 2002-9 was optimistic but he never went near his pre-1999 weight of 16st). Yet this improvement was not recognised (*Wisden* in 2005, at the height of his career, still described him as 'Bunterish').

He never pretended to enjoy fielding. His book has just two photos of him playing for Kent, one is simply captioned 'I hate fielding'. Lacking, he felt, sufficient concentration for the slips he usually fielded at mid on or mid off where he was perfectly competent. But spectators seemed to find amusement in watching Key turn to give chase, not least because he seemed to sigh first, and the image stuck.

Key made just 13 for MCC against the Champions Sussex (in a top four with three uncapped players Cook, Bell and Pietersen) but 118\* in his first innings for Kent in 2004 adding an unbeaten 183 with Carberry (104\*). Against the New Zealanders Key made 114 and 101\* in Kent's nine wicket victory. With 173 at Northampton (adding 222 with David Fulton) then 86 and 199 against Surrey at The Oval

he finished May with 906 runs at 100.66. On June 2 he made 180 against Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells (his fifth hundred in seven innings) adding 229 with Smith and became (still) the earliest to 1,000 runs since 1988 (off just 11 innings) and the earliest ever for Kent.

Kent's next game was a notorious one at Worcester. Smith had been appointed the four-day vice-captain (Key the one-day vice-captain) but his published diary of the previous season had caused ructions in the team. When Fulton was injured, he anticipated problems and on the eve of the match he went out with Andrew Symonds, Key and Walker urging them to support Smith. But on a first day of 'real venom' (*Wisden*) Symonds and, to a lesser degree, Key showed open dissent. Mike Denness, Chairman of cricket, resigned citing behaviour that was 'despicable' and Symonds and Key were both disciplined.

Despite his heavy run-scoring, Key's England recall for the Lord's Test came when Mark Butcher suffered whiplash after his car was hit near The Oval (Key never played for England as first choice). England batted first and Key (dropped twice before 60 and struggling with his timing) had reached 90 at tea. Suffering from a migraine and dehydration on a hot day he reached his century soon afterwards with pulls and straight drives that like the man himself *Wisden* described as 'chunky'. He reached 221 off 288 balls 'cool-eyed and merciless' (till Zak Crawley's 267 the highest Test score by a Kent player) with 31 fours, adding 291 in just 60 overs with Strauss and 165 with Vaughan. After a poor Test at Edgbaston, he made 93\* at Old Trafford 'all puffed-chest defiance' as England reached 231, a record England fourth innings score to win a Test match. He described his partnership with Flintoff to win the match, his most enjoyable moment in cricket and rejected Flintoff's offer to slow down to allow him to reach his century.

He returned to Kent (after missing six matches) with 52 at Old Trafford before finishing with two more centuries (both 131) against Northamptonshire and Middlesex at Canterbury. His first came off 158 balls and he seemed sated when holing out in front of the Les Ames stand at long off. His second came off 157 balls, adding 255 with Ed Smith (189) which the umpires described as the best batting they had seen all season. The only awkward moments seemed to be Key's response to Smith's fist bumps between overs (some sensed a follow-on from the Worcester game, but Key was rarely interested in between-overs conversations).

Key finished the season with 1,505 runs average 88.52 for Kent (the county's highest seasonal average), top of the national averages and leading run-scorer (1,896 at 79.00). Kent were Championship runners-up, but *Wisden* described a 'bleak summer of unrest' following the Worcester match. Smith and Alex Loudon left whilst Kent appointed a new director of cricket, Graham Ford, and, in, a move described by Fulton as 'a real step in the right direction', a new vice-captain Matt Walker (replacing Smith and Key).

Key toured South Africa with England in 2004-5. He missed the first two Tests but again replaced the injured Butcher for the third Test. An outplayed England were set 501 in five sessions. Key batted longer than anyone else (three and a half hours) for 41 but then was stumped charging Nico Boje. A photo of this, the only stumping of Key's Test career, was the odd choice for his book's front cover. In the next Test Key gave Strauss 'hard-hitting support' as they added 182 but was dismissed cheaply twice (by Shaun Pollock) in the last Test of the series and, as it turned out, his career.

For *Wisden*, Key's Test career had had a consistent theme: 'penchant for getting out to medium pace trundlers' (2004 edition), 'a wandering mind and an allergy to medium pace doobers' (2005), 'unforced errors...proclivity for inattentive dismissals' (2006). Overall, in Test cricket he was dismissed by some of the highest wicket takers in Test history – Pollock (three times), Ntini and Lee (twice), Warne, Kumble and McGrath. The average number of Test wickets of every bowler who dismissed him was 253. There were not many doobers or bad balls among these, but it was the occasional exception, for instance Martyn, Steve Waugh and the stumping off Boje, that lingered in some minds.

Key was an obvious choice as *Wisden* Cricketer of the Year for 2005 but the piece had sensed Key's career was at a crossroads. 'There are genuine signs that he can forge fitness, a phenomenal eye and a



determination to eradicate technical faults with an Australian intensity. If so, England should benefit handsomely; if not, Kent may be the beneficiaries’.

Kent were the beneficiaries in 2005 as Key played the full season scoring 1,556 runs at 59.84. Duncan Fletcher, the England coach, was at Bristol in April, the PA announced, as Key and Walker resumed on 66-2 in good bowling conditions. They added 242 (Key 164, Walker 109) but Fletcher only stayed an hour and (despite assurances of loyalty) picked Bell, then Pietersen for England instead of Key.

At Tunbridge Wells against Surrey, Key made twin centuries, the first at the ground since Frank Woolley in 1911. Key’s 112 in Kent’s first innings 262, was followed by 189, adding 323 with Martin van Jaarsveld (a new Kent third wicket and ground record). Key mixed his trademark drives with pulls and slog sweeps towards the tents or rhododendrons, bathed in hot sunshine. His only other century that season (142, ‘playing within himself but still driving with immense power’, (*The Guardian*) came against Middlesex at Canterbury: he added 283 with Fulton. With 94 v Middlesex and 84 v Sussex his form, if not his conversion rate, remained impressive.

That autumn (with Van Jaarsveld felt not to be ready and Walker’s unsuccessful record as one day captain counting against him) Key was announced as the new Kent captain. This, felt *Wisden*, ‘appeased’ players (Saggers and Patel had held talks with Warwickshire) and supporters. Key commented ‘I remain committed to getting back into the England side and am sure that my added responsibilities at Kent will help me do this’. They did not. Within a year the chairman of cricket who appointed him, Graham Johnson, felt ‘his commitment to the team has probably impacted on his own form’. This remained a central theme for the rest of his career.

After a shoulder operation in the winter, he started 2006 ‘noticeably slimmer than before’ scoring 63 as captain of England A v the Sri Lankans and 136 at Canterbury against Pakistan (an innings overshadowed by the game’s overall dullness). But for Kent, he ‘struggled to blend leadership with form’ (*Wisden*) with just 731 runs at an average of 31.78. He only scored one hundred (136\* batting all day in a partnership of 281 with Dave Fulton against Hampshire) and two fifties (83 v Yorkshire and 98\* in Kent’s win at Tunbridge Wells over Warwickshire). Kent again finished fifth again in the County Championship first division (though without challenging for the title).

2007 started inauspiciously with Key photographed using sandpaper on the ball during a pre-season practice match against Nottinghamshire at Canterbury. He said this had started in the pre-season nets but, with no suggestion he would do this in a competitive match, no action was taken. He finished the season (in which he had batted noticeably more aggressively) heading Kent’s first class, List A and T20 averages and leading them to the T20 title.

After just one century in the previous nine seasons Key hit three List A centuries. Batting in the middle order in the Friends Provident Trophy, he put on (what is still) a Kent record eighth wicket partnership of 174 with James Tredwell. In the T20 he made 50s in four of his six innings. In the quarter-final he made 54. In the semi-final he ran out Sussex’s top scorer, Murray Goodwin, with a direct hit, then hit 68\* to guide Kent home. He was caught (on the half volley) for 18 in the final but Kent, after six successive final defeats, won their first knockout title for 29 years.

The Championship brought mixed fortunes for Key and Kent. The first two matches (both against Sussex) saw Kent lose, then win easily with just 11 runs for Key. An ‘elegant’ 169 followed in a heavy defeat at Durham, then 120 in a draw against Hampshire and six in an innings win at Whitgift School, Kent’s last win for three months. At Worcester flooding (and Worcestershire’s refusal to switch the venue) prevented any play despite four dry days (Kent’s first abandoned match for 30 years). The ECB broke their promise to rearrange the match and other counties, fearing relegation, vetoed their plan to award Kent nine points (not the minimum four for a draw). Rain also deprived Kent of an easy victory against Warwickshire (who followed on 443 behind).

Kent followed their T20 triumph with a two-day defeat against Surrey (despite Key carrying his bat for 75, the highest score of the match). He continued his rich vein of form in a rainy August with 153 in the two days of cricket against Warwickshire and 125 in the only day's cricket v Worcestershire. Key completed three centuries in four innings with 182 (adding 288 with Walker) against Lancashire, reaching 1,000 runs for the season and 10,000 in his career for Kent.

Kent's much delayed declaration and unwillingness to risk the points for a draw (due to their weak attack) highlighted their struggle to avoid relegation. However, Key's first century opening partnership of the season (122) with his new partner Joe Denly in the next match against Hampshire, helped Kent stay up with only their third win of the season. Key ended the season in buoyant mood telling *The Independent* 'Last year was poor and I was worried – you start to think the captaincy might affect your batting. But I've proved it hasn't. I like captaincy – it keeps you going through the boring bits on the field'.

2008 promised much but finished with two losing finals, a last-match defeat that ended Pro 40 promotion hopes and, worst of all, relegation in the Championship. The losing finals came three weeks apart, to Middlesex by three runs in the T20 (despite a 30 ball 52 from Key) and to Essex in the Friends Provident (Kent's seventh defeat in successive Lord's finals), after batting Key described as 'brainless'. The last Pro 40 game was also against Essex, Key made 120\* but Essex won with an over to spare.

Key had started the season with 79 (out of 162) in Kent's 10 wicket defeat to Nottinghamshire, then 178\* (his third successive century against the New Zealanders), adding 299 undefeated with Tredwell, still a record Kent partnership for any wicket against a touring team. His only other century of the season, (157) against Yorkshire at Canterbury in July, took Kent to within two points of the Championship leaders, Nottinghamshire. But Key and Kent remained inconsistent, and a defeat to Durham with 40 wickets falling for 465, led to Key being fined and apologising for his comments about the pitch inspectors.

Kent still started their penultimate match of the season against Lancashire with an outside chance of the title. But defeat, (despite a first innings lead of 126 and a target of just 163) followed by an innings defeat to Durham (who clinched their first Championship) ended Kent's proud record of being the only team to have been ever-present in division one. 'Key was up for the fight, most of his team-mates were not' (*Wisden*). Like the rest of Kent's top order, Key had not scored enough runs, just 686 at 31.18 in the Championship (compared to 1,250 at 56.81 the season before).

That winter Key, (who had captained the England Lions against New Zealand) led a Lions side to New Zealand. He made 90 in the first match, but the top scorer was the then uncapped Jonathan Trott. 'Key, while an authoritative leader, failed to drive home his Test case in the way Trott did' (*Wisden*).

The 2009 season brought a surprise selection for England's T20 World Cup side but no Test recall, a career- best score and promotion for Kent as division two champions.

The T20 selection was strange: he had never played an International T20 or an ODI for five years and had started the season in some of the worst form of his career (104 first-class runs at 17.33 and 119 List A runs at 14.87). He replaced the injured Pietersen in the ignominious defeat to the Netherlands (making 10\* off 8 balls at number six) and never played for England, or anyone but Kent, again. Following England's swift exit Key returned to Kent, but he failed at the Nevill and at Beckenham. He went into July with just 132 runs at 16.50' but at Beckenham, former player Neil Taylor, had identified that Key (to make room to swing the bat) was batting with his hands too far away from his body.

Key adjusted his technique and transformed his season. Three hundreds in successive games, followed. At The Oval he added 247 in 63 overs with Denly, making 123 (one of Kent's four centuries in the innings) before being run out by a deflection off the bowler. Next, he made his career best score, 270\* against Glamorgan at Cardiff, declaring early on the last day rather than going for a treble century.

*The Observer*, on the third day of the next game against Derbyshire, featured a Key interview with Vic Marks. Although still only 30, he was described as 'The Grand Old Man' and tipped for an England recall. The next day he scored one of the hundreds (110) that he said pleased him most, adding 175 with Geraint Jones (100) as Kent took six wickets and reached 318 on a testing, turning fourth day wicket (he also scored 141\* against Derbyshire in the return fixture).

But it was Trott who was selected for England (scoring a century on debut) and Key's England recall never came. Kent clinched the division two title with a match to spare, a feat Key described as '£90,000 for finishing 10th'. He finished with 1,145 runs in the championship at 54.52. Kent also reached the T20 finals day playing well in the group stages and easily winning their quarter final but losing to Somerset in the semi-final with their worst limited-overs performance of the season.

That winter Key (who had been persistently linked to Surrey) signed a new long-term contract with Kent saying (despite the rumours) he had never spoken to another club. In his book, Key said that he had spoken to the Surrey coach Chris Adams the previous winter about moving there, potentially as captain. Key's loyalty to Kent won through but 'from a completely selfish point of view, I'd have been much better off going to The Oval, making runs on a better pitch at a county that didn't have the same financial worries'.

If runs and county success in 2009 swayed his decision 2010 may have reignited doubts. After an easy 140 (retired out) off 144 balls against Loughborough MCCU, adding 272 with Jones, the first five Championship matches brought just 129 runs at 14.33. He then made a magnificent 261 off 270 balls out of 424 at Canterbury on the first day against Durham. Conditions were difficult early on, especially against Steve Harmison, but Key had century partnerships with van Jaarsveld (117) and Azhar Mahmood (106) before finishing the day shielding the tail against the second new ball and peppering the crowd by the Old Dover Road.

Kent lost that match but a week later, with a total of just 320, won the return by an innings. Key then made 56 at Tunbridge Wells, broke his finger in the next match and on his return did not pass 30 in his six remaining matches of the season. He finished with 674 Championship runs at 26.96 (or without that one innings against Durham 413 at 17.21).

As the St. Lawrence ground, prepared for an anniversary dinner with the 1970 Championship winning team, the 2010 team lost their last home match (in the last five minutes) and were relegated again. Good moments in white ball cricket (just missing the knockout stages of the CB40 cup and Key's career best 98\* off 55 balls against Sussex in the T20), were little consolation.

This time there was no instant promotion. The redevelopment at Canterbury had finally started but the landscaping of the banks lent a gloomy feel. Runs for Key or a win for Kent were followed by frustrating injuries and defeat. Kent won at Chelmsford, but then lost the next four. A win against Leicestershire at sunny, packed Tunbridge Wells (where Key made 91) was followed by a defeat in a farcically scheduled match at Lord's. Key's first hundred of the season came next at The Oval when Kent, 137 behind on first innings, chased 322. Batting on a different plane to his team-mates, Key was ninth out for 162 out of Kent's eventual 300 (the next best score was 35). After again (98) narrowly missing a hundred against Leicestershire, his only other century also came against Surrey as he carried his bat for 110. No one else in the match reached 50. Kent also won their next match but then Key was injured and missed the last three matches of the season, all lost by Kent. He finished with 895 runs at 40.68 but Kent finished eighth in division two (effectively 17th), only once before (1995) had they finished lower. They also failed to qualify for the CB40 knockout stages (with Key only playing five matches) and lost their T20 quarter final.

Key remained captain for 2012, his seventh season in charge. Kent rose to third in division two with just three wins but nine draws in a season blighted by rain. Kent again failed to qualify for either limited-overs tournament though Key scored his first one day century for four years (101 v Yorkshire at Canterbury). He threw away the chance of a hundred in the opening fixture at Headingley (on 97 trying

to sprint a single to mid off) and his only first-class hundred, came away to Hampshire, 119 in an opening partnership of 252 with Sam Northeast. 797 runs at 37.95 was modest and, perhaps with some relief, he handed over the captaincy to James Tredwell for 2013.

Able to concentrate on his own game, Key scored 1,168 championship runs at 48.66. An unbeaten 104 forced a draw against Leicestershire and then, after just 93 runs in seven innings, he made 106 in the return fixture at Tunbridge Wells, adding 190 with Brendan Nash. He scored 180 in July against Hampshire at Canterbury and hundreds in late September against Northamptonshire and Lancashire. He played little in the T20 (as he was increasingly to be found in the Sky commentary box) but was Kent's top scorer in the YB40, with centuries against the Netherlands (a 'brutal' 144 off 121 balls, his highest limited overs score) and Worcestershire (112, adding 182 with Northeast).

But Kent finished just seventh in division two, two of the three wins came after declarations setting targets of over 400. The attack was weak, Charlie Shreck the highest wicket taker with just 33 wickets at 39.21. Tredwell, suffering from England absences and coaching, did not take a wicket until his 135th over of the season on July 11th. Kent did not threaten to qualify for the knock-out stages of either limited-overs competition.

The captain's expected absence ('we would not see James until June') was an issue for the club (then) and they felt Key, after a season's sabbatical, had a renewed desire for the role. In November he was reappointed captain (with Sam Northeast, his successor-in-waiting, vice-captain). Key (who, just months earlier, had said how 'refreshing' it was not being captain) professed himself delighted but many, fearing the effect on his batting, most certainly were not.

These fears proved well-founded. In 2014 Key scored 561 runs at 21.57 – the lowest season's total and average of his career. His only century (126) came against Surrey on May 5th. There were just two other half centuries. He was Kent's highest T20 scorer (with three fifties and a strike rate of over 150) but played little in the Royal London One Day cup. His appearance in Kent's losing semi-final proved to be his last appearance in white ball cricket.

He stayed as Captain in 2015 and his slump continued - 86 at 13.50 in the first three games. At this point he decided (after two lbws and a spat with one of the umpires) to step away from the first team (giving the captaincy to Northeast) and to work on his technique. Kent's coach, Jimmy Adams, backed the decision, suggesting Key needed to regain his confidence.

He missed two Championship games (appearing for the Second Eleven for the first time in 15 years), returning against Surrey at Beckenham. An early six over long off seemed to give him confidence and he made 89, adding 133 with Northeast (who retained the captaincy). In front of a sell-out crowd in hot sunshine against the Australians he hit a memorable 87 with 15 fours but seemed to be straining for his hundred, hitting three fours then holing out at midwicket in the same over. Key (referring to these two innings and his 71 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells), later said he had 'thrown away three 'gimmee' tons'.

After 16 months, he finally scored another century, against Lancashire at Canterbury. Kent were put in on a grey overcast day with less than five overs possible before lunch. Key (dropped on 3) survived, then accelerated reaching his century with an all-run four. He was finally dismissed (after a bad light break) late in the day for 113 in what was to be his last innings for Kent at Canterbury. Key scored 94 and 158 (adding 222 with Denly) at Cardiff ending with a runner after a pulled muscle that meant he missed Kent's last game of the season (which lasted just 15 overs). He finished the season with 958 runs at 39.91.

In an interview with Mark Pennell published on the last day of the Glamorgan match, Key outlined some remaining ambitions in the game. There was no hint of retirement. 'My only real disappointment in recent years is not racing past 50 hundreds for the club. I'd like, if I could, to nudge that up to 60 [and] I'd certainly like to get to 20,000 career runs at some point.'

Key missed Kent's pre-season training for Sky's commentary of the World T20 competition but his announcement on April 18th that he would leaving the club 'by mutual agreement' still came as a shock. As the Kent Annual went to press ('Rob's continued presence in the batting line-up will only help Kent's talented youngsters') Key said he did not wish to stand in the way of younger players and moved seamlessly into his new media career at Sky. In April 2022 he became Director of the England (men's) cricket team. His appointment of Brendon McCullum as the Test team Coach brought great excitement and early success.

He had scored centuries against every other county except Sussex with eight against Surrey (against whom he scored 2,122 runs at 62.41). He scored most runs and centuries at Canterbury, 7,748 at 42.33 with 25 centuries (all but his 136 and 17 for England A coming for Kent), The next most centuries is 16 by Darren Stevens. Key scored four centuries at two other grounds (Tunbridge Wells and The Oval) and averaged over 50 at Cardiff, Bristol and Derby. He was dismissed most often by Chapple (9), Lewry and Sidebottom (8), Masters and Bicknell (7), some of the best opening bowlers he faced in his career.

His overall record as Kent captain was moderate. Though he led an improved side that won the T20, he lost more (40) than he won (32) of his 121 first class matches as Captain. His predecessor, David Fulton, won twice as many as he lost (26 to 13). A captain's record, however, depends greatly on the quality of the players to lead and, season after season, Key led a small Kent squad facing financial constraints. To the detriment of his own batting.

The most significant statistic of his career is the comparison between his record as a captain and as a player. In a 2020 interview with *The Cricketer* Key said captaincy took '10 runs off my average and 5,000 off my total of first-class runs. I ended up captaining for everyone but myself'. This is clearly not to be taken literally but his figures for Kent support his claim. As captain (2006-2012, 2014, first three games of 2015) in 121 matches he scored 6,632 runs at 34.01 with 20 centuries. When not captain (the two seasons before 2004-5, 2013 and the rest of 2015) in 53 matches he scored 5,102 runs at 59.32 with 19 centuries.

On his retirement, Club Chairman, George Kennedy, paid tribute 'He is a club man and selfless captain whose leadership and loyalty to Kent in some turbulent times has helped lead the club to a much stronger place'. More than anything else, it was this loyalty and selflessness, in staying so long as Kent's captain, that prevented him having an even better career.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis Clive & Pennell Mark *Trophies and Tribulations*. Greenwich Publishing, 2010.

Key Rob *Oi Key, tales of a journeyman cricketer*. Pen & Swords Books, 2020.

*John Winniffrith.*

#### **Lt. Cmdr. Simon Edward Anthony Kimmins VRD, RNVR. (No. 646).**

*Born:* 26.05.1930, Belgravia, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1950-1951.

Educated: Horris Hill & Charterhouse.

Parents: Anthony Martin Kimmins OBE & Elizabeth Kimmins (*née* Hodges).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	12	21	1	338	70	16.90	0	1	7
<b>Overall</b>	16	29	3	563	81	21.65	0	3	13

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1326	37	641	17	37.70	5-42	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	1981	66	996	24	41.50	5-42	1	0

Simon Kimmins was in the Eleven at Charterhouse in 1946-1947 alongside Peter May and played for Kent Young Amateurs from 1946 to 1948. In June 1950, while serving as a Midshipman, he made his first-class debut for Combined Services v Glamorgan at Cardiff Arms Park, followed in August by his first match for Kent, against Essex at Clacton. He played three matches that year for the Royal Navy (not first-class), taking 4 for 26 against the Army at Lord's.

In the following season he made a dozen appearances for Kent first team between May and the beginning of August. As the only amateur in the side against Minor Counties at Canterbury, he found himself captain at the age of 21 and marked the occasion with his best bowling performance, 5 for 42 and an innings victory, a triumph marred slightly by his first duck in first-class cricket. In the next game, v Derbyshire at Derby, he hit a robust 70.

Kimmins played one Second Eleven game in 1952 and another in 1953 but no more county cricket after 1951. Apart from one match for Free Foresters in 1955 and two in 1959, this was the end of his first-class career. On his penultimate appearance, v Cambridge University at Fenner's, he hit his personal best, 81, adding 139 for the seventh- wicket with Freddie Brown (63). As well as Free Foresters he played for MCC, Band of Brothers and Charterhouse Friars. For over 20 years he was an enthusiastic member of the Arabs, scoring over a thousand runs and taking close on one hundred wickets. As Chief Executive of Thos. Cook & Co, he handled all the Arabs' travelling arrangements on their overseas tours.

Highly successful in business, he held numerous other executive positions including Managing Director London American Finance Corp, Director of Debenhams, Chief Executive (later Chairman) Interoute Telecommunications (Switzerland), Chief Executive YoStream Holdings BV, Netherlands and Vice President (later Chairman) British Export Houses Assoc. He was a director of the Royal Shakespeare Company. Combined with his business and sporting activities, he served for over 20 years with the RNVR.

Simon Kimmins was the son of Captain Anthony Kimmins OBE.RN who had a distinguished naval career in both World Wars but was best known as actor, playwright, screenwriter, film director and producer. Between the wars he wrote and directed *Good Morning Boys*, one of Will Hay's comedies and many of George Formby's films which were highly successful at the box office if not with the London critics. His post war credits include films such as *Mr Denning Drives North*, *The Captain's Paradise* and *The Amorous Prawn*, all still on occasions featured in the TV schedules. Simon Kimmins' mother was an Admiral's daughter.

In 1955 he married Gillian Taylor in Midhurst, Sussex.

#### **Alan Philip Eric Knott M.B.E. (No. 696).**

*Born:* 09.04.1946, Belvedere.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1964- 1985. Kent cap 1965.

Tests: 95 for England. ODIs 20 for England

*Wisden* Cricketer of the Year. 1970.

Educated: Northumberland Heath Secondary School.

Parents: Eric Knott & Margaret Knott (*née* McMahon).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	349	505	94	11340	144	27.59	9	54	828/87
<b>England</b>	95	149	15	4389	135	32.75	5	30	250/19
<b>Overall</b>	511	745	134	18106	156	29.63	17	97	1211/133

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	32	2	13	1	13.00	1-5		
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	104	2	87	2	43.50	1-5		

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	289	223	39	2988	65	16.23	0	5	320/53
<b>England</b>	20	14	4	200	50	20.00	0	1	15/1
<b>Overall</b>	318	246	44	3260	65	16.13	0	6	342/55

### Bowling

Did not bowl

The Kent tradition of outstanding wicketkeeper-batsmen stretches back to Ned Wenman and the glory days of Town Malling in the 1830s. It is a noble brotherhood but none greater surely than Alan Knott. When he announced his retirement, it closed half a century of a more or less unbroken succession of Kent and England wicketkeepers and, although approaching his 40th year, his dedication to fitness was such that many felt he could continue for years.

In wicketkeeping technique, he was an original, tending to dive more than most of the masters –Godfrey Evans excluded – and often preferred to use one hand when the coaching manuals advocated two. Knott himself considered his friend and rival Bob Taylor and the Pakistani keeper Wasim Bari his technical superiors but Taylor disagrees. In his autobiography he writes Knott ‘would have been an automatic choice for England at any period in the game’s history’ and, attributes Knott’s diving more to ‘a spinal deficiency which sometimes gives him pain and restricts his movements’. More of this later.

Although the cognoscenti tend to award the palm to Taylor for perfect technique, in terms of practical results there seems nothing to choose between the two apart from, crucially, Knott’s superior batting. On one point the two were at variance. Whereas Taylor, and quite a few of his predecessors, considered standing up to medium pace and fast medium bowlers the summit of the wicketkeeping art, Knott habitually stood back to medium pace, not because he needed to –hardly likely considering his record keeping to Derek Underwood - but, to quote Mike Brearley in the 1986 *Wisden*, ‘as the result of cool calculation as to the overall effectiveness to the side’. No Englishman has taken more than his 269 dismissals in Test matches (250 ct., 19 st.), no English wicketkeeper has exceeded his 95 Test appearances.

It is never advisable to use byes as a yardstick by which to evaluate a wicketkeeper, especially in the era of uncovered wickets and extensive use of out grounds, but few were more grudging in this respect than Alan Knott. In Test cricket alone, 45 times he kept through a complete innings without conceding a bye, through both innings in six matches. He allowed no byes when New Zealand compiled 551-9 at Lord’s in 1973, when Australia scored 532-9 at The Oval in 1975 and West Indies declared at 526-7 at Port-of-Spain in 1967/68. He allowed only one bye when West Indies totalled 652 at Lord’s in 1973. In Kent matches alone he did not allow a bye in 155 completed first-class innings plus on another 68 occasions in List A matches. He also kept a clean sheet through a complete innings four times in one-day Internationals.

Much has been written of Knott's partnership with Derek Underwood. Like Ames/ Freeman and Evans/ Wright, the Knott/Underwood combination soon became another legend. They played together in 441 first-class matches including 72 Test Matches and on 198 occasions the scorecard read, 'c. Knott b. Underwood' or 'st. Knott b Underwood'. The partnership was recognised by Kent CCC when, in 2011, the Pavilion Annex at Canterbury was named the '*Underwood Knott Stand*'.

As a batsman too, his technique was very much his own. One of the finest improvisers of his generation, he would surely have excelled in T/20. As his career progressed, when facing fast bowling he completely changed his grip with top hand behind the handle, enabling him to get the handle in front of his face.

Few specialist batsmen of his time handled pace bowling better. Exceptionally quick on his feet, many of his runs came square on the off side, making a speciality of staying leg side of the ball. He relished the cut in various forms, including his trademark upper cut over the slips and the repertoire included an unusual, possibly unique, offside deflection, reserved mainly for off spinners, and on occasions the now quite common but then rare, lap.

Perhaps above all he was master of the sweep, unique in his method according to Brearley. Legend has it that once on a drying Canterbury pitch, he played 15 successive sweep shots from John Emburey and Phil Edmonds without once missing or mishitting. Never afraid to play the stroke to spinners bowling out of the rough outside leg stump, the secret according to the man himself was to stay as low as possible, keep the head still, the bat parallel to the ground and never try to hit too hard.

Runs alone do not quite reflect his true class as a batsman or his value to the team. For most of the time he batted in the lower half of the order where building an innings can be difficult and not always in the best interests of the side. Often he ran out of partners. He actually batted in every position but number 11, but he was in the classical wicketkeeper's place, number seven (his personal preference) in 41% of his innings. He was number six in 19% of his innings, number eight in 15% and unsurprisingly, he remained not out in 10% of his innings in Test matches, 17.9% in first-class matches overall and 17.8% in List A matches.

He remained not out in one of his Test centuries and six of his half-centuries. All five Test centuries and 22 of the 30 half- centuries, were scored from number seven. For Kent, five of his nine centuries were not out, two were acquired batting number five, six at number six and one at seven. There were four nineties (one not out) for England and three for Kent (one not out).

He tended to make his runs when it mattered. When he made his epic hundred against West Indies at Leeds in 1976, he batted five hours against Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Wayne Daniel and Vanburn Holder. Five matches later he made his 70 minute Walter Laurence Trophy-winning century against Sussex at Canterbury.

Writing on Knott's career in the 1986 *Wisden*, Brearley recognises him as a genius as both batsman and keeper, referring to his 'perfectionism' in both disciplines. He kept and rehabilitated a favourite old bat especially for Tests and, prior to the Melbourne Centenary Test, he was 'in town getting a loose stitch from the webbing of a glove repaired'.

There were other idiosyncrasies in addition to the turned up collar and the rolled down sleeves. His obsessions included avoidance of draughts, spotless cutlery, warming his hands with hot water before taking the field, flannel to keep his back warm and absorb sweat, and dietary requirements including avoidance of meat and cheese in the same meal, ginseng and an addiction to honey, preferably Romanian. Nutritionists seem these days to be programmed to disagree with each other, but it clearly worked for Knott, which is probably all that mattered.



Knott was devoted to the highest standards of physical fitness and adopted a programme of vigorous off- field and on- field exercises. On tour, room- mates often suffered and some of the more staid among the Kent membership complained to the committee about his on-field antics but there was sound reasoning behind it all. Conscious of lack of mobility in the hip regions, Knott had begun exercising quite early in his sporting life and following a groin injury, was advised by a consultant orthopaedic surgeon to continue and intensify the routines. If not, lack of mobility might end his career by the time he was 30. Under anaesthetic, for some years he underwent an annual stretching.

Mentored by his father, a very good club wicketkeeper with Belvedere CC, and his school cricket master, Jack Morris, Knott came to Kent's notice through the annual coaching sessions at Eltham Indoor School where he was seen by Leslie Ames and Kent Coach, Claude Lewis. Both were much impressed by the boy's batting and bowling.

Starting in his school team as a fast bowler, he had switched to spin with the ability to bowl both leg break and off break, Young as he was however, he was sufficiently confident to know that his greater talent was as a wicketkeeper, and he told Ames so! The great man needed little convincing when, six months later at Canterbury he saw the young Kent Schools keeper stump the first three Essex Schools batsmen, two of them on the leg side. Knott captained both Kent Schools and Young England.

In 1962 he made his Second Eleven debut, against Northants Seconds at Ditton. With skipper Derek Ufton behind the stumps, he played four matches in all with a top score of 11\* and took four wickets. For the Club & Ground he impressed with 85 against Aylesford Paper Mills. In the following season he joined the staff, played in 14 Second Eleven Championship games, keeping wicket in most of them despite the presence of Ufton, catching 11 in the process and, stumping two. His 420 runs included a top score of 56 against Sussex at Broadstairs. At that stage his bowling had not been completely abandoned and he took two wickets.

His First Eleven debut came in June 1964, against Cambridge University at Folkestone, his first victim, Bexleyheath born David Daniels, caught off David Sayer. There were two further catches and he remained in the side for the second Folkestone fixture against Leicestershire, taking another four catches including his first off Underwood, but first choice Catt returned for an eight match run. Knott then replaced him at Wellingborough and remained for the final seven Championship fixtures as well as the Australia match in which he caught Norman O'Neill twice, Peter Burge and Tom Veivers. Against Lancashire at Blackpool, he took seven catches and in the final match, at Taunton, he scored 55, his maiden first- class half-century.

At the end the season he had caught 26, stumped four and Catt departed for South Africa. As Bob Arrowsmith put it in his 1971 Kent history 'a good wicketkeeper has no chance against a great one' and in 1965 Knott, aged 19, became Kent's first choice wicketkeeper and would remain so for two decades.

In the 1964/65 winter he joined an International Cavaliers team under the captaincy of Trevor Bailey on a tour of Jamaica and Barbados. As well as Colin Cowdrey, Peter Richardson, Jim Laker and Fred Trueman, the team included Godfrey Evans but Knott kept in all four first-class matches. Unfazed apparently by the exalted company, he caught six, stumped three (including one off Trevor Bailey) and scored 66 against a Barbados team which included Keith Boyce and future teammate John Shepherd.

1965, his first full season, brought 84 dismissals (74/ 10), 630 runs (avge.17.10), his County Cap and the Best Young Cricketer of the Year award by the Cricket Writers' Association. 30 of his catches were from the fast bowling of Alan Brown, once four, twice three in an innings. His one half-century, 57 at Derby, was top score in the match and a major factor in Kent's victory but *Wisden* singled out his 49\* against Sussex at the Nevill as 'worthy of a master'.

In his second full season, with one fewer match, he dismissed 81 (73/ 8) and against Middlesex at Gravesend claimed his first six in an innings (4/2), eight (6/2) in the match to which he added over 700 runs. In the winter he toured Pakistan as main keeper with an MCC under 25 side captained by Mike

Brearley and managed by Leslie Ames. Keeping in all but one of the eight first-class fixtures, he dismissed 22 (11/11), one catch and seven stumpings from the leg spin of Robin Hobbs. Opening the batting against North Zone at Lahore, he scored 101, his maiden first-class hundred. First out at 208, his partner Brearley went on to 312\*.

In 1967 he was chosen in place of John Murray for the last two of the three Test series against Pakistan. In the first, at Trent Bridge, he failed to score but took seven catches, three from Ken Higgs, two from Geoff Arnold, one each from Brian Close and Underwood. At The Oval he scored a lively 28 amid some generally turgid English batting and claimed another five catches as well as his first stumping in Test cricket, off Close, hero of the match Asif Iqbal.

He finished the season with 98 dismissals. (90/ 8) 86 of them for Kent, which would remain the highest of his career. For the second time he dismissed six in an innings, against Lancashire at Folkestone. The year was memorable too for Kent's victory in the final of the Gillette Cup. As well as scoring useful runs, he caught three and stumped two against Essex in the Second Round at Brentwood and picked up another five catches in the later rounds.

In the 1967/68 winter Knott was chosen for the West Indies tour under Colin Cowdrey as second keeper to Jim Parks. Parks was picked for the first three Test matches but, despite limited opportunities, the young newcomer rapidly made his mark, top scoring with 69\* in the opening fixture against Barbados Colts and allowing only one bye against Trinidad when the home side's two innings totalled 525. He scored 57 in a 156 -run second-wicket partnership with Geoffrey Boycott (165) against the Leeward Islands.

According to the account in *Wisden* by the famously acerbic Lynn Wellings, until Knott's selection, the overall standard of Test match keeping had not been high and Knott's selection at Port of Spain was not unexpected. He allowed no byes in a total of 526 for 7 declared and 'batted superbly with the aplomb of a veteran' according to Wellings, for 69\*, adding 113 for the sixth-wicket with Cowdrey (148).

In the final Test at Georgetown, Knott allowed only one bye as West Indies totalled 678 in their two innings. On the last day England were in trouble at 41 for five, still 266 in arrears, when Knott joined Cowdrey. Together they added 127 but when Cowdrey departed, 70 minutes remained. In one of the best innings of his career, Knott shepherded the tail, finishing 73\* with the total at close of play 206 for 9. His partners all contributed, Snow (1 in 45 minutes), Lock (2 in five minutes), Pocock (0 in 12 minutes) and Jeff Jones surviving for five minutes 0\*. In his three innings, two half centuries and twice not out, Knott finished top of the Test averages.

In the 1968 domestic season he kept immaculately in all five Test matches against Australia, catching 11 and stumping four, all the latter from Ray Illingworth's off spin. For Kent he batted up the order for most of the season, scoring six half centuries and totalling 1,033 runs (avge.25.82) in first-class matches, the first time he had reached four figures.

Following the cancellation of the South African tour in 1968/69, MCC arranged a short tour of Ceylon (as it then was) and Pakistan. Knott's previous tour of Pakistan had been plagued by problems, mainly political in origin, and he had witnessed crowd riots on his tour of West Indies but this time the disruptions reached epic proportions. From the beginning there was rioting, mainly by rival student factions, and at times dissident students seemed to be running affairs. Law and order had completely broken down and it was chiefly due to the skill and tact of manager Les Ames that the team managed to hold together.

Despite riots, Knott was his usual self behind the stumps and batted well with 80 opening the batting against the Governors Eleven at Bahawalpur, 52 and 30 in the first Test match. In the third Test he was 96\* (1 six and 10 fours) and on the verge of his maiden Test century when the rioting reached the point that play had to be suspended, as indeed had looked likely almost from the outset. To the relief of all concerned the tour was abandoned.

In 1969 he kept in all six Tests, three against West Indies, three against New Zealand, catching 19 and stumping three. Against West Indies at Lord's, he joined John Hampshire at 61 for five and scored 53 in a partnership of 128. For Kent he registered his maiden century, 102 (batting number five) with 11 fours against Nottinghamshire at Newark. In the winter he played two first-class and a List A match for Tasmania, adding another six dismissals to his record and scoring 51 against Victoria.

In place of the cancelled series with South Africa, in 1970 a five-match series was staged against the Rest of the World. Originally promoted as a Test series and described as such in the 1970 *Wisden*, the matches were subsequently stripped of Test match status, a decision which rankled with some of the participants and quite a few spectators. What stuck in many gullets was that the Rest of the World side was immensely strong, arguably the strongest opposition England had faced at Test level since Bradman's Invincibles. Knott was his now customary immaculate self behind the stumps, catching 14, and scoring two half-centuries, both in lost causes, 50\* in the third 'Test' at Edgbaston, when he batted for two and a half hours and 51\* in the last at The Oval when he helped Illingworth and the tail to add 166 for the last five wickets.

The year is of course primarily memorable for Kent's first Championship title since 1913. Thanks to England calls, Knott played a rather less prominent role than he might have wished but, with England duties finished for the summer, Knott, like Kent's other internationals, was able to play in the last four Championship fixtures. This at a time when, although eighth in the table, it began to dawn that there was an outside chance of the title.

Victories against Surrey at Blackheath, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire at Folkestone, and a draw at The Oval gained the title. Although Knott, batting number nine, once at ten, only got to the wicket three times with a top score of 30, in these last four matches he held 16 catches and for good measure, allowed no byes in four of the eight innings. In all Kent matches, he caught 48, stumped two. There were also 18 dismissals in limited overs matches.

Knott was an obvious choice for the 1970/71 tour of Australia & New Zealand under Illingworth and for the first time Taylor was chosen as second keeper. This prompted Wellings, covering the tour in *Wisden*, to comment that 'MCC have perhaps never had two such accomplished wicketkeepers on tour'. This was probably true, England had an embarrassment of riches, but it is perhaps worth recalling that Ames and George Duckworth toured Australia three times together and in 1954/1955 Evans' deputy was Keith Andrew, often hailed by the knowledgeable as one of the all-time great, if unsung, keepers, and one who, incidentally, played a significant part in Knott's development.

At this time Knott was probably approaching his peak as a keeper. Alan Smith, himself an England wicketkeeper as well as a Test selector, thought Knott on the 1970/1971 tour had 'achieved a personal pinnacle possibly never exceeded by any other wicketkeeper'. Wellings named him as one of the keys to England's success – 'The fast bowlers owed much to Knott'. His agility standing back enabled him to make and take catches that others might not have considered chances' although, hypercritical as ever, he felt there was little to choose between the two standing up, with Taylor, if possible, looking the more polished. There were seven Tests in all against Australia, the third completely rained off. In the six played, Knott held 21 catches and three stumpings, two from Illingworth, one from Underwood.

In the New Zealand leg of the tour, Taylor was chosen for the first Test as 'a sort of consolation prize for being a good tourist' as Taylor terms it in his autobiography. Knott was not, in the normal sense of the term, dropped but was nevertheless disappointed, ending as it did a run of 28 successive Tests. Back with England for the second Test at Auckland, he hit his maiden Test century, 101 (1 six, 11 fours), top scorer and sharing a seventh-wicket partnership of 149 with Peter Lever (64).

When it came to the 1971 home series against Pakistan and India, the excellence of Knott's keeping was almost taken for granted. In all matches he caught 59 and stumped four, caught. 20, stumped .2 in the six Test matches. As a batsman he had his best season, 1,209 runs (avge.41.68) in all first-class

matches. In the first Test, against Pakistan at Edgbaston, he scored 116 (21 fours) in a couple of minutes over two hours and for the second Test match in succession, shared a seventh-wicket century partnership with Peter Lever (47).

Thanks largely to their battery of spinners, India won their series, Knott leading the English averages with 223 runs (avge.44.60). In the first Test, at Lord's, giving what Dickie Rutnagar described in *Wisden* as 'an object lesson in how to play spin' he hit 67 with 1 six and 9 fours when most of the recognised batsmen struggled. In the third Test at The Oval, he was leading scorer, his 90 destined to be his highest against India. With Richard Hutton (81), 103 were added in 66 minutes, a new seventh-wicket record against India. For Kent he hit two centuries, 128\* v Surrey at The Oval & 117 v Nottinghamshire at Maidstone, as well as four half centuries.

In 1972 when England retained the Ashes, he held 17 catches but, although taking five in the fourth Test at Trent Bridge, he twice dropped Keith Stackpole off Greig with his score at 46. Stackpole (114), went on to his maiden century in England and emerged from the tour as Australia's leading scorer.

Up to the fifth Test, Knott's top score was 43 and he had twice been out without scoring. At The Oval he came to the wicket at 145 for six and was last out for 92 (17 fours) having taken the score to, 284. In the second innings he was last out again for 63. Chosen for all three One-Day Internationals, in the second at Lord's, Australia's only victory, Knott was England's top scorer with 50 from 47 balls (6 fours).

Knott played only ten matches for Kent but averaged 53.60 and, batting number six against Surrey at Mote Park, hit two unbeaten centuries, 127\*( 1 six, 14 fours) out of 243 and 118\* (1 six,15 fours) out of 178 . With fewer opportunities, the number of his first-class dismissals fell to 35, the first time he had failed to reach 50 in England since his debut season, but when Kent won the John Player 40-over League, in ten matches he caught 15 and stumped three.

Knott was an automatic selection for the eight Test match tour of India and Pakistan in 1972/1973 but, although in Tests he made sixteen dismissals and hit three half centuries, it had, possibly something of the nature of a tour too far, at least as keeper. Clive Taylor in *Wisden* described Knott as having had 'less of a tour than usual' and, without citing examples, making 'a number of errors behind the stumps.' - 'he was clearly suffering from a surfeit of cricket'. Even so, his place in the team does not seem to have been at risk; second keeper Roger Tolchard was not called on. Promoted by captain Tony Lewis to number three against South Zone at Bangalore, Knott reached his highest score, 156, with 3 sixes and 21 fours, his second 50 coming in an hour, his third in 25 minutes and sharing a fourth-wicket partnership of 212 with Keith Fletcher (100\*).

If there had been evidence of staleness, it was not apparent in the 1973 English season. In 18 first-class matches he made 60 dismissals (59/1), scored 719 runs (avge.35.95) with six half centuries and averaged over 60 in Kent matches alone. In May, for the MCC Touring Team v The Rest at Hove, staged as a sort of Test Trial, he achieved his third six dismissals in an innings (all caught). Again, he conceded no byes. *Wisden* commented 'Knott had 'reminded everybody that he was the man in possession'. In August he claimed six in an innings for the fourth time, again all caught, against Worcestershire at Dartford.

Apart from 49 in the first New Zealand Test, he did little with the bat in the Test matches. He was nevertheless chosen in all six Tests, three against New Zealand, three against West Indies. There were three ducks including a pair in the second Test against New Zealand at Lord's. He also played in two Prudential Cup matches against New Zealand. Taylor did however take over for the two matches with West Indies. Knott made 16 dismissals for Kent in List A matches, helping his County to both the Benson & Hedges Cup and the John Player League titles.

When MCC toured West Indies in the winter, elements of the press were still pressing Taylor's claims as senior keeper and, although Knott made few if any mistakes, he made only four dismissals in Test

matches, 14 in all. Some may have thought it a bit premature, but according to Clive Taylor in *Wisden*, poor batting form was 'putting his place in jeopardy'.

Form however soon resurfaced. In the Third Test at Bridgetown, he scored 87, adding 163 with Greig (148) for the sixth-wicket and in the second innings he added 142, again for the sixth-wicket, (Fletcher 129\*, Knott 67). In the Fourth Test at Georgetown, he shared another century partnership, 119, again for the sixth-wicket, (Greig 121, Knott 61) and batted usefully (33\* & 44) in the final Test at Port-of-Spain.

There was once again a split tour in 1974, three Tests against India, three against Pakistan. He caught 22, stumped one in the two series but, while Rutnagar in *Wisden* described Knott's keeping as, even by his own standards, having touched 'lofty heights' apart from 83 in Second Test against Pakistan, runs were scarce. For Kent his average dropped to seven. He did however win two Man of the Match awards in the semi-Final and Final of the Gillette Cup.

With the 1974/1975 Ashes tour looming, England's batting was about to be subjected to one of the severest ordeals in the history of English Test cricket but at least any further doubts about Knott's batting at top level was about to be settled once and for all. Faced not just with the formidable Lillee, Thomson, Walker pace attack, one of the most fearsome ever on their form at the time, but also presented with under-grassed wickets, uneven bounce, little if any restriction on the use of bouncers and a far more than usually hostile home crowd, almost to a man, the English batsmen struggled. Three suffered broken bones, John Edrich twice.

One of the few successes, Knott ended third in the averages with 364 runs (avge.36.40), only Greig scoring more. These two accounted for eight of the 14 scores of 50 or more and of the remaining six, three came in the final Test when Thomson was absent and Lillee bowled only six overs. In the first five Tests, Knott's scores included, 51 (top score) at Perth, 52 (top score) at Melbourne, 82 (top score) at Sydney, and 106\* (top score) in the Fifth at Adelaide. At this stage he led the English averages but, faced with an emasculated Australian attack in the return to Melbourne, he was out for five in his only innings.

Behind the stumps he remained at his best. In the Test Series, including two Tests in New Zealand, he caught 25 and stumped one, 44 caught, two stumped in all first-class matches and, despite under prepared pitches, allowing only one bye in the first Test when Australia scored 309 & 288 for 5 and none in the Fourth, when they totalled 405 & 289 for 4.

1975 was a landmark season, featuring as it did the first World Cup, officially entitled The Prudential Cup, followed by a four match Test series against Australia. England played four World Cup matches, losing to Australia in the Semi-Final. Knott did little with the bat and took only one catch but in his four matches he allowed only two byes. In the Test series, Thomson was not quite the menace he had been on Australian wickets, but England lost the series with Knott taking four catches, missing little if anything and batting usefully. At Edgbaston, where England lost by an innings, Knott scored 38, only Fletcher (51) scored more, 69 at Lord's, and 64 at The Oval, where he put on 151 for the sixth-wicket with Woolmer. He also kept to Australia's total of 532 for 9 without allowing a bye.

With so much going on, Knott managed only twelve first-class matches for Kent but scored 105\* v Warwickshire at Edgbaston, 87 v Hampshire at Southampton and 85 v Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells. For Kent he dismissed 41(.39/.2), including a fifth six in an innings, v Hampshire at Southampton. There were 17 dismissals in List A matches (13/4).

A winter break from touring must have been welcome but in 1976 the West Indies with Wayne Daniel, Michael Holding and Andy Roberts, backed by Vanburn Holder and Bernard Julien would offer pace every bit as formidable as anything faced in the recent past. In his benefit year, for Knott there was early evidence when, in his first encounter with the tourists, for Kent at Canterbury, he suffered a broken right index finger.

Fit in time for the beginning of the Test Series, he allowed no byes when West Indies totalled 494 in the opening match at Trent Bridge and apart from a misunderstanding with a skied catch to long leg at Old Trafford which gave Gordon Greenidge (134) a life, Knott had kept to his usual standard. Nevertheless, after three Tests, he had taken only three catches. In the Fourth Test at Leeds, in reply to West Indies' 450, England were 169 for 5 when Knott joined his captain Greig. Together they added 152, both scoring 116. Missed at 94, Knott batted for five hours, 12 minutes, with 14 fours. In the final Test at the Oval, there was only one bye in a West Indies total of 687 for 8 and when Lawrence Rowe was stumped off Underwood, it brought Knott's record of Test match victims to 220, passing Evans' total. In the Oval Test. Apart from Dennis Amiss's epic 203, of the England batsmen, only Knott (57 & 50) reached a half-century.

Kent again won the Benson & Hedges Cup and the John Player League. In the Championship, he finished second in the averages with 668 runs avge.41.75. Against Sussex at Canterbury, he won the Lawrence Trophy, reaching his hundred in 70 minutes and 144 in 105 minutes with 2 sixes and 20 fours. With Denness, 205 were added for (again) the sixth-wicket. There were five half-centuries including two against Hampshire at Maidstone and 67 in his benefit match against Gloucestershire at St. Lawrence. His benefit raised £27,037.

With Test calls and the broken finger, Knott played only ten first-class matches for Kent with 32 dismissals (30/ 2) plus another 21 caught and two stumped in List A matches. In the Benson & Hedges competition, he scored 65 v Combined Universities at Oxford, his highest in List A matches, which, with three catches, earned him the Benson & Hedges Cup Gold Award.

In the 1976/1977 winter MCC toured India and played four matches in Sri Lanka, one first-class This proved to be Knott's last tour in MCC colours. In contrast with his experience in 1972/1973, *Wisden* described his keeping as having 'reached supreme heights' – 'consistently brilliant' and 'when momentum was required, it was invariably provided by Knott with his own brand of unorthodox batsmanship'.

On his first appearance, promoted to open in the second innings against Central Zone at Jaipur, he scored 108\*, reaching his hundred off 100 balls and followed with 71 v North Zone at Jullundur, 75 in the First Test at New Delhi, 45 in the Third at Madras and 81\* in the Fourth at Bangalore. He dismissed 15 in the Test series (ct.13, st.2). Having won the series, England's first on Indian soil since Douglas Jardine's side in 1933/1934, the team moved on to Australia for the historic Centenary Test match at Melbourne. Having taken four catches and allowing no byes in the 544 runs scored by Western Australia in the preliminary warm- up fixture, when it came to the Centenary match, he held another four catches and allowed no byes in Australia's second innings of 419 for 9. When England needed 463 in their second, Knott joined Greig with the score 346 for 5. Once again, he was last out for 42 with 46 still needed.

With the Packer affair rumbling away in the background, 1977 was a unique season in its way. The Championship was in contention until the last day when Kent at least got one hand on the title. In the end, they were more than a little unfortunate to get only a half share, but the Championship was rather overshadowed by the Test series, England regaining the Ashes in convincing style, winning three games in England for the first time since 1886.

Although it was soon widely known that Knott was one of the first Englishman to sign up with World Series cricket, on the field it was business as usual. In the five Test matches he took 12 catches plus three in the three ODIs. In the Third Test at Trent Bridge, following the notorious Randall run out, England were 82 for five when Knott joined Boycott, still there with 20\*, In perhaps the best known of all Knott's sixth-wicket partnerships, the pair added 215, Boycott first out at 107. Knott batted four hours, 55 minutes for his 135 with a five and 18 fours. This was the highest score by an England wicketkeeper against Australia, the previous highest 120 by Ames at Lord's in 1934. There was another

century sixth-wicket partnership with Boycott, 123 in three hours (Knott 57), in the Fourth Test match at Leeds, Boycott going on to his hundredth hundred.

Playing 11 Championship matches, Knott again headed the Kent averages, with 516 runs (avge.46.90). Against Leicestershire at Maidstone, he scored 109 with 1 six and 12 fours, adding 193 for the fifth-wicket in 130 minutes with Asif Iqbal (116). To round things off, he took nine catches, five in the first innings, four in the second. There were three other half centuries, 95 at Bristol, and a seventh-wicket partnership of 125 with Julien (52). To his 38 (35/ 3) dismissals in Championship matches, he added 27 (26/1) in the three one-day competitions.

Readers must seek elsewhere for the intricacies of the Packer interregnum, suffice to say that the Kent committee decided that Paul Downton, who had played seven Championship matches in the second half of 1977, would be number one keeper in 1978 and, although the Club retained Knott's registration. Knott himself considered his Kent career over and spent the year contentedly running his sports business in Herne Bay.

Between January 1978 and February 1979 Knott played six World Series 'Super Tests'. Batting sometimes at low as nine and only once as high as six, his top score was 41\*, top scorer for his side in the second innings of their match at the VFL Park, Melbourne. He dismissed 28 (27/ 1) which included six catches from Joel Garner and five from Imran Khan. He also appeared in 20 World Series ODIs.

At the latter end of 1977 it became apparent that Downton wished to finish his Law degree at Exeter and Knott agreed to play the first half of the 1979 season. Playing ten matches in 1979, he kept to his usual standard and in a generally uneventful half season, caught 15, stumped one with one half-century. Playing four matches in the Benson & Hedges Cup and half a dozen in the John Player competition in which Kent were runners-up, Knott made 14 dismissals.

In the event, in 1980 Downton not only finished his law studies. When, like Knott, he was offered a four-year contract; he declined and joined Middlesex, leaving Knott to his accustomed place as regular keeper. Recalled also by England against West Indies following peace having broken out with World Series cricket, Waterton was Knott's deputy in three-day cricket, Nicholls in List A matches.

In the first Test, Knott caught six, another five in the next three matches and, parsimonious as ever in the matter of byes, allowed only four in five innings totalling 1,560 runs. With the bat however he failed to reach double figures and Bairstow, who had already played in the two ODIs, replaced him for the fifth Test at Leeds.

Playing 16 first-class matches for Kent, the most since 1971, and 15 List A matches. Knott made only one half-century, 85\* v Middlesex at Canterbury when batting number nine in the final match of the season. Coming to the wicket at 107 for 7, he added 112 with Johnson (42) and saw the total through to 254. In view of his lack of runs in the Test series, his 30 for Kent against the West Indies at Canterbury was in its way remarkable. Captaining the team, Knott came in with the score 31 for five and stayed almost two hours for 30 in a total of 84. The next highest was 11. In first-class matches he dismissed 42 (39/3) and 19 in one-day cricket (13/6).

The 1981 Ashes series will always be remembered as the greatest of them all, at least by those lucky enough to have been around at the time. Less frequently recalled are the comings and goings behind the stumps. Bairstow and Downton had shared keeping duties on the West Indies tour in the winter but in the three Prudential Trophy matches preceding the Tests, the choice went, a little surprisingly some thought, to Warwickshire's Geoff Humpage who had something of a reputation in the shorter game, albeit perhaps primarily as a batsman. In the first Test, Downton was picked but at a crucial stage he dropped Allan Border from what some considered 'a sitter' and Bob Taylor, the popular choice, was preferred in the next three. He kept superbly, notably in the crucial Leeds Test where he held six catches. Unfortunately, his top score was nine and Knott was summoned for the fifth and sixth matches.

It was a 3/2 decision by the selectors, leaked to the public by the now defunct '*News of the World*. The choice led to some mutterings in sections of the press and around the county circuit, but Brearley was one of Knott's strongest supporters and took the view that if a side can be strengthened, however well it has done, one should do so. Although considered vital if Underwood played, even when Underwood was left out of the final eleven, 'it would be comforting that a man of his mercurial ability would be batting at number eight.

Like most things that year, Brearley got it right. At Old Trafford, Knott took five catches, and allowed no byes in Australia's 532 runs. In the first innings he failed to profit from a rare missed stumping and scored an uncharacteristic 13 from 55 balls. In the second, caught off his favourite upper cut, he hit a more typical 59 with 8 fours, adding 74 in a lively partnership with Emburey.

In the sixth Test at The Oval, as it turned out Knott's last, he took one catch but was a little below his best, twice reprieving his opposite number during an innings of 52. Facing an Australian first innings score of 362, he joined Boycott with the total 256 for 6. Last out with total boosted to 314, he hit 36 from 49 balls. In the second innings, as England, already having won the series, played out time, Knott remained 70\* from 138 balls with 11 fours. When the issue still looked in doubt, he shared a seventh-wicket partnership of 93 with Brearley (51). Throughout his farewell England performance, he was at his mercurial best, sweeping virtually every ball from the left arm spinner Ray Bright and staying leg side of the pace bowlers for some of his offside slashes.

Playing 19 first-class and 22 List A matches for Kent, Knott had one of his busiest seasons, with 47 first-class dismissals (39/8) and 31 (27/4), in List A matches. For the second time he dismissed eight in a match (7/1), against Lancashire at Maidstone and caught four and stumped one against Essex at Dartford in the Benson & Hedges Cup.

Without playing a long innings, he totalled 617 runs (avge.25.70) for Kent including scores of 52 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 45 & 51\* (top score in both innings) v Middlesex at Mote Park, 50 v Derbyshire at Derby and 65 v Surrey at The Oval. Against Surrey at Folkestone, he hit 51\* in a John Player League match, his first in a list A fixture since 1976.

During 1981 it became known that Knott had agreed to join a tour to South Africa in March of the following year, under the captaincy of Graham Gooch, in a party made up of 13 other English cricketers, including teammates Underwood and Woolmer, not to mention Boycott, playing under the auspices of South African Breweries. The schedule included four first-class matches, three against the full South African Test team, three List A matches and one other fixture. Knott held 17 first-class catches, 12 in the 'Test' matches plus two in List A matches. With the bat, his top score was 27. It came as a surprise to some but was hardly unexpected that all 15 players were disqualified from Test selection for three years.

Knott's views on the South African tour, and on the Packer affair for that matter, were well thought through and clearly expressed in his autobiography *It's Not Cricket*. Despite his 11 major tours, Knott was by reputation a reluctant tourist and would probably not have toured for England again in any case. Perhaps all that needs to be added is that it was not quite the end most would have wished for such an illustrious Test career.

Now confined to county cricket, he continued playing as well as ever. In 21 first-class matches in 1982, he reached his highest seasonal total for the County, 942 runs (avge.34.88) accompanied by 53 first-class dismissals (46/7), his most since 1967. Against Essex at Chelmsford, he hit his last century. On the final day Knott joined Chris Tavaré with Kent facing defeat at 97 for five. They added an unbeaten 256\* (Tavaré 168\*, Knott 115\*). There were also six half centuries, including 52 at Trent Bridge, where no other Kent batsman reached 50 in the match.



He caught six in an innings against Hampshire at Maidstone and for the third time dismissed eight in a match, caught seven, stumped one, against Leicestershire at Canterbury. Appearing in 22 List A matches, he dismissed 27 (26/1)

In 1983 Knott played 23 of Kent's 25 first-class matches, scoring 848 runs (avge.40.38), the fourth and last time he averaged over 40 in a domestic season. Behind the stumps he dismissed 47 (39/8) and another 29 (26/3) in 20 list A matches, three times four in a match. With six half centuries and one in the Benson & Hedges cup, he twice reached the 90s – 92\* in 147 minutes against Middlesex at Dartford and 92 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston, as well as 83 & 56 (top scorer in both innings), v Gloucestershire at Bristol.

With Marsh and Waterton playing more often as Kent were still evaluating the two likely successors, Knott's appearances for Kent fell to 14 first-class and 18 List A matches in 1984. In all matches his aggregate fell to 458 with a top score of 43 but he still dismissed 30 (ct.29, st.1) in first-class and 21 (ct.15, st.6) in one-day competitions, twice including four dismissals in an innings in first-class matches and three stumpings off Underwood at Hastings in the John Player League.

In 1985, his final season he began with 55 (ten fours) at Southampton, took four catches when Middlesex declared at 257 for 6 dec. at Lord's and, batting number ten at Northampton, came to the wicket with the score a shaky 112 for 8. With Richard Ellison (71), he shared a ninth-wicket partnership of 136 and was 87\* when Kent declared at 270 for 9. Thereafter, his top score was 36\* but although plagued by an ankle injury, he played 19 first-class and 23 List A matches.

In the words of the *Annual Report* 'Knott kept wicket brilliantly and is clearly the best in the world' an opinion reflected in his figures, 53 dismissals (52/1) in first-class matches and 21 (ct.19, st.2) in List A matches.

Advised that his ankle injury could get worse, Alan Knott chose to retire while still at the top of his profession. His last first-class match commenced 28th August. Run out for one in the first innings, he did not bat in the second. Damien D'Oliveira was his last dismissal, caught from Eldine Baptiste without scoring. He allowed one bye in the first innings, appropriately, none in the second. Sadly, in his final match, in the John Player League against Derbyshire at Folkestone, he was run out without scoring and no chances came his way.

For a while Knott concentrated on running his sports business, combined with a gymnasium and acting as part time wicketkeeping coach for Kent and wicketkeeping consultant to the England management. To the surprise of some who had not thought of him as a sun lover, in 2000 he moved to Cyprus while still being a frequent visitor to Kent. In 2009 he was inducted by the ICC into their Cricket Hall of Fame and was awarded the MBE for services to cricket in the 2020 New Year's Honours List.

No English wicketkeeper has taken more than Knott's 269 dismissals (.250/19) in Test cricket or his 105 (97/8) against Australia. Only Bob Taylor, John Murray and Herbert Strudwick have achieved more than his 1,344 dismissals (1,211/133) in first-class matches. In county cricket he has dismissed 50 or more against nine counties, 70 or more against – Sussex 88 (81/7) Middlesex 83 (71/12), Surrey 73 (70/3), Lancashire 70 (67/3).

In Test cricket against Australia, he scored 1,682 runs with two centuries and 11 half centuries. His other centuries were against New Zealand, Pakistan and West Indies. Against the latter he narrowly missed his thousand, 994 (avge.29.23).

In County cricket he made three centuries against Surrey, two against Nottinghamshire, one each against Essex, Leicestershire, Sussex and Warwickshire. He exceeded 1,000 runs against three counties, Hampshire 1,003 (avge.30.39), Middlesex 1,027 (avge.27.02) and Surrey (1,065 avge.33.28).

Knott made 50 or more dismissals off seven bowlers (all caught unless otherwise indicated) -:

D.L.Underwood 198 (134/64), J.N.Shepherd 108, K.S.B.Jarvis 85, J.N.Graham 84, A. Brown 65, A.L.Dixon 64 (49/15), R.A.Woolmer 52.

In January 1969 he married Janet Linda Pook in Dartford. Their son James, also a wicketkeeper, made 12 first-class and 19 List A appearances for Surrey and also played for Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire in the Minor Counties Championship and for Bedfordshire in List A matches.

#### *Further reading.*

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Knott, Alan. *Alan Knott on wicketkeeping*. S. Paul, 1977.

*It's Knott Cricket*. The autobiography of Alan Knott. S.Paul, 1985.

*Stumper's View*. S.Paul, 1972

#### **David Geoffrey Lacy-Scott (No.620).**

*Born:* 18.08.1920; Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. *Died:* 02.02.2020, Eye, Suffolk.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1946

Educated: Marlborough College & Peterhouse College, Cambridge.

Parents: Lt. Col. Sir Geoffrey Lacy-Scott & Esme Lacy-Scott.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	0	6	5	3.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	11	21	0	294	36	14.00	0	0	0

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	600	22	268	9	29.77	5-35	1	0

David Lacy-Scott was in the Eleven at Marlborough from 1937 to 1939, scoring over 500 runs in each of his first two seasons and captaining in his final year when *Wisden* named him as leading Public School allrounder of the season. In the annual confrontation with Rugby in 1937 he contributed 83, 50\* and 3 for 46 and in the following year hit 160 v Wellington and 95\* v Eton. In August 1938 he scored 30 and 75 opening the batting (with Tony Pawson) for Kent Second Eleven v Middlesex Second Eleven at Ealing and in 1939 was selected for Lord's Schools v the Rest and for Public Schools v the Army when he batted 150 minutes for 93. For Kent Seconds he took 4 for 65 against Wiltshire at Swindon.

At Cambridge in 1940 Lacy-Scott scored 70 in the Freshmen's match and was chosen for the two games which made up the abbreviated wartime programme. At the end of the season he returned to India where he was commissioned into King George's Own Cavalry (Central India Horse). In 1945 he was invalided out with the rank of Captain.

Back at Cambridge in 1946, without doing anything out of the ordinary, Lacy-Scott did enough to gain his Blue as opening batsman and second or third seamer. Five times he was dismissed in the 30s, his highest, 36 v Middlesex at Fenner's, where Denis Compton hit a double hundred, and again v MCC at Lord's. His best performance with the ball was 5 for 35 v Free Foresters at Fenner's. In August he scored one and five on his one appearance for Kent, v Sussex at Hastings.

A Chartered Accountant by profession, Lacy-Scott made one more first-class appearance, for Free Foresters against his former university. In addition to FF, he played club cricket for Band of Brothers, having previously played for the BaBes and for Jim Swanton's Arabs, but in 1953 he returned to the Sub-Continent, working for the Inchcape Group. He was subsequently with GKN Steel in London and

Sarle Chemicals in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) before opting for private practice in Spain (from 1974 to 1985). In 1942 his sister married the future Third Baron Cornwallis. They divorced in 1948.

**John Gordon Larking (No. 617).**

*Born:* 04.11.1921; Loose, Maidstone. *Died:* 07.04.1998; Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1946.

Educated: Charterhouse School

Parents: Charles Gordon Larking & Kathleen Ethel Larking (née Pank)

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	6	1	15	8	3.00	0	0	2

**Bowling**

Did not bowl

John Larking was in New York with a British Public Schools team touring the USA and Canada when war broke out in 1939 and was back in the USA learning to fly with the RAF at the time of Pearl Harbour – possibly a unique double for anyone outside the diplomatic service. He managed to return to England in time to captain Charterhouse in 1940, the last of his three years in the Eleven. He exceeded 500 runs in each of his final two seasons and against Harrow in 1940 scored a century before lunch and shared an opening partnership of 250.

Back in civilian life in 1946, he scored 27 on his debut for Kent Second Eleven at The Oval in June 1946 and in July, again at The Oval, played the first of his three first-class matches for Kent in which his top score was eight. At the end of the season he toured Germany with the Butterflies.

Although John Larking played no more first-class cricket, he appeared in four Second Eleven matches in 1947 and 1948, two in 1949 and one in 1950. Up to the end of 1947 his top score was 35 but in the following year he scored in successive matches – 88 v Devonshire at Bromley, 73 v Gloucestershire Second Eleven at Bristol and 122 v Sussex Second Eleven at Aylesford.

At club level, Larking was a prolific scorer. At the Mote, where he was captain from 1949 to 1952, he twice scored five centuries in a season and in 1951 hit 119 in an opening partnership of 191 against Dublin University. As well as Butterflies, his other clubs included Band of Brothers, Charterhouse Friars and, when he moved to Buckinghamshire, Winslow where he became President. In 1954 Larking played for Lord Cornwallis' Eleven against the Canadians.

An accountant by profession, Larking was an accomplished Association football goalkeeper for Charterhouse, Orpington and Charterhouse Friars. His father and brother both captained the Mote.

**David Allen Laycock (No. 705).**

*Born:* 02.09.1947; Woolwich. *Died:* 16.09.2008; Eastbourne, East Sussex.

Right-handed batsman.

1969-1973.

Educated: Oakmere Secondary School.

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10	16	2	266	58	19.00	0	1	2

## Bowling

Did not bowl

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	3	0	34	23	11.33	0	0	0

## Bowling

Did not bowl

David Laycock had played for Kent Schools, ESCA and Kent Young Amateurs when he scored 70\* on his Second Eleven debut against Middlesex at Folkestone in 1967. He was working for the Post Office when he joined the Kent staff in 1969.

In his first season he scored over 700 runs for the Second Eleven including the first of his seven hundreds, 125 v Essex Seconds at Dagenham and immediately afterwards was picked for the first team against Leicestershire in the second match of Canterbury Week. Opening against an attack including Graham McKenzie, he scored 58 (run out), top scoring and adding 85 in a third- wicket partnership with Stuart Leary (43).

In the early 1970s any aspiring Kentish opening batsman had to contend with competition, not only from the regular incumbents, Mike Denness and Brian Luckhurst, but from Bob Woolmer, Graham Johnson and David Nicholls. Batsmen of the quality of Woolmer, John Shepherd and Bernard Julien frequently found themselves batting as low as eight or nine. Despite totalling over 1,000 runs in 1970, finishing leading Second Eleven scorer in three seasons out of four and participating in ten century opening partnerships, Laycock was confined to only occasional first team appearances. His only other first-class innings of consequence was against Derbyshire at Blackheath in 1971 when he was again top scorer with 49 in three hours on a rapidly deteriorating wicket.

Although David Laycock could almost certainly have joined another county, at the end of the 1973 season he resigned and resumed his career with the postal service.

In 1961 he married Janet Humphreys in Hailsham, East Sussex. His death was after a long battle with a brain tumour.

### **Stuart Edward Leary (No. 649).**

*Born:* 30.04.1933; Green Point, Cape Town, South Africa. *Died:* 21.08. 1988; Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1951-1971. Second Eleven Cap 1951, Kent cap 1957.

Educated: Sea Point High School, Cape Town, South Africa.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	381	617	92	16169	158	30.79	18	84	362
<b>Overall</b>	387	627	96	16517	158	31.10	18	88	362

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9354	377	4714	140	33.67	5-22	2	0

<b>Overall</b>	9618	380	4935	146	33.80	5-22	2	0
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# **List A Career Record** **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	60	55	8	1051	80	22.36	0	5	23

## **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	86	1	66	4	16.50	1-8	0	4.60

The most distinguished of Kent's footballer/cricketers, Stuart Leary joined the staff in 1951, a bleak period for followers of Kent cricket. With 15 defeats and four wins, only Nottinghamshire finished below them in the Championship table. By 1970, Leary's penultimate season with the County, Kent were Champions. Like another stalwart of the period, Bob Wilson (*q.v.*), he has perhaps never quite received the credit he deserved for his role in the gradual transformation.

Due to National Service and football commitments, Leary did not become a regular member of the side until 1957 but, with his gift for scoring runs in the middle order, particularly in low-scoring matches when more orthodox, often technically better, batsmen struggled, plus his ability to squeeze runs out of the lower order, he exceeded 1,000 runs in every season but two between 1957 and 1967. Seven times in those years he averaged over 30, this despite the fact that, with the onset of the football season, until 1965 his cricket seasons were truncated with nothing after Canterbury Week. It is worth noting that throughout his entire career he never once got a chance to play in the end-of-season Hastings, Scarborough or Kingston Festivals when average-boosting runs were often on offer.

Strong in defence with a dominant bottom hand, Leary was no respecter of the textbook. In his day professional footballers were generally much fitter than professional cricketers and, according to legend, he did not take net practice very seriously. Liable to turn up in a top-of-the-range car, elegant and ready changed, he would indulge in a little catching practice, hit a few balls and depart. Many of his runs came from deflections and innumerable variations of the push/prod which, with his exceptional quickness of foot, across the crease as well as forward and back, he seemed able to play to almost any ball and in almost any direction. He used the sweep more than most of his contemporaries and on the off side scored most of his runs with the cut. For the *cognoscenti*, when he chose to late cut there were echoes of Denis Compton at his best.

Above all, he had a rare knack for scoring runs when it really mattered, either in the last-day run chases which were a feature of three-day cricket, when his ability to improvise was often crucial, or restoring respectability after a top order collapse, the latter a not infrequent occurrence in the days of out-grounds and uncovered pitches.

As his career developed, he extended his range of strokes. To quote the review of Leary's batting in the Report of the Committee in the 1962 Kent Annual, 'previously his runs have come from cuts and deflections, but this year he often showed that he can also score in front of a wicket'. Confounding those who pigeon-holed him as a steady, reliable middle-order batsman, he took to limited overs cricket, especially in its shorter, 40 over, form on Sundays.

Like most footballers, he was quick between the wickets although a relatively high (3.95%) of his innings ended in run outs. Taking a (more or less) random sample of 20 batsmen of his era, only two, Reg Simpson (4.1%) and, rather surprisingly, Paul Gibb (4.48 %) are above him. One or two were quite dramatically less vulnerable – Don Kenyon (0.94 %). Denis Compton, by reputation always a serious threat to his partners, comes out at 3.46%, Godfrey Evans, exceptionally fast over 22 yards, (2.8%).

A talented leg spinner albeit seldom producing a googly, in another age, or perhaps with another county, Stuart Leary might have ranked as an allrounder but when he first came into the side Kent had the great Doug Wright plus Jack Pettiford and later 'Doughie' Baker (*q.v.*). Wright retired in 1957 and Pettiford departed two years later but by then leg spin was going out of fashion and for the most part Leary, if he was used at all, was third or fourth change.

In the field, he was outstanding, in the words of *Wisden*, 'especially at short leg where his anticipation and reflexes set him apart'. In what was, looking back, the Golden Age of close leg side fielding, he had few equals and, arguably, no superiors. At Fenner's in 1958 he held six catches in the Cambridge first innings. Twice he held over 30 catches in a season – highest 39 in 1958.

Educated at the same school as Syd O'Linn (*q.v.*) who lived in the next street, Leary was an outstanding schoolboy cricketer, the first from his school to gain a South African Schools cap. He also excelled at both Association and Rugby football and at the recommendation of O'Linn, it was the round ball that brought him to England.

Not yet 17, he arrived at Southampton in February 1950 aboard the Bergen Steamship company's *Edinburgh Castle* together with his friend, school mate Eddie Firmani. Both appear on the Passenger List as 'students' but their address in England is shown as The Valley, Floyd Road, Charlton. The pair were among some dozen South Africans signed by Charlton Athletic's manager Jimmy Seed during the 1950s and 1960s including O'Linn, John Hewie, who went on to win International honours with Scotland, and Firmani who gained three International caps for his grandfather's native Italy and, incidentally, chose Leary as his best man.

During his first cricket season in England Leary played as a professional with Seed's local club Whitburn in the Durham League, alongside O'Linn and another of Charlton's South Africans, Ken 'Polly' Kirsten who, although unsuccessful in his trial with Kent, was a considerable batsman in club cricket. These three contributed to their side finishing top of their league; they had been bottom in 1949.

Leary came to Kent for a trial in 1951 and from 80 applicants was one of four players engaged. Among the successful trialists were John Spanswick (*q.v.*) and O'Linn, who had previously declined the terms on offer after a trial in 1948. On 9th May 1951 Leary took the field for his first game in Kent colours, Club & Ground v Gore Court. Ted Witherden (8 for 17) (*q.v.*) bowled Gore Court out for 87 and Leary shared an opening partnership of 104 with Alan Woollett (51), finishing 69\* as Kent won by nine wickets. Three days later he scored 32\* and 77 for Kent Second Eleven at The Oval., followed by 91 against Hampshire Seconds at Basingstoke and a second wicket-partnership of 156 with Derek Ufton (80), a fellow Charlton footballer who went on to become a close friend. A third Charlton footballer in the team, Freddie Lucas (*q.v.*), had match figures of 9 for 58.

Success continued in his third Second Eleven appearance with 72, top score, against Surrey at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham. On June 2nd Leary made his first-class debut, ahead of the more experienced O'Linn, against Essex at Ilford. Batting number seven, he scored 14 and one, caught at the wicket by Paul Gibb from the bowling of Trevor Bailey in both innings. He also held three catches, two off the bowling of Simon Kimmins and one off Doug Wright. Retained in the side and promoted to number five against Minor Counties at St. Lawrence, he scored 74 on a green, seamer-friendly pitch, sharing a sixth-wicket partnership of 145 with Brian Edrich (113).

There followed two further first team matches, against Somerset at Bath and Glamorgan at Swansea, in which his top score was 19. For the Seconds, he finished with 499 runs (avge.55.44), two more half centuries and was awarded his Second Eleven cap. For the Club & Ground he totalled 507 runs (avge.84.50) and hit his first century, 113 v Folkestone.

Despite this highly satisfactory start, Leary appears to have played no cricket in the summer of 1952, at least in England, although he was fit for the beginning of the 1952/1953 season with Charlton. In the Report of the Young Player's Sub-Committee in the 1952 Kent Annual he is listed as being on the staff,

but his name does not feature in the 1953 Annual which, of course, covers the previous season. Presumably he returned to South Africa but there appears to be nothing in the committee minutes to say so.

He was chosen for only three First Eleven matches in 1953, all in May, with a top score of 21, but for the Second Eleven he played regularly and was a model of consistency, finishing with 450 runs (avge.45.00), second in the batting averages and leading run-scorer. He made his first century, v Surrey Seconds, as well as four half centuries.

Due to his father's health, Leary returned to South Africa for part of the summer of 1954. His cricket for Kent began in the last week of June and closed with football at the end of July. In his only first team appearance, he scored 60 at Edgbaston; in five Second Eleven games there were three half centuries.

For the next two seasons, National Service intervened. In 1955 Aircraftman Leary managed half a dozen appearances for Kent while on leave, one for the first team, five for the Seconds. In the former, against Hampshire in the first match of Canterbury Week, he was left 48\* as Kent, chasing 253 in four hours, succumbed to the final ball, 30 runs short. For the Second Eleven, with 93\* & 5 for 36 he had a major share in the seven-wicket victory over Wiltshire at Tonbridge School.

On his first-class debut for Combined Services, under the captaincy of Alan Shirreff (*q.v.*), he hit a half-century at Edgbaston and in matches for the RAF (not first-class), again under Shirreff, there were two half-centuries and match figures of 8 for 92 against Norfolk at Lakenham. He was a member of the RAF team which twice won the Inter Services cricket Championship. Much of his cricket was for RAF Flying Training Command.

During the 1955/1956 football season Leary played in around an incredible 80 football matches, for the RAF as well as for Charlton, but still found time for six Kent First Eleven matches of which the highlight was the Nottinghamshire match at Gravesend where, in a team total of 218 (Bruce Dooland 7 for 83), he hit 91 (17 fours), his runs scored out of 124. According to *Wisden*, 'Leary alone attacked Dooland with confidence'. There were also two innings of 56, v Somerset at Bath and Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, where he shared a fifth-wicket partnership of 127 with Alan Dixon (88). His record was marred slightly by a duck (bowled Ron Archer) on his first encounter with the Australians. In three appearances for Combined Services, he hit 81\* v Glamorgan at Cardiff, 81 again, v Warwickshire at Edgbaston and 51\* v Surrey at The Oval.

Free of RAF duties in 1957, Leary commenced with 60 against Middlesex at Lord's in the opening game of the season, Retaining his first team place until football claimed him after Canterbury Week, he scored 1,231 runs (avg.36.20) with three centuries and seven half-centuries, a record that would have been even better but for a bad patch in July when he had a run of 77 runs in twelve innings, including two pairs and four other single-figure scores. Both pairs were against Surrey, two inflicted by Tony Lock, one each by Alec Bedser and Peter Loader.

Among his three hundreds was 100\* (in four and a half hours) v Sussex at Hastings where only one other Kent batsman got beyond 20. He shared three century partnerships, 187\* unfinished for the second-wicket with Arthur Phebey (100\*) at Fenner's where he also took 5 for 34, his first five in an innings, 101 for the fourth-wicket at Southampton with Colin Cowdrey (46) and 170 for the fifth-wicket, again with Cowdrey, at Trent Bridge (Cowdrey 165, Leary 60\*). In all first-class cricket he held 32 catches.

Leary began 1958 on a high note with six catches in Cambridge University's first innings, three off Colin Page. He went on to hold 39 for Kent during the season, Godfrey Evans coming nearest with 35 caught and four stumped. It was a low scoring season in which the Kent team total only twice passed 300 and Leary's average dropped below 30. There were 14 single figures scores, including a pair against Leicestershire at Gillingham but 864 runs (avge.24.00) still placed him third in the Kent averages

He did not reach a half century again until his 27th visit to the wicket and then hit three in succession, a gritty 53\* in a lost cause against Champions Surrey at The Oval following his 53 & 70\* v Notts at Trent Bridge where he shared two second-wicket century partnerships with Phebey, 108 (Phebey 84) in the first innings, 103\* in 90 minutes (Phebey 58\*) in the second, to give Kent a nine-wicket victory.

In his final innings before football claimed him, he hit 101 (out of a team total of 208) when Derbyshire were beaten by an innings in the second match of Canterbury Week. As so often, Leary was at his best when runs were hard to come by. He excelled in both Surrey matches. At The Oval, where Kent lost by ten wickets, he scored 53\* and no other Kent batsman passed 50. At Blackheath, his 39 was top score in Kent's second innings and helped to set up a famous 29 run victory.

After inexplicably beginning his 1959 Kent season batting number nine for Kent Seconds against United Hospitals and missing the opening Championship match, Leary started his first-class season with 54 against Hampshire at Southampton but, although an improvement on 1958, it turned out a moderate season with 1,057 runs (avge.26.42).

Inconsistency dogged him until a run of scores in July, 40 (top score) v Essex at Westcliff, 74 (top score) & 47\* v Sussex at Hastings and 95 (top score) v Worcestershire at Maidstone where he added 173 for the third-wicket with Bob Wilson (91). Five half centuries were spread fairly evenly over the season but there were also 13 single figure scores (but no ducks). His tally of catches fell to 27 but for Kent only Evans caught more.

Consistency came with the arrival of the 1960s. In 1960 1,129 runs (avge.40.32) placed him top of the Kent averages and was followed by 1,440 (avge.38.91) in 1961, 1,305 (avge.38.38) in 1962, 1,311 (avge.39.72) in 1963 and 1,190 (avge.39.66) in 1964. In this period, he contributed eleven centuries, 37 half-centuries (including three 90s) and shared in 25 century partnerships, five over 200. The highest of the latter was 283 for the third-wicket v Northants at Kettering in 1963 (Wilson 159\*, Leary 158), the beginning of a sequence of century partnerships for Leary in each of the next three matches – 204 for the third-wicket v Hampshire in Canterbury Week (Peter Richardson 172, Leary 132), 122 for third-wicket v Leicestershire in the second match of the Week (Wilson 87, Leary 68) and 104 for the fourth-wicket v Yorkshire at Bradford in the opening match of the following season (Cowdrey 85, Leary 32).

Leary shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 201 with Cowdrey against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in 1960 (Cowdrey 125, Leary 117) and two with the same partner and the same wicket against the 1961 Australian tourists at Canterbury, 152 (Cowdrey 149, Leary 51) and 164, at 'nearly two a minute' (Cowdrey 121, Leary 60). There were two double hundred fifth-wicket stands with Peter Jones, 211 v Essex at Gravesend in 1960 (Leary 116, Jones 117) and 212 v Notts at Tunbridge Wells in 1961 (Leary 92, Jones 132).

He remained often at his best when runs were not coming easily. In 1961 at Edgbaston, he scored 102\*, shepherding the total from 24 for 3 to 212 all out. At Scarborough, he came in at 10 for 3 and batted five hours for his 121\* and taking Kent to 273 all out. When Kent were bowled out for 77 by Derek Shackleton and 'Butch' White in their first innings on a rain-affected pitch in the 1963 Canterbury Week, he was top scorer with 33.

At Hinckley in 1964 he scored 52\*, taking the total from 75 for 4 to 172 all out, only one other Kent batsman exceeding 20 and rounding things off by catching the last batsman to give Kent what at one time looked an unlikely victory. In contrast, in the second match of the 1962 Canterbury Week he hit 74\* against Glamorgan who had set Kent 203 in 155 minutes. Coming to the wicket at 93 for 3, he scored 50 in 45 minutes, shared a 104-run fifth-wicket partnership with Brian Luckhurst (31) and saw Kent home by five wickets with 12 minutes remaining.

In 1961 he had his best season with the ball, bowling 249.5 overs and taking 22 wickets at 31.45. Against Glamorgan at Swansea, where Kent won by ten wickets, he took 4 for 58 & 5 for 22, his wickets including Alan Rees, Jim Pressdee (twice) and Peter Walker. He also took 3 for 96 against Hampshire



at Southampton and among other authentic batsmen dismissed during the season were Brian Close, Jimmy Gray, Don Kenyon, Danny Livingstone, Roy Marshall and Ken Suttle. He claimed 19 wickets at 26.89 apiece in 1963 helped by 4 for 40 v Glamorgan at Dover and 3 for 61 v Surrey at Rectory Field.

The 1965 Kent Annual commented 'Continual cricket and football without any break is arduous at any age and now that Leary has turned 30, he will have to consider very seriously whether or not he can continue to serve both games. He chose cricket in 1965 and for the first time played a full season. By the end of June, he had scored 800 runs including 100\* & 48\* v Hampshire at Southampton and 88\* & 72 v Leicestershire at Gravesend but from then until the end of the season, there were 21 scores below 20 and, although he reached his thousand runs, 1,255, his average fell to 27.82, the first time it had dropped below 30 since 1959.

In 1966, the year of the mercifully short-lived 65 over first innings experiment, Leary suffered like all batsmen, from the abundance of sub-standard pitches. He failed to reach his thousand runs for the first time since 1958, his average fell to 20.80 with only three half-centuries. His best, 67\* when Middlesex were beaten at Lord's, was highest score of the match. He held 29 catches, his most since 1958, and at Canterbury finished off the match with Oxford University by taking 4 for 3 from 4.2 overs.

Leary played his first List A game in 1963 against Sussex in the Gillette Cup but not until 1966 did he play an innings of significance when he hit 76 against Suffolk at Ipswich in the First Round of the Gillette, sharing a 108-run third-wicket partnership with Cowdrey (116).

1967 was Leary's Benefit Year and, despite what the 1968 Committee Report in the Kent Annual described as 'rather fragile batting' and middle order batting that 'all too often disintegrated', Kent ended joint runners up with Leicestershire to Champions Yorkshire. As far as Leary was concerned, the Committee's judgment comes across as a bit harsh. For the ninth and last time he reached his thousand runs, 1,042 (avge.30.64). At Gravesend, he scored 125 v Northants, his one century of the season, shared a 193-run second-wicket partnership with Luckhurst (105) and, while fielding at his accustomed short leg, sustaining a blow on the forehead requiring five stitches. Against Middlesex at Lord's he put on 118 in another second-wicket stand (Mike Denness 108, Leary 64). At Tunbridge Wells when, Worcestershire bowled Kent out for 129, Leary top scored with 33\* and against the Pakistani tourists he put on 121 for the fifth-wicket with Alan Knott (Leary 78, Knott 59). He top scored again with 82 v Hampshire at Mote Park and at Leyton batted for 225 minutes for 67\* as the total moved from 141 for 2 when he came to the wicket to 361 for 9 at the declaration. Against the Indian tourists he showed his allround talent with 3 for 33 and a useful 32.

Leary had an eventful Canterbury Week. In his benefit match, against Leicestershire, Leary was top scorer with 34 in a team total of 187 and took 3 for 27 including his *bête noire* Lock who had again claimed his wicket. With both sides contenders for the Championship, receipts totalled almost £3,000, approximately a third of his final benefit total of £9,000.

The second match of the Week, against eventual Champions Yorkshire, had the additional attraction of the return of Godfrey Evans after eight years in retirement. With 66 in three and a half hours, Leary was top scorer in the match, a distinction marred slightly by his first duck of the season in the second innings. More than 40,000 turned up during the Week, one of the best attended ever.

Leary contributed only eight runs to Kent's Gillette Cup win in 1967 but earned his first Man of the Match award for an innings of 80 (9 fours) against Pakistan in a 50-over end-of-season match at Canterbury.

The Committee's report in the 1969 Kent Annual reads 'Leary, a very consistent scorer until the middle of the season, unaccountably fell away in the latter half and just failed to score his 1,000 runs. It is a pity more use is not made of him as a bowler'. Cricket committees, not only in Kent, are sometimes liable to base their judgments on impressions rather than hard facts. While it is true that in the first half of the season Leary played some of his best cricket, registering his 18th and, as it turned out last,

century (against Cambridge University at Fenner's) and as well as sharing century partnerships of 179 v Essex at Romford (Cowdrey 129, Leary 56), 133 v Hampshire at Southampton (John Shepherd 106\*, Leary 45) and 132 v Surrey at Blackheath (Luckhurst 77, Leary 89), Nevertheless, the fact remains that he scored 465 first class runs in the first two months and 471 in July, August and early September.

On Leary's bowling, the Committee seems on safer ground. In the entire season he sent down only 71 overs and claimed ten wickets but in the match with the powerful Rest of the World Eleven at Canterbury he took 4 for 13 from six overs. His victims were a distinguished quartet – Eddie Barlow, Saeed Ahmed, Barry Richards and Roy Marshall.

With 728 first-class runs 1969 was an unremarkable season although better than it appears at first glance. In addition to four half centuries (highest score 62) there were four scores between 41 and 43\* and, as so often, he was frequently at his best when batsmen were struggling, He was his team's top scorer with 20 in a total of 75 at Derby and joint top scorer with 17 in a total of 81 against Essex at Brentwood. In Kent's first appearance in the newly launched 40 over John Player's County League he hit 54\* (3 sixes, 3 fours) v Hampshire at Canterbury, reaching his 50 in 33 minutes. In Kent's 16 matches in the competition, he struck 12 sixes; only Keith Boyce (16) hit more.

With new talent emerging, by 1970, fondly remembered by those around at the time as the long-awaited Championship year, there was considerable competition for places. With one win (by an innings), four defeats and four draws in the first two months, it was hardly a memorable start. Not helped by some awful wickets and batting in every position from three to eight, Leary finished with his lowest aggregate since 1956, 669 first-class runs (avge.26.76) and eventually lost his place in the team.

In the opening match, he was Kent's second top scorer with 43 batting number eight against Don Shepherd on a damp Swansea wicket and, still at eight, was bowled by Peter Lever without scoring in the second against Lancashire at Dartford. In the third, when Warwickshire won at Gravesend, Rohan Kanhai (107) played one of the greatest- ever innings against Underwood on a pitch which began sub-standard and went on deteriorating, Leary (65) was his team's top scorer. When Northants won by an innings on a Crabble pitch which got 'progressively worse' according to *Wisden*, his 50 was again Kent's top score.

When Kent embarked on their winning run in the second half of the season, he hit 88 with 3 sixes, 8 fours and sealed Kent's sixth batting point against Hampshire in Maidstone Week. For the remainder of the Championship season however his top score was 17 and he was dropped for two matches at the beginning of August, including the second of Canterbury Week, and for the final four games of the season.

In limited overs games it was rather different. He was not picked for first Gillette Cup Match and managed only two in the second but in the John Player League, in which Kent ended runners-up, he scored 43\* v Northants at Dover when 63 were plundered from the last ten overs, 40 (top score) v Essex at Rectory Field, 58\* (top score) v Middlesex at Lord's, 46\* (top score with 2 sixes) v Sussex at Hove, 53 (top score) with 4 sixes and 2 fours v Worcestershire at Folkestone. In the words of *Wisden*, almost certainly the work of the late Dudley Moore, 'on some four or five occasions he virtually won the game off his own bat'. Nobody hit more than his 17 sixes

In 1971, his final season, Leary played in the first half dozen matches but was subsequently in and out of the side. In all he was dropped for ten matches and appeared in 18, shifted up and down the order, batting six times at eight, four times at seven, twice at six, twice at nine, once each at four, five and ten and scoring 430 runs (avge.26.87). He was left not out seven times and twice did not get to the wicket. He captained the side in Folkestone Week, losing to Glamorgan by five wickets with nine balls to spare after a declaration, and drawing with Worcestershire who, after another Leary declaration, ended 35 ahead with four wickets remaining.

Leary's best innings that year were both against Yorkshire, a brisk 74 when Kent won at by an innings at Bradford and 56\* in three hours in Canterbury Week where Kent again won by an innings. A little surprisingly after his six-hitting in the previous season, in the John Player League Leary batted for the most part at number six or lower. He did however almost bring Kent victory at Derby in a game reduced to 31 overs each. After the home side had totalled 119 for 8, arriving with Kent a perilous 27 for 5, he steered the score to 117 for 9, finishing top scorer with 37\*. His final game in Kent colours was in the John Player, 11\*v Middlesex at St. Lawrence.

Apart from five matches for Combined Services and one for MCC, Stuart Leary played all his first-class cricket for Kent. He scored a century against every other first-class county except Gloucestershire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire and Somerset, three against Hampshire.

In first-class cricket Stuart Leary batted in every position except eleven but most of the time he was in the middle-order, 42.77% at number five, 19.67% at four, 15.16% at six, 13.17 at three and 5.05% at seven. For Kent, he shared 56 century partnerships,

He scored a thousand runs on four Kent grounds, Canterbury, Gravesend, Maidstone (where he averaged 45.05) and Tunbridge Wells. The bowlers who claimed his wicket most frequently were 11: D.Shackleton, 10: D.W.White, 9: J.A.Flavell, D.J.Shepherd, 8: J.B.Statham, N.I.Thomson, 7: D.L.Bates, G.A.R.Lock,

In addition to his six catches in an innings at Cambridge in 1958 (see above), he held four against Sussex at Hastings in 1957 and three in an innings on 15 occasions. 60 of his catches were from the bowling of Underwood followed by Dixon (47), Halfyard (42), Brown (36), Page (29), Graham (21), Shepherd (19), Jones & Ridgway (17 each), Sayer (13), Dye 11.

As a footballer Leary made 376 League and Cup appearances for Charlton Athletic between 1951 and 1962, scoring 153 goals and, after he left the Valley following a disagreement over terms, another 28 for Queens Park Rangers. While as a batsman his technique was very much his own, he was a stylish, highly skilled, constructive footballer playing mainly as a deep-lying centre forward, a position at which, although generally described as 'the Revie method' in the popular press, Leary was one of the pioneers. Compared with the traditional big, strong, robust striker, he was perhaps, in a sense ahead of his time. His partnership with Eddie Firmani resulted in some of the most attractive football ever seen at the Valley. He played one game for England Under 23 but was later ruled ineligible for England, a decision which, in view of his National Service, he found highly amusing.

Leary scored 126 for a Charlton Eleven against a Kent CCC side in a benefit match for Arthur Fagg at Maidstone Athletic Ground in July 1951 and scored two goals for a Charlton Team against a Godfrey Evans Eleven at Canterbury in May 1953.

A great humourist, handsome, always immaculately turned out with considerable, often devastating, personal charm, Stuart Leary was immensely popular. His £9,100 benefit was at the time a Kent record. According to his friend Derek Ufton his flat in Bexley was reputedly full of unopened presents from female admirers. Returning to South Africa after retiring from cricket, he was Director of Coaching for the Western Province Cricket Union and was manager of the team which won the Currie Cup and Datsun Shield in 1981-82. He also did a great deal of coaching in the wider community, notably in coaching black children at the Dominican School for the Deaf in Cape Town.

Stuart Leary was found dead on Table Mountain, having been missing for five days. Table Mountain was one of his favourite places and he was a frequent visitor. Apparently, the last people to see him alive were two elderly ladies who were also regular visitors and had chatted to him in the past. He ended his conversation with them by saying he was going to make a phone call from a nearby call box. Following an unsuccessful marriage, he had been suffering from depression but there was an open verdict. He had the return half of a ticket for the cable car. There were and still are numerous rumours about his death, none of them substantiated, a not uncommon occurrence in apartheid era South Africa.

**Nigel James Llong (No. 752).***Born:* 11.02.1969: Ashford.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1989-1999. Kent cap 1993.

Educated: Ashford North School for Boys.

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	68	108	11	3024	130	31.17	6	16	59

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2273	82	1259	35	35.97	5-21	2	0

**List A Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	134	113	24	2281	123	25.62	2	8	41
<b>Overall</b>	136	115	24	2302	123	25.29	2	8	41

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1245	2	1138	39	29.17	4-24	0	5.48
<b>Overall</b>	1317	2	1210	40	30.25	4-24	0	5.51

A talented, technically sound, middle order batsman, useful off spinner and one of the best allround fielders in the game, Nigel Llong was one of several Kent players of his time who arguably received fewer opportunities than ability and, up to a point performance, warranted.

Progressing through AKCC and Kent Under-19s, he made his Second Eleven debut against Lancashire at Old Trafford in the final game of the 1986 season, followed by 13 over the next two seasons. In 1989 he scored over 400 runs in the Second Eleven Championship as well as over 500 for Kent Colts and made one first team appearance in the Refuge Assurance League, against Middlesex at Lord's where he claimed the prized wicket of Mike Gatting.

In 1990 Llong joined the Kent staff and made his first-class debut, against Cambridge University at Fenner's. Number ten in the order, he did not bat and bowled seven unrewarded overs. For the Second Eleven he registered over 1,000 runs in the two competitions with two hundreds and seven half-centuries. For the next two years, while continuing to score prolifically in Second Eleven cricket, further first team opportunities were only intermittent. Against Durham at Gateshead in June 1992 he averted a second innings crisis with a gritty 92 only to find himself dropped for the next fixture, not to appear again until a Sunday League game a month later.

1993 began well with 72 against Zimbabwe B at Harare in a short pre-season visit and for the season proper he commenced with 116\* against Cambridge University (and 3 for 29 in the second innings) followed immediately by 108 v Middlesex which included 15 fours and a six into the top tier of the Lord's pavilion. Nevertheless, once again he was out of the side for the next fixture to make way for the return of Carl Hooper. This time the recall came after only two matches and he retained his place until the end of the season. With 943 runs (avge.42.86), he hit six half-centuries, over 300 runs in limited-overs matches and achieved his personal best bowling in the one-day game, 4 for 24 v Sussex at Hove in the Sunday League. He was awarded his county cap.

Due possibly to a dip in form and more perhaps to a selection policy best described as erratic, his cricket in 1994 was limited to seven first-class fixtures and, although he made 16 appearances and finished second in the List A averages, he only once passed 50. He also had the mortification of missing twice in the infamous 'bowl out' that decided the Benson & Hedges Quarter final at Edgbaston. For the Second Eleven he hit four centuries including 250 v Worcestershire at Kidderminster.

Despite proving a model of consistency in the Second Eleven Championship, two centuries, five half-centuries in ten innings with an average of 65.60, Llong was out of the Championship side for almost exactly half the 1995 first team fixtures. After a false start in June when he played one match, scored 30 and was immediately dropped, he was called on again in July. This time he gained an extended run with back-to-back centuries, 118 v Surrey at Canterbury, 100 v Somerset at Taunton, and finished the season fourth in the averages with over 500 runs.

He was fourth again in 1996 with 763 first-class runs (avge.38.15). In what turned out to be his last full season, he missed only five county fixtures and was ever present in List A matches. There were two centuries, 118 at Derby where he shared a 100 run fourth-wicket partnership with Hooper and a career best 130 v Hampshire at Canterbury where he put on 173 for the fifth-wicket with Mark Ealham (74). In the NatWest Trophy he registered his first List A hundred, 115\* against Cambridgeshire at March which, with bowling figures of 3 for 26, gained him the Man of the Match award.

By mid-July 1997, Llong had again lost his place in the Championship side. He had registered two half-centuries in the Championship and 99 against Cambridge University at Canterbury, but there had been ten scores below 20, including two ducks. There was a new coach, John Wright, and new talent such as Rob Key and Ed Smith was beginning to emerge. He nevertheless remained an important member of the side in List A matches, contributing over 400 runs with 50s in each of the then three one-day competitions.

In 1998, although leading run-getter for the Second Eleven with three centuries, he was reduced to two first-class matches (none at all in the Championship) and only seven in the Axa League. This did however give him the opportunity of scoring runs for his home club Ashford.

In his final season there was something of a renaissance. Although never picked for a first-class fixture, he played in fifteen List A matches, batting consistently in all three competitions, notably against Cheshire at Bowdon in the NatWest Trophy when, coming in at 54 for 4, he struck 123 from 98 balls with 5 sixes and 10 fours, sharing a 226 run sixth-wicket partnership in 134 minutes with Matthew Fleming (117\*).

It came as a surprise therefore when in November, immediately after hosting a coaching session for young cricketers at St. Lawrence, he was told his services were no longer required. Only days before there had been discussions about a limited-overs contract, another example of the crass insensitivity that for many years has been apt to afflict Kent administrators on such occasions. Nigel Llong played one season with Norfolk before going on to a successful career as a much respected first-class and Test Match umpire.

### **Bernard Henry Lock (No. 657).**

*Born:* 08.06.1915; Exeter, Devonshire. *Died:* 17.12.1997; Dover.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1952.

Educated. Sherborne.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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<b>Kent</b>	1	2	0	59	57	29.50	0	1	1
<b>Overall</b>	2	4	0	69	57	17.25	0	1	3

## Bowling

Did not bowl

A solicitor by profession, Bernard Lock was in the Eleven at Sherborne in 1933 and in the following year played for Devonshire against Kent at Exeter. This was the first of 21 appearances for his native county between 1934 and 1948, At this stage he had only once passed 50, 84 v Surrey Second Eleven at Exeter in 1935. On moving to Dover in 1948, Lock joined Dover CC and scored 61\* for his new club against a Kent Club & Ground attack including Colin Page, Alan Dixon and Claude Lewis.

In May 1949 Kent Club & Ground again played Dover and this time Lock's 111\* was the major factor in Kent's defeat by ten wickets. A week later Lock made his debut for Kent Second Eleven at Sittingbourne, where he scored 44 against Surrey and on his third appearance hit 144\* and 127\* against his former county in a high scoring drawn game at Bromley. Playing as an amateur, he appeared in nine matches, hit 497 runs and averaged over 40. Next season he was almost ever present, scoring 573 runs (avge.44.10) with another century against Devonshire - 143 at St Lawrence – and four other scores over 50.

He continued to appear in Second Eleven matches for four more seasons. Although playing less frequently, he twice averaged over 30 and scored nine more half-centuries including 95 against Surrey at Gore Court in 1952. In that year he made his one appearance for Kent in a first-class match, against Oxford University, in which he scored 57 in the second innings. He also turned out on occasions for the Club & Ground.

Lock was a convivial, outgoing character with a reputation as a raconteur and, with no apparent interest in the game as a career, no inhibitions about playing attacking shots. Conspicuous on the field due to his habit of tucking his flannels into his grey socks, he proved a valuable aide to the Second Eleven captain Tom Crawford in his efforts to foster an adventurous approach to Second Eleven cricket – never easy when most of the eleven are inevitably primarily interested in furthering their careers. Returning to Devonshire, Lock appeared in a further nine matches for the county but only once progressed beyond 20.

In addition to his one first-class match for Kent, Lock appeared in one other first-class match, again against Oxford University, at Lord's in 1955. Playing for an MCC side including Colin Cowdrey and Bill Murray-Wood, he was bowled for 0 in the second innings by another Kent cricketer, John Phillips. As well as MCC and Dover, he appeared in club cricket for Incogniti, Exeter and St Lawrence

During the Second World War he served as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Corps of Signals. In March 1941 he married Dorothy Breeks in Exeter. As a Rugby footballer, he played for Exeter and in a few games for Ulster.

## Jonathan Ian Longley (No. 751).

*Born:* 12 04.1969; New Brunswick, New Jersey, USA.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1989-1993

Educated: Tonbridge School & Durham University.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10	17	0	361	110	21.23	1	1	8
<b>Overall</b>	35	62	3	1381	110	23.40	2	8	18

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	24	0	47	0				

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	14	14	1	284	71	21.84	0	3	4
<b>Overall</b>	63	61	5	1311	92	23.41	0	7	9

### Bowling

Did not bowl

An outstanding schoolboy batsman, Jon Longley emulated Tom Longfield (q.v), by appearing in his school Eleven in 1984 aged 15. He scored over 600 runs (avge.44.20) and remained in the side for three more seasons. In 1986, by totalling 1,141 runs (avge.67.11), he became the first Tonbridge batsman to top the 1,000 since Colin Cowdrey in 1950. He passed the 1,000 again in 1987 and by then had also represented and captained HMC Schools, appeared for AKCC Under-19, scored a century for Kent Colts and appeared for Kent Under-25s in the Warwick Pools competition. In 1986 he also played four times for Kent Second Eleven.

On leaving school in 1988 Longley joined the staff, at the same time beginning a three-year course at Durham University. Despite the inevitable clash of interests, he found time for 24 Second Eleven matches, scoring over 1,000 runs in the two competitions. As well as a top score of 143 v Sussex Seconds at Hastings, he was twice dismissed in the 90s and there were four other half-centuries.

Next year he had a share in cricket history as one of the Combined Universities side captained by Mile Atherton which reached the quarter-finals of the Benson & Hedges Cup at Taunton in which he hit 49 from 39 balls and shared a 114 run fourth-wicket partnership from 17 overs with Nasser Hussain (118).

Apart from 57 against Middlesex at Lord's in the 40-over Refuge Assurance League, he was less successful in eight first team appearances (four first-class) for Kent and, despite batting consistently and averaging over 50 in both Second Eleven competitions in 1991 and hitting two centuries, no further first team opportunities came his way during the next two seasons.

In 1992 Longley hit a maiden first-class century for Kent against Cambridge University at Fenner's but managed to find a place in the side for only two county matches in which his top score was 35. In Second Eleven cricket he was prolific, second in the averages for both Second Eleven competitions. In the Rapid Cricketline Championship he amassed 1,006 runs (avge.62.88) with four centuries – including 200\* v Glamorgan Seconds at Maidstone, as well as six half-centuries. 1993 began well with 94 against Zimbabwe B in Harare, the only first-class fixture in Kent's six match pre-season tour, but as far as the first team was concerned, again he was confined to one appearance against Cambridge, one in the Championship and two in the Axa Equity & Law League. At the end of the season, he opted to join Durham.

If Longley considered himself a trifle ill-used there was perhaps some justification. He had again scored over a thousand runs in the Rapid Cricketline competition, hit 173\* against Durham Second Eleven at Seaton Carew as well as three other centuries and five 50s. In his only Championship appearance, he scored 47 in an opening partnership of 116 with David Fulton (75) but was dropped for the next fixture. With Durham he was capped in 1994 but after three generally disappointing seasons he left to take up a career in business.

**Frederick Charles Lucas (No. 662).**

*Born:* 29.09.1933; Slade Green. *Died:* 11.09.2015; Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1954. Second Eleven Cap 1951.

Educated: Erith Grammar School.

Parents: Albert Edward Lucas & Elizabeth Lucas (née Arnold).

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	4	0	62	38	15.50	0	0	1

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18	0	17	0				

Freddie Lucas had only a brief career with Kent but as a footballer he gained considerable success as a wing-half/inside/forward (mid-fielder to later generations) with Charlton Athletic. Between 1955 and 1964 he made 185 League and Cup appearances and scored 29 goals; he played at inside-right for Charlton in December 1957 when, in arguably the most remarkable football match of all time, they beat Huddersfield Town 7-6 after being 1-5 down and reduced to ten men after a quarter of an hour. In 1964/1965 he played a further 16 games for Crystal Palace.

The son of a porter at a coal wharf, following a trial, Lucas joined the Kent staff in 1950 and had played five Second Eleven games (plus four for Club & Ground) before his 17th birthday. Next year his 25 wickets in six Minor Counties Championship matches earned him his Second Eleven cap. Against Hampshire Second Eleven he claimed 3 for 32 & 6 for 26 at Basingstoke and 3 for 60 & 3 for 42 in the return at Gore Court. For the Club & Ground his haul was 42 at an economical 10.42 but at the end of the season National Service intervened.

Overseas postings with the Royal Electrical & Mechanical Engineers severely restricted his cricket and on demobilisation in 1954 he found difficulty in picking up where he had left off. Although wickets were hard to come by in Second Eleven matches, he was given an unexpected first team chance against Essex at Ilford. In Kent's first innings he scored a gritty 38 (second highest score) in an otherwise fairly feeble batting display but with four other spinners in the side, he was fourth change and bowled only three overs.

On his second appearance, v Derbyshire at Chesterfield, he was twice dismissed cheaply by the great Les Jackson and, although Kent lost by seven wickets, he was not one of the five bowlers used. He hit two half-centuries and bowled economically in Club & Ground matches, but Alan Dixon was beginning to establish himself and Lucas was not re-engaged at the end of the season.

He went on to play league cricket in the north-east. In 1955 he took over from Syd O'Linn as professional for Whitburn in the Durham Senior League where Stuart Leary had been another of his predecessors.

Before turning professional, Freddie Lucas worked in the Charlton offices. After leaving Crystal Palace, he spent the rest of his working life as an executive with Ready Mix Concrete. In Dartford in 1955 he married Bessie King who survived him. They had one daughter.

**Brian William Luckhurst (No. 679).**

*Born:* 05.02.1939; Sittingbourne. *Died:* 01.03.2005; Alkham, Dover.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm bowler.



Kent 1958-1985. Kent cap 1963. Second Eleven Cap 1957.

Test matches: 21 for England. ODIs: Three for England.

*Wisden* Cricketer of the Year 1971.

Educated: Murston Primary School & Westlands County Modern Secondary School, Sittingbourne.

Parents: William Thomas Luckhurst & Ettie Elizabeth Luckhurst (née Hammond)

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	336	568	65	19096	215	37.96	39	100	351
<b>England</b>	21	41	5	1298	131	36.05	4	5	14
<b>Overall</b>	389	662	77	22303	215	38.12	48	115	392

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5314	247	2617	61	42.90	4-32		
<b>England</b>	57	2	32	1	32.00	1-9		
<b>Overall</b>	5643	262	2744	64	42.87	4-32		

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	146	144	16	5348	142	41.78	7	38	61
<b>England</b>	3	3	0	15	14	5.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	153	151	16	5485	142	40.62	7	39	62

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	178	3	131	7	18.71	3-22	0	4.41
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	266	4	183	8	22.87	3-22	0	4.12

As player and administrator, Brian Luckhurst gave over 50 years of devoted service to Kent, joining the Club in 1954 on a six-month contract, two months after his 15th birthday, and dying, aged 66, almost at the end of his year as Kent President.

Kent have had few more consistent batsmen. Making his first-class debut in 1958, he scored a thousand runs in 14 consecutive domestic seasons, 1962 to 1975, only Frank Woolley (27), 'Wally' Hardinge (17), Les Ames and James Seymour (both 16,) reaching the benchmark 1,000 more often. In five seasons, he led the Kent batting averages, averaging 64.85 in 1972, reaching the late 40s from 1969 to 1971 and never dropping below the 30s.

In Luckhurst's early days Derek Underwood described his technique 'as confined to a punched square cut and the work behind square on the leg side' but, although the square cut remained his most prolific shot. with study and application, he extended his range all round the wicket, notably on both sides of cover, the late cut and its variations, became a voracious accumulator between midwicket and fine leg, and a powerful exponent of the hook and pull. Quick on his feet against the spinners, and fast between the wickets, he was often at his best on the many sub-standard pitches around at the time of which Kent seemed to have perhaps more than their share. He was one of the quickest to adapt technique to the limited-overs game

He hit 48 first-class centuries, 39 for Kent, four for England, two of them against Australia, one each against India and Pakistan, as well as one International hundred against the Rest of the World, arguably

as strong as any Test side England had ever faced. He registered a century against every other first-class county of the day except Essex and Warwickshire, four each against Middlesex, Somerset and Surrey. He scored over 1,000 runs against six counties led by Surrey 2,244 runs (avge.48.78), Middlesex 1,751 (avge.47.32), Somerset 1,543 (avge.55.10), Sussex 1,530 (avge.41.35), Hampshire 1,242 (avge.28.88) and Leicestershire 1,176 (avge.37.93). He passed 900 against Lancashire and Worcestershire.

Superstitious about his cricket, according to legend, after scoring a century he tried to wear the same clothes the following day and liked to be on the right when to walking out to bat. Although not necessarily applicable to all his opening partners, he seems to have preferred Denness to take first ball.

One of the most versatile of fielders, he excelled at short leg but was equally at home in run-saving positions. For Kent, of his contemporaries, only Colin Cowdrey and Stuart Leary held more catches.

Young Luckhurst's cricketing talents were first noticed aged 12 at Murston Primary School, Sittingbourne when, playing on a pitch cut on the Gore Court outfield, he took 7 for 20 and scored 80\* against Holy Trinity. A cricket-loving teacher, Doug Wallace, sent the score card to *The Star*, the third of London's then three evening newspapers, who ran a monthly award scheme for young cricketers. The prize was a voucher for a brand new cricket bat which, accompanied on his first visit to London by his cricket enthusiast mother, was presented to him at the Stuart Surridge establishment in Southwark.

Moving on to Westlands County Modern Secondary School, he was fortunate to find Denis Jarrett, another cricket-addicted form-master, and by 1953 he was playing for his school year team and had graduated to the Murston village team where, primarily as a left-arm spinner, he was playing almost entirely with and against grown-ups.

Kent secretary Neville Christopherson had written to local schools looking for likely cricketing talent and word of Luckhurst's possibilities had got around. As a result, in 1954 Kent coach Claude Lewis (*q.v.*) who lived locally, chauffeured the boy to the only indoor nets in Kent, at Eltham Baths. The boy had already seen Kent play at Canterbury and, furthermore, the previous year with a boyhood friend he had slept all night outside The Oval to see England regain the Ashes. Now he found himself bowling to Kent professionals. Subsequently, after school, every Thursday throughout the rest of the 1953/54 winter, Lewis would pick him up and he would bowl until it was time to leave. At the end of the winter, Lewis invited him to Kent's Easter coaching classes at Canterbury.

A quick and willing learner, the upshot was the offer of a three-month contract in 1954 but there was one more hurdle to face. He had already come second out of 32 for the Chatham Dockyard entrance examination and, unlike Mrs Luckhurst, her husband had no great interest in cricket and preferred for his son the security of a dockyard apprenticeship. The combined advocacy of Mrs Luckhurst and Lewis eventually triumphed but not before the latter, who had worked at the Dockyard during the War, persuaded the Kent committee to offer a full six-month contract.

During his time in the Kent nets Luckhurst had done little except bowl, with virtually no time for batting or fielding practice. Nevertheless, on 12th May 1954 he made his Second Eleven debut against United Hospitals at St. Lawrence. Batting number seven, he was 0\* and took 4 for 38 in 53 balls. He followed with three Second Eleven Championship matches, against Essex Seconds, Middlesex Seconds and Wiltshire, with three wickets and a top score of two. For the Club & Ground he made 21 appearances and, although achieving little with the bat, he was second highest wicket-taker, 38 at 13.76 including 6 for 60 v London Polytechnic at Eltham, 5 for 41 v Kent Police at Maidstone, 3 for 8 at Folkestone 3 for 0 against Catford.

Although mainly occupied with cleaning boots, pads etc. helping to operate scoreboards, stacking chairs and similar domestic chores, further progress was steady but unspectacular. In 1957, by now shifted up and down the batting order, he was number four when he scored his maiden Second Eleven half-century, 55 v Norfolk at Ditton, followed by 53\* at number seven v Middlesex at Folkestone. With the

ball, he was leading wicket-taker with 48 at 17.96 and for the Club & Ground he led the batting averages and was again leading wicket-taker with 40 (avge.8.35). He was awarded his Second Eleven cap.

In 1958 he was second highest Second Eleven run-scorer – 473 (avge.27.82) with two half-centuries – and led the Club & Ground averages which included his maiden century for the County, 122 v Tunbridge Wells & Tonbridge Area A.K.C.C.

More important, at Worcester, with Colin Cowdrey on Test duty against New Zealand and Arthur Phebey injured, Luckhurst made his first appearance in first-class cricket, the first of three in succession. Batting number six on a rain-affected first day, and fortified by a good luck telegram from Cowdrey, Luckhurst joined Stuart Leary for the last 17 minutes and batted another 45 minutes when Kent were dismissed for 128 on the second morning, last out for 23. Bowled for 11 in the second innings, he caught Ron Headley, another future Test cricketer, in the first innings and had Don Kenyon, caught at the wicket in the second.

At Northampton, he fell for one and 0 to the Australian left-arm spinners George Tribe and Jack Manning and claimed the wicket of another current or future Test cricketer, Raman Subba Row, caught by Stuart Leary for 14. He was 16\* in the return against Worcestershire at a damp Mote Park.

Shortly after the Maidstone match, like most cricketers in England, National Service intervened and, as Gunner Luckhurst, he served with the Royal Artillery, mainly as a driver. Although general opinion of the time seems to be that, for young professional cricketers, National Service usually retarded a player's progress, Luckhurst played quite a lot of services cricket, particularly during 1959 when he was for the most part stationed in Gravesend. He played six times for The Army, but mostly for the Royal Artillery.

Usually the only 'other rank' when playing for the Gunners, he scored three centuries in 1959, including 100\* in the annual 'Test match' against Royal Engineers at Lord's. The following year he took 6 for 51 at Woolwich against the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst. While serving in Tenby, he was, no doubt uniquely for a Kent cricketer, drafted in to play for Pembrokeshire v Cardiganshire in a one-day match, finishing top scorer with 33\*.

In 1959, stationed locally for much of the time, Luckhurst played two matches for Kent Seconds, v Surrey at The Oval and Essex at Gravesend. In the latter he scored 30 and shared a third-wicket partnership of 115 with Tony Catt, who finished with 201\*. In the following year he played three first-class matches early in the season, for Combined Services against Cambridge University at Fenner's and Surrey at The Oval with, sandwiched in between, Kent v Cambridge University, again at Fenner's. Only in the first of the three did he reach the wicket. He also claimed the wicket of another future Test cricketer, Tony Lewis. He was demobilised in July and played eight Second Eleven matches, with top scores of 58 v Middlesex at Gravesend and 44 v Essex at Dartford, as it happened both scored while he was still in the Army. He also picked up 14 wickets.

With Luckhurst back as a full-time professional cricketer, in 1961 Kent Chairman David Clark judged the returnee 'disappointing with bat and ball' but thought him 'one of the best fielders in the country'. Missing only one Second Eleven Championship fixture, a top score of 46 was indeed 'disappointing' and 35 wickets at 26.62 made him the most expensive of the four regular spinners, although he took 7 for 87 at Taunton. As a batsman, he did rather better in non-Championship matches, 92 v Huntingdonshire at Ramsey and 71\* v the South African Fezels, including a young Colin Bland.

In his autobiography '*Boot boy to President*' the author makes it clear that at this stage, his career was in jeopardy and survival was thanks largely to Kent coach Colin Page, although, judging by the Chairman's opinion, his fielding may have done no harm to his survival prospects. He began the 1962 season promisingly with a pair of 40s in his first three Second Eleven fixtures, only to suffer a pair of noughts at Northampton. After close of play however there was a surprise. Cowdrey would again be occupied with Test cricket, Alan Brown and Alan Dixon were injured and he was required for the first team against Somerset at Gravesend.

In Somerset's first innings he produced the best bowling figures of his career, 4 for 32 from 11 overs and, batting number seven, scored 17 in Kent's first innings. Needing 333, at 3.19 on the last day Kent were 104 for 5 when Luckhurst joined Peter Richardson. Together they added 116 when Richardson was caught for 135 but Luckhurst (71\*) and Derek Ufton (2\*) played out time.

Luckhurst played every remaining match bar one for the rest of the season, 22 in all. He registered another seven half-centuries including 72 v Yorkshire (with Fred Trueman) at Gillingham and two successive century partnerships with his hero and mentor Colin Cowdrey, 233\* for the fourth-wicket at Bristol, (Cowdrey 148\*, Luckhurst 86\*) and 129 for the sixth in the last game of the season against Middlesex at Lord's (Cowdrey 155, Luckhurst 72\*). He finished fourth in the County averages with 1,096 runs (avge.35.35) and would remain a fixture in the team until 1976.

After batting number five in the first three matches of 1963, in the fourth, at Hull, Luckhurst opened for the first time and, with Bob Wilson, put on 91, both scoring half-centuries. Partnered by Peter Richardson or John Prodger, he remained as opener for a further 15 county matches, scoring four half-centuries. before dropping back to four or five in mid-July when Richardson, who captained for the remainder of the season, preferred David Nicholls in an all left-hand combination. Against Glamorgan at Dover, needing 244 in three hours the Richardson/Luckhurst pairing put on 111 in 57 minutes, when the latter was out for 36, Kent going on to win by four wickets with 15 minutes to spare (Richardson 92). At Nuneaton, they put on 189\* (Richardson 139\*, Luckhurst 44\* and there were five other half-century opening partnerships, including two in the nineties. They also opened together in Kent's first Gillette Cup match v Sussex at the Nevill, Luckhurst run out 3.

Back at number five, against Surrey at Blackheath, he scored his maiden first-class century, 126\* which included 109 for the fifth-wicket, his first century partnership with Michael Denness (53), Kent were within nine runs of victory with seven wickets standing when he was caught and bowled by Roger Harman, the first ball of a hat trick. Luckhurst (96) and Denness (80) also shared a 91 run third-wicket partnership against West Indies at Canterbury (including the formidable Charlie Griffith).

Awarded his County cap, he totalled 1,501 runs (avge.33.25), second only to Richardson and, as well as his hundred, scored ten half centuries and held 23 catches. With the advent of Derek Underwood and doubts in some quarters about Luckhurst's action, his bowling was now down to only 86 overs and three wickets and, although he continued on occasions as a useful change, generally delivering seam up rather than as a spinner.

In his first year as a capped player, the Kent Annual judged Luckhurst's 1964 season as disappointing and it is difficult to disagree. He again passed his thousand runs and averaged 31.33 but 12 times he was dismissed for single figures and in another seven failed to reach 20. In six games he was back with the Seconds.

He hit seven half-centuries, but his only hundred was at Taunton in the last match of the season. Coming in with the score 10 for 1, he was last out for 103 in a modest team total of 174. Six times he opened, four times with Denness, but, apart from 41 and 64 v Middlesex in Canterbury Week, he never exceeded 29 when opening that season. On the credit side, he exceeded his personal best with 27 catches.

For Luckhurst, 1964 proved a minor hiccup. Next year he was leading scorer, 1,562 runs (avge.31.87), second to Cowdrey in the averages, by mid-May he was a regular opener and by the end of June the Luckhurst/Denness opening partnership was established. At the end of the season he had three centuries and eight half-centuries to his name and the Luckhurst/Denness pairing had one century and three half century partnerships to their credit plus one in the Gillette Cup. To be fair, there were also 19 Luckhurst/Denness opening partnerships of fewer than 20 but *Wisden* in 1966 named them as one of the best opening partnerships in the country. His season's haul of catches grew to 39.

In 1966 he had by far his best season to date with 1,763 runs (avge.35.26), placing him top of the Kent averages, and comfortably leading scorer. Although there were still 19 single figure dismissals, he hit five hundreds and eight half centuries. Cowdrey and Prodger were the only other century-makers, one each. With Denness, he put together three century partnerships, two in the 90s and another six between 50 and 84.

Often at his best when conditions favoured the bowler, at Blackheath, which by now had acquired something of a reputation, Kent were struggling at 156 for 5 on the second day against a Surrey score of 360 for 7 declared. Luckhurst batted five hours (29 fours) for his 183, his second hundred on the ground, and helped Kent to a two run first innings lead. He scored 110 v Glamorgan at Gravesend and 133 v Gloucestershire at Folkestone, both on pitches favouring the bowlers, and 104 against West Indies in three hours ten minutes in what was otherwise, in the opinion of *Wisden* 'a woeful display of Kent batting'. Excluding wicketkeepers, only three fielders in the country exceeded his 43 catches.

Over the next three seasons it was a story of steady progress, 1,111 runs at 38.31 in a truncated 1967 season, 1,503 (34.15) in 1968 and 1,914 (47.85) in 1969 when he scored over 600 runs more than any other Kent batsman, achieved his personal highest and led the Kent averages. His three hundreds in 1967 included one of his best, on an under-prepared seamer's pitch against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. At one time Kent were 96 for 6, but, with Alan Dixon (64), 146 were added for the seventh wicket. The remaining three fell for three runs, Luckhurst carrying his bat for 126\* in a team total of 253. Only one other batsman reached double figures.

After sustaining a broken finger in his left hand in Canterbury Week from a short-pitched ball from Trueman during a fiery spell for which he received an official warning, Luckhurst missed the last six Championship matches but returned to top score with 54 and a first wicket partnership of 78 with Denness (50) when Kent beat Somerset. In the Gillette Cup Final at Lord's. In the 1967/1968 winter he toured Pakistan with a Commonwealth team under the captaincy of Richie Benaud, playing six matches with two half-centuries.

In the review of the 1968 season, the Kent Annual suggested Luckhurst 'allowed the bowler to dictate to him far more than he should' which sounds a bit harsh. Elsewhere in the piece comes 'all too often the side were dismissed for scores that left the bowlers with little to bowl against'. Against Somerset at Weston-super-Mare, Kent won with relative comfort, after Luckhurst had compiled 184\* in seven hours when Kent declared at 348 for nine.

Among his other four hundreds were 113 & 100\* at Canterbury against the Rest of the World with an attack including Wes Hall, Peter Pollock and Eddie Barlow. Again the Annual was in grumpy mood, describing the proceedings as 'a very disappointing match, there being little or no enthusiasm displayed by either team'. Enthusiastic or not, against such opposition Luckhurst batted in all for six hours 50 minutes sharing partnerships of 115 for the second-wicket with Nicholls (56) in the first innings and a 190 opening stand with Denness (95) in the second.

On a rapidly deteriorating Gillingham pitch he was last out (again) with 111 in five hours 20 minutes (14 fours). Nobody else on either side scored more than 37. On a fiery wicket at a cold Lord's at the end of August, Luckhurst suffered another broken finger and missed the last two Championship matches. Although losing by one wicket, Luckhurst registered another half-century in the Gillette Cup, nobody else on either side managing more than 23.

The Annual told a rather different story in 1969 'He is now a more complete batsman than ever before, being able to attack the bowling when the game demands, as well as acting as sheet anchor when others are failing'. He not only led the Kent averages, only five others were above him in the national averages. He shared in 13 century partnerships, five for the first wicket with Denness (plus another eight of between 51 and 84), two each for the second, third, fourth and sixth. Kent won twice against Middlesex, by an innings at Lord's and five wickets at Canterbury, Luckhurst contributing centuries in both including a 173-run opening partnership with Denness (74).

He was run out for 90 in a total of 186 at The Oval but possibly the best of his four centuries was his 169 in five hours 50 minutes (1 six, 20 fours) on another seam friendly pitch at Hastings. At Bournemouth, on what *Wisden* thought a slow but true wicket, he carried his bat for 46 when Kent were all out for 96. In the return at Mote Park, Luckhurst and Denness put on 84 but the rest collapsed for 28, next highest scorer 8\*. With Asif, he put on 238\* for the third-wicket in the Parks (Luckhurst 168\*, Asif 133\*).

The newly introduced 40-over Players County League, brought him over 400 runs (avge.30.28), with three half-centuries and a top score of 76.

In the 1969/1970 winter he toured Jamaica with International Cavaliers, captained by Cowdrey and including Sobers, Dexter, Underwood and Mushtaq Mohammad. In the only first-class fixture, against Jamaica, he scored 49 and 105\* with 13 fours.

In 1970, Kent's long-awaited Championship year, Luckhurst missed eight matches due to England calls but still topped the Kent averages, due in part to 203\*(30 fours) at Fenner's. He still contributed significantly to five of Kent's nine victories, notably 135 in over five hours at Leicester, their first win in a distinctly shaky start to the season, and in a late-season three wicket victory at Folkestone against Notts led by Gary Sobers. Faced with 376-4 dec., Kent were 27-5, but recovered, thanks to Luckhurst's 156\*, sharing partnerships of 113 with Alan Ealham (57) for the sixth-wicket and 105 with John Shepherd (47) for the seventh, enabling Cowdrey to declare behind at 310 – 7. In the second innings Luckhurst (58) and Denness scored 103 in 23 overs at the start of their successful pursuit of 282 in three hours. Their partnership was one of four (plus one of 98) between the two that season.

When the Test series against South Africa was cancelled and replaced with a five Tests against the Rest of the World, Luckhurst was not an obvious contender in the eyes of much of the media. When it came to choosing the team however, Boycott, Cowdrey and John Edrich were not available for varying reasons and Luckhurst found himself facing arguably the most formidable attack since Bradman's Invincibles in 1948– 'Garth' McKenzie (replaced by Peter Pollock for the third and fourth Tests), Mike Procter, Sobers, Barlow, Intikhab Alam and Lance Gibbs.

In the first Test, at Lord's Luckhurst was caught for one as England collapsed for 127 (Sobers 6 – 21) but hatted for three hours for his 67 in the second innings, adding 101 for the third-wicket with Basil D'Oliveira. At Trent Bridge he scored 37 in a first-wicket partnership of 78 with Edrich and 113\* in the second innings, sharing stands of 120 for the second-wicket with Cowdrey (64) and 120\* for an unfinished third with Keith Fletcher (69\*), a factor in England's only win. His remaining scores were 28 & 35 at Edgbaston and 35 & 92 at Leeds where he put on 104 for the first-wicket with Boycott but then rather spoiled things with a pair at The Oval, bowled by Procter, third ball in the first innings, first ball in the second. Double failure notwithstanding, he was fourth in the averages and only Illingworth and Sobers scored more runs in the series.

The matches were retrospectively denied Test match status, but the truth remains that the games were promoted to both public and players as fully-fledged Test matches both before and throughout the series. There was a silver trophy, sponsored by Guinness, and a prize of £20,000, £13,000 to the players, £7,000 to the counties.

Cheated as he felt at being deprived of his Test debut, disappointment was short-lived. He was chosen for the MCC tour of Australia & New Zealand. He had expected to be chosen as third choice opener, but Illingworth preferred him as Boycott's partner with Edrich at three and, in the event, he played all but one (due to injury) of the seven Tests against Australia, plus the two against New Zealand.

In his second first-class match in Australia he registered his first hundred, 135 against New South Wales when he shared a 228 run opening partnership with Boycott (129\*). He was unfortunate on his Test debut in the first Test at Brisbane when, having put on 92 with Boycott (37), he was run out (not

by Boycott) for 74 when seemingly well set for his hundred. At Perth against Western Australia Luckhurst (111) and Boycott (126) put on 215 together against an attack including Tony Lock and a young Dennis Lillee. The second Test followed at the WACA, and he duly arrived at his maiden Test century, 131 which featured a 171-run partnership with Boycott (70) and the pair shared another 60 run partnership in the second innings.

In the fifth Test at Melbourne, he scored 109, despite sustaining a broken finger early in his innings. Altogether, against Australia he scored 455 runs (56.87). His last half-century opening partnership was in the Seventh Test at Sydney when, with Edrich, they added 94 together in the second innings (Edrich 57, Luckhurst 59). In the two Tests on the New Zealand leg of the tour his top score was 29 but he scored 84 v Central Districts in a 40-over match at Palmerston North.

In all matches on the tour, he was third after Boycott and Edrich, with 954 runs (avge.56.11) Wicketkeepers excluded, he was joint leading catcher on the tour with 11, shared with Underwood. Even the famously curmudgeonly Lynn Wellings, who covered the tour for *Wisden*, thought him 'From first to last an outstanding success'.

Before the start of the 1971 season he was one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year. In a season of split tours, he scored 108\* in his first Test against Pakistan at Edgbaston and scored 46 at Lord's in another century partnership with Boycott. In the third Test, at Headingley he suffered another pair, caught at the wicket in each innings by Wasim Bari.

Against the Indians tourists at Canterbury early in their tour, Luckhurst scored 118 (1 six and 15 fours) and shared a 125 runs opening partnership with Denness. In the second Test, at Old Trafford, as England struggled, he stayed in four and a quarter hours for 78, In the second innings, after a 'sticky start' according to *Wisden*, his 101 came in 3 hours 45 minutes.

For Kent, beginning with 107 v MCC, Luckhurst followed with successive scores of 66, 8, 76, 54, 85, 110 and 43 in the Championship and, despite missing ten Championship matches, ended his 1971 Kent season second highest scorer and again top of the Kent averages with 1,368 runs (avge.50.66) – 1,861 (avge.48.97) in all first-class cricket and fifth in the national list. His second Championship hundred was 155\* against Middlesex at Canterbury in five hours, 45 minutes, with partnerships of 98 for the first-wicket with Nicholls (65) and 169 (unfinished) for the fifth with Asif (103\*).

In the Gillette Cup, although finishing in the Final with a duck, his scores were 33,62,58 and 84, with opening partnerships of 132, 121 and 95. In the 40-over John Player League his top score was 43 but he missed half the scheduled programme.

When the Australians arrived in 1972, he scored 50 for MCC but, possibly a portent, he was number three. He was at three for the first two Tests with Edrich as Boycott's partner. Luckhurst's top score was 14 but, with Boycott unavailable, he moved back to number one for the third Test at Trent Bridge. Faced with a howl from sections of the media, he took over two hours to arrive at double figures and over four to reach 23 in his first innings effort but, with Lillee approaching his peak and Bob Massie achieving prodigies of movement through the air, his second innings 96 in almost five and a half hours steered his side to safety and remained England's top score of the series.

Nevertheless, after scores of 18 and 12\* at Leeds, he was left out of the side for The Oval and out of the tour of India and Pakistan which followed. As still one of England's best players of the turning ball, Luckhurst might still have been a more sensible choice. His replacement, Barry Wood, had scored 90 in the 1972 Oval Test but on sub-continent pitches he averaged 10.

In the 1972 season as a whole, Luckhurst had one of his most prolific, 1,706 runs (avg.55.03), seventh in the national averages .leading scorer and, despite again missing eight Championship fixtures, scoring three centuries and 12 half centuries, including two in the 90s. At The Oval he was on the field throughout the match with scores of 184\* and 63\*. Against Middlesex at the Mote, he scored 77 and

98\*where, leading the team for the first time, he shared partnerships of 122 with Nicholls (51) for the second-wicket and 154 for the third with Ealham (89), the victorious captain winning by seven wickets.

Luckhurst ended his Championship season with successive centuries, 142 at Glastonbury and 109 at Bradford where Kent scored their 362 from only 84 overs and won by an innings in two days. At Worcester, following an injury to Nicholls, he kept wicket through most of the match and conceded no byes. On the Sunday, Kent played at Sophia Gardens in the John Player League, and Luckhurst kept throughout the Glamorgan innings, catching Mike Llewellyn and Peter Walker but allowing five byes according to *Wisden* and *Cricket Archive*, leg byes according to the Kent Annual.

He picked up four half-centuries in the John Player League and one in the newly introduced Benson & Hedges competition.

Bothered by injuries early in 1973 and possibly burdened by his benefit year, his first eight matches brought only two half centuries but struck form in July with his highest score, 215 at Derby in five hours with 22 fours plus a first-wicket partnership of 256 with Johnson (130). This was quickly followed by three more half-centuries including 89 against Sussex in Canterbury Week and the outcome was selection at number three for two Tests against West Indies, the second at Edgbaston, remembered by some as 'Arthur Fagg's match' and the third at Lord's. His scores, 12, 42, 1 and 12, were unremarkable but in the second innings at Edgbaston, where, with Boycott injured, he opened, 96 were put on for the third-wicket with Dennis Amiss (86\*). The match was however clearly by then destined to end in a draw.

Missing half a dozen Championship matches, his 1,141 aggregate was his lowest since 1967. Possibly his best effort was against Leicestershire at Folkestone where, put in on a green pitch on a misty morning, with the score 58 for 2, 208 were added in 175 minutes with Denness (98). He was 145\*(2 sixes, 18 fours) when Denness declared at 304 – 5.

In limited overs cricket he hit 114\* v Hampshire at Canterbury in the Gillette Cup, 124 (run out) v Essex at Chelmsford and 104 v Somerset at Canterbury, including a 179 run second-wicket partnership with Denness (90) in the JPL. With eight sixes, he was joint highest in the competition. He was top scorer in the match with 79 when Kent beat Worcestershire in the Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup at Lord's and there was another hundred, 141 v Lancashire in the Fenner Trophy at Scarborough. His benefit raised £18,231, the highest to date.

In 1974, with Denness captaining England, vice-captain Luckhurst led the side in 15 first-class and nine List A fixtures. In the opening game, at Worcester, he scored exactly 100 and put on 123 for the first-wicket with Johnson but a second innings duck and a Kent collapse for 59 heralded a bad patch of one win and six defeats by the end of June. With nine single figure scores in first-class matches, including four ducks it was not a vintage season but he was still second in the Kent averages with 1,067 runs (avge.32.33). Among brighter interludes were 49 (top scorer) and 90 at Taunton and 148 v Derbyshire at Folkestone including 221 in 148 minutes with Woolmer (112) for the third-wicket.

Luckhurst also scored 1,056 runs (avge.48.00) in a season in List A cricket, the first to do so, with two centuries when Kent again won the Gillette Cup, plus one in the Benson & Hedges and seven half-centuries in the JPL with a top score of 97.

Although not originally a member of the 1974/1975 MCC tour party for Australia, Luckhurst was one up on the selector's having learned from the horse's mouth of Geoffrey Boycott's decision not to tour. The great man had more than hinted as much when they met in a Sunday League match in the previous August. With hindsight, Luckhurst concluded he had taken a tour too far, but it probably did not feel quite like that at the time. England was not overflowing with top order batsmen and there would probably have been fewer still if it was known what was coming. Thanks to the MCC's belated invitation going to the wrong holiday address in Spain, he actually learned of his selection via Radio Luxembourg.



England were thoroughly outclassed and, faced with Lillee, Jeff Thomson and the sometimes overlooked Max Walker, they might have struggled in most eras, particularly against opponents who caught virtually everything that came their way. According to the late John Thicknesse who covered the tour for *Wisden*, of the usual venues, 'only the Perth pitch could be described as true' and 'Wickets were unevenly grassed, fast and providing variable bounce, especially at Brisbane'. Furthermore, the umpires allowed a great deal of latitude to short-pitched bowling, Amiss, Edrich (twice) and David Lloyd suffered broken bones and several others suffered to a lesser extent.

For Boycott's deputy, the tour began well with 94 against a Victoria Country Eleven and 116 v Victoria at the MCG, where 268 was added for the first-wicket with Amiss (152), against an attack including Walker and Thomson, the latter not unfortunately Jeff Thomson but Alan 'Froggy' Thomson who had played in the 1970/1971 series. From that point, runs were harder to come by. In two state matches his top score was 20, followed by 1 and 3 in the first Test at Brisbane. Moving on to Perth, against Western Australia he fell to Terry Alderman for 0 & 2 but did rather better with 27 in the second Test when he was hit on his top hand by Thomson and was unable to field but managed to score 23 batting number seven in the second innings.

Between the third and fourth Tests he was run out for four in the ODI at Melbourne but was not called again to the Test side in Australia or New Zealand. He played twice in Tasmania, scoring 59 at Hobart and 74 at Launceston but failed batting number five in the second fixture with New South Wales. He also played in what some felt an unnecessary additional one-day match, against New Zealand at Melbourne, as a result of the Kiwis having won the Australasian Gillette Cup.

He contributed 0 and 1 in two ODIs against New Zealand and 23 and 9 in his one first-class match, against Wellington. Some members of the team were given permission to depart after New Zealand, but Luckhurst was obliged to remain for two matches in Hong Kong, scoring 40\* against the President's Eleven. It was not a happy tour and he was probably glad when it was all over.

In 1975, what turned out to be his last full season, Luckhurst finished in the unaccustomed position of mid-table in the averages, 1,180 runs (avge.31.89), although only Asif and Johnson scored more. Until mid-June only twice did he top 40, but at the end of the month he posted his first hundred against Lancashire, 141 at Tunbridge Wells which featured a 148 run sixth-wicket partnership in 100 minutes with Knott (85). There followed two half-centuries and in Folkestone Week, 91 and a second wicket partnership of 209 with Asif (121) v Surrey, adding another 67 and a century opening partnership with Johnson in the second innings and followed with 130 v Somerset in the second match of the Week. In the last match of the season he scored his fourth and last century against Surrey, 119 at The Oval, including 156 for the fourth-wicket with Denness (90) and 113 for the fifth with Julien (65).

In the John Player League he was second in the averages and leading scorer with 559 runs (avge.37.26) with four half-centuries and a top score of 86\* v Middlesex at Folkestone.

In most respects the high point of the season for Kent was their victory over the Australians, dominated of course by Cowdrey's magnificent century. Luckhurst had not only the honour of captaining the side to victory but a gutsy 40 out of 77 in the second innings. There was also the added pleasure of seeing the tourists lose after ordering their team bus for an early afternoon exit. A personal memory is of the genuine applause for Luckhurst all the way back to the pavilion from the visitors, notably from Lillee, rarely a great admirer of English batsmen.

Luckhurst played only a half dozen first-class matches in 1976. On his second appearance, at Fenner's, he scored 79 and shared his last century opening partnership, 108 with Woolmer (58). At Worcester he was injured and unable to bat but was back in the side against West Indies, where he was twice dismissed by his teammate Julien. At Southampton he scored his last half-century, 69 in the second innings when he put on 76 for the third-wicket with Woolmer. At Maidstone on June 3rd on the second day of the match against Northants, came tragedy. 18\* in his second innings, he suffered a severely

damaged finger when a ball from Sarfraz Nawaz knocked the top off the knuckle at the base of his right index finger. There were hopes of returning but the injury never really healed and that appeared to have ended his career.

It was not quite over. Against the Australians at Canterbury in August 1985, Kent had a crop of injuries, most of their young players were in Birmingham for the Under-25 competition and Johnson had, with more than a little justification, declined to take the field. Luckhurst was still a registered player and was called in to bat at number 10. Despite being helmetless, he batted in all for 62 minutes for scores of 1 and 9\*.

He was appointed second team coach, a four-year period he described in his autobiography as 'among the happiest of my cricketing life'. For a further five he served as Cricket Manager, responsible for looking after the first team and unfortunately quite the opposite of his time with the Seconds. He took over from Colin Page following a heart attack, originally for one year only but was asked to stay, a decision which rankled with Page and led to something of a rift between them. The end of Shepherd's career was clumsily handled and Luckhurst was far from happy when Chris Cowdrey replaced Tavaré as captain against the Cricket Manager's recommendation. He was not even invited to the crucial committee meeting and rated the decision as one of the worst in the Club's history. He went on to serve another four years as Cricket Administrator.

In 1990 he took over as Manager of the Ames-Levett Sports Centre. He had no relevant previous experience but with sheer hard work, common sense, an unexpected flair for public relations in the best sense and helped by his second wife Raine who took over the catering, they ran the Centre for ten highly successful years. The restaurant and Lucky's Bar became easily the most popular meeting place on the ground and, with all due respect to their successors, it has never seemed quite the same since.

Luckhurst shared in 86 first-class century partnerships, 30 for the first-wicket, 16 for the second, 19 for the third, 9 for the fourth, 11 for the fifth, 9 for the sixth and 2 for the seventh.

He scored 5,308 runs (avge.42.12) in the then three main limited overs competitions with seven centuries and 38 half-centuries.

Derek Shackleton (9) was the most successful bowler against Luckhurst in first-class cricket, followed by Ken Higgs and Brian Langford (8) and Tony Buss, Robin Jackman, Graham McKenzie, John Price, Pat Pocock and Brian Statham with 7. In all first-class cricket, Dennis Lillee claimed his wicket five times.

He married twice. Elaine Cullen in Sittingbourne in 1960, by whom he had two sons, and Raye Tracey in 1985. He died of cancer of the oesophagus. Diagnosed in May 2004 at the beginning of his year as President he only narrowly failed to complete his year of office.

#### *Further reading*

Ellis Clive & Pennell Mark.	<i>Trophies &amp; Tribulations</i> . Forty Years of Kent Cricket. Greenwich Publishing, 2010.
Luckhurst Brian & Baldwin Mark	<i>Boot boy to President</i> . KOS Media (Publishing) Limited. 2004 .

#### **Martin John McCague (No. 757).**

*Born:* 24.05.1969, Larne, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1991- 2001 Cap 1992.

Tests. Three for England.

Educated: Port Hedland Senior High School and Carine Tafe College

Parents: Mal & Mary McCague.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	112	159	41	2100	72	17.79	0	6	60
<b>England</b>	3	5	0	21	11	4.20	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	135	186	45	2324	72	16.48	0	6	75

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18500	591	9960	388	25.67	9-86	23	2
<b>England</b>	593	17	390	6	65.00	4-121	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	22923	746	12392	456	27.17	9-86	25	2

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	157	95	31	770	56	12.03	0	1	28
<b>Overall</b>	166	100	33	800	56	11.94	0	1	32

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6624	46	5426	200	27.13	5-26	3	4.91
<b>Overall</b>	6971	49	5756	211	27.27	5-26	3	4.95

Martin McCague is unfairly remembered by many as the Australian who played for England against Australia without much success. He should be remembered as a fast bowler who could transform Kent's attack and won many matches for his adopted county.

McCague was born 10 miles north of Belfast. Within three months political and sectarian violence erupted, the British army was sent in and Protestant and Catholic districts were separated. The McCagues, living in a town notorious for loyalist paramilitary activity (the UVF and UDA both had bases there), started a new life by emigrating to Australia in 1971.

They settled 1000 miles north of Perth in Port Hedland, a small harbour town for the nearby Iron Ore mines described as 'one of the most isolated towns in the western world', red, dusty and hot. McCague did not play competitive cricket until 16. His parents loved hurling and Gaelic football run by the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) which from 1902 to 1971 banned membership to anyone playing or watching 'foreign' sports. The most 'foreign' was felt to be cricket. McCague grew up with Aussie Rules supporting the (Perth based) West Coast Eagles. Family life was unsettled with his father forced to move south for work.

McCague trained as an electrician then moved to Perth. Geoff Marsh and Mike Veletta spotted him bowling in the nets and invited him to join their club, Mount Lawley. He won the regional, then the national Australian fast bowling championship in Sydney and joined the Australian Cricket Academy in Adelaide stacking shelves every night before training started at 08.00. In 1990-1 he moved again and played for the Melbourne Cricket Club (taking 39 wickets average 15.51). Western Australia coach Daryl Foster persuaded him to join Western Australia rather than Victoria and he made his debut against Victoria in February taking 5-105. After three more Sheffield Shield matches he went with Foster to Kent (as a UK registered player due to his parents) making his first class debut at Lord's (in 'Marsh's match').

Back in Australia that winter he had only moderate success (17 at 37.29) and was dropped for the Sheffield Shield final. Shortly afterwards he made the defining choice of his cricket career committing

to Kent - 'having enjoyed my cricket in England, I decided to stay here'. Till then he had never considered becoming a professional cricketer. Kent offered considerably (four times) more money than Western Australia but it seemed he valued the sense of security and belonging in Kent. Unlike some, he welcomed the constant travel and matches that county cricket involved. 'Kent.. have become the settled family McCague never had' (*Independent* July 1993).

1992 was dramatic: 'rarely has the fortune of a team been shaped so completely by the form of one player' (*Trophies and tribulations – a detailed inside account of 40 years of Kent cricket*). By the end of June he had taken 6 wickets at an average of 96. At Chelmsford against that year's champions he had figures of 0-117 as Essex scored 526 and won by an innings. Then everything came together for McCague and, as a consequence, Kent. He reduced Somerset from 49-1 to 62-6 with a spell of 5-1 in 17 balls and started August with a Sunday league hat-trick (Cotter, Metson and Barwick) at Swansea. At Canterbury against Hampshire he won his cap and 'big, fast and uncomplicated' took 8-26 (including the first three for 4 in 16 balls). He took 7-52 on a Leicester pitch *Wisden* described as 'bland before he bowled' and 10-86 against Gloucestershire including one of his signature spells, 5-7 in 23 balls. Kent rose from 13th to 2nd in the championship. As well as 57 first class wickets McCague took 49 List A wickets (in no other season was he to take more than 26).

In 1993 he again started slowly but 'regained his rhythm' with 5-33 in an innings win against Durham and 5-34 (including a spell of 5-10) v Derbyshire. A week later 'despite having to temper his ferocity to the constraints of one-day cricket' McCague took 5-26 against Middlesex in the Nat West. That weekend he was picked for his debut against Australia at Trent Bridge in a team with three debutants and four others sharing just seven caps. The previous four wickets England had taken in the series had cost 812. McCague bowled with great pace and much better than his 4-121 (including Taylor, Boon and Steve Waugh) suggests. He impressed the last England bowler to bowl as fast (Willis, a man not known for extravagant praise who predicted 'we will hear a lot more about McCague before the series is out') whilst David Frith compared his pace to (Australians) Cotter and Miller. But McCague played the next test at Headingley with a stress fracture of the ankle, had figures of 0-115 in Australia's 653-4 and did not play again that season.

With hindsight, some now question his selection for the 1994-95 tour of Australia. In fact it came after a season in which, despite missing 10 weeks early on with a shoulder injury, he took 57 wickets in 10 matches at 19.01 (behind just Ambrose and Walsh in the averages). He took 17 wickets in successive matches against two of his favourite opponents (Gloucestershire and Hampshire) and then (in front of the selectors) 15-147 on, said the Kent Annual, 'a Derby pitch that was not as well suited to pace as usual'.

McCague arrived in Australia to vilification from the tabloids, one of which infamously dubbed him 'the rat who joined the sinking ship'. At a dinner in the British embassy the Australian Prime Minister (Bob Hawke) told him he was proud of what McCague had achieved in England. Ten minutes later McCague was verbally abused by a taxi driver 'you're that bloody English traitor'. He took 5-31 against South Australia and, with Malcolm unavailable with chickenpox, McCague's selection for the first test at Brisbane was no surprise. Unfortunately he lost his length and line and his 2-96 flattered him. Atherton, the captain, said McCague was 'overawed' but Fraser's 'performance of heart and substance' at Sydney put McCague 'to shame'. He was unfit to bowl in Australia's second innings with a ('convenient' to some) stomach upset, explained by eating too many oysters at an official function. Soon afterwards McCague sustained an injury acceptable to all (a stress fracture of his shin) and flew home, never to play for England again.

England's loss was Kent's gain. In 1995 he took 50 wickets before returning to Australia to play again for Melbourne CC. He took fewer wickets than before (he said he didn't win any lbw decisions) but was well prepared for the 1996 season when he took 76 wickets. *Wisden* said he carried the burden of Kent's attack and 'bowled with great enthusiasm and no little hostility'. The general statistics are good but individual performances were even better. When things 'clicked', his pace increased and he took wickets in clusters that turned matches Kent's way. A prime example came at Canterbury in September.

Hampshire, chasing 299, were 143-1. Within half an hour they had lost as McCague took the next five wickets for just 3 in 17 balls including a hat trick (Kendall, Aymes and Mascarenhas) 'the best spell of fast bowling I have ever seen' said Marsh who stood four yards further back than normal.

Marsh had become Kent captain in 1996 and it's likely that this benefitted 'probably my best pal in the side' McCague. 'I knew how to get this talented and aggressive fast-bowler firing'. Their loud on-field exchanges (with no offence taken on either side) were sometimes very noticeable to the crowd who waited in anticipation of the effect. Fleming, Marsh's successor as captain, could not talk to or fire up McCague in the same way.

1997 saw more brilliant bursts but the season ended in personal disaster. At Horsham Sussex, chasing 422 on a seemingly benign pitch, had moved from 151-4 to 289-4. After tea, Strang made the breakthrough and McCague, armed with the new ball and the bells of St Mary's Church pealing out behind him, ripped through the rest finishing with 7-82. His 7-50 destroyed Middlesex at Lord's. At Canterbury cricket week he took 4-81 against Essex but deserved better as two slip catches were dropped and, as the Kent Annual says, he worked up a 'fearsome pace' that is still remembered. Kent won by an innings to go top.

The next match was at Taunton. Somerset batted first and in his third over (after he had been warned following two bouncers in his previous over) McCague bowled a slow beamer and was removed from the attack by the umpire (Whitehead). There was no suggestion of deliberate intimidation, some have suggested 'yips' or a breakdown in confidence. The best view probably came from the batsman who faced him, Rob Turner. Recalling the day years later after his retirement (he made 144, his highest score in 250 first class matches) Turner said 'it just looked like he didn't know when to release the ball'. McCague did not bowl again that match or that season.

Sadly McCague was never the same bowler again. He played another four years and took another 64 wickets. There were 27 in 10 matches in 1998 (14 in the last two) before injury ended his season, 21 in 10 the following season before he underwent surgery on the left ankle that had been bothering him for two years. At the members' forum at the end of 1999 Kent captain Fleming spoke of McCague's 'crisis of confidence' two years before and suggested he 'really has done very well to get back to the level he has done'.

In 2000 McCague played just seven times but had one last match-winning spell for Kent, fittingly against his favourite opponents at Canterbury. Hampshire started the last day needing 63 with four wickets left. McCague begged to open the bowling. He could only bowl short spells and off a short run because his ankle was still troubling him but took 4-12 off 34 balls over two spells (5-52 in all) as Kent won by 15 runs. The next game against Yorkshire, also at Canterbury, saw McCague's highest first class score, 72. Needing 230 'in good batting conditions' Kent slumped against Hamilton and Hoggard to a sad 59-7 when McCague came in. He added a 'heart-stirring' 102 in 26 overs with Fleming. Some foolishly dreamt of a McCague ton and a famous victory but it wasn't to be.

In 2001 he played just two first class games and infrequently in one day cricket but the year was notable for Kent winning the Norwich Union (Sunday) League title. McCague did not play in the deciding game (only twice in the competition the whole season) but he was at the centre of the celebrations afterwards when the cup was damaged. The chief suspect said 'we won it as a team and broke it as a team'. McCague was known for his thirst, in particular for his 72 pint stag weekend in Dublin and his attempt to beat David Boon's record of most drinks (52) on a flight between England and Australia (he was apparently well ahead until his record attempt was stopped at Singapore).

In 2002 he was engaged on a match-by-match contract but did not play. It was also his benefit year which realised £131,427 (including a small amount from sales of a 'naughty and naked' calendar featuring Kent players and their partners). McCague's release by Kent was no surprise, his criticism was of the club's decision to release three young players (Hockley, Banes and Golding) at the same time.

Like many fast bowlers, McCague's career was affected by injury. These often come from the nature of bowling fast and this was particularly true of McCague. He did not have a smooth, 'repeatable' run up and delivery. His long, 'apologetic' run up culminated in a heavy landing of a delivery stride (he weighed 17 stone). His left ankle bore the brunt of the impact and it was no coincidence that most of his injuries were to this ankle.

McCague's basic method of bowling was pace and bounce. He sometimes obtained some movement off the seam but not swing. His method was in contrast to the accuracy and swing of his fellow opening bowler and friend Alan Igglesden whom he described as the 'perfect foil'. McCague was an attacking bowler with little concern for containment. It meant he could prove expensive in first class cricket and his economy rate in List A cricket was relatively high.

His wickets tended to come in short spells at different points of an innings and there were no regular victims. However he had notable success against two teams over his career - Hampshire (48 wickets average 14.12) and Gloucestershire (39 at 14.41). McCague's 8-26, only first class hat trick and last great performance all came against Hampshire at Canterbury. As Kent's main home ground Canterbury provided him with most wickets (153, the next most, 22, came at Leicester). There were times when he seemed to thrive and pick up pace in the familiar surroundings charging in down the slope from the Nackington Road end. Perhaps with heightened imagination, those in the Canterbury Week CAMRA tent felt McCague bowled particularly fast when his run-up started in front of them.

Since his retirement the drinks industry has become his employment and cricket his hobby. He worked for Shepheard Neame (2002-10) and then for two other drinks' wholesalers. Between 2002-05 he appeared for Herefordshire, making 67 off 41 balls (with 5 sixes) and taking seven wickets on his debut. He played Kent League cricket for Gore Court in Sittingbourne taking five or more wickets in an innings seven times in 2002.

In 2010 he joined Leeds and Broomfield near Maidstone (where his sons, Monte and Clarry, were playing) 'to enjoy my cricket again and help nurture the youngsters'. By now he only bowled spin, 'I was just there to encourage and coach in match conditions, along with opening the batting'. He scored over 5,000 runs for the club, with 11 centuries. Two were double centuries, 210\* against Harvel in 2006 (two sixes and 40 fours) and, in 2011, a club record 234\* against Wye (14 fours and 29 sixes). Off the field he helped arrange fundraising matches involving old England and Kent players. He now only plays in an emergency but is still actively involved as a watcher, occasional umpire and cricket week committee member. His sons are both club regulars (Clarry scored over 1,000 runs in 2022), many of their teammates are the youngsters their father nurtured. In 2023 they reached the final of the Voneus Village Cup at Lord's.

McCague summed up his career in the 2002 Kent Annual 'I could easily have bowled within myself and not broken down. That's not the way I work'. It wasn't. At his best he was willing and able to play through pain to win matches, thrillingly, for Kent. That (along with how much he has put back into the game since) is how he should be remembered.

*John Winnifrith.*

*Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

**Anthony William Haward Mallett (No. 611).**

*Born:* 29.08.1924, Dulwich, London; *Died:* 10.12. 1994; Rosebank, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium/off spin bowler.

Kent 1946-1953. Kent cap 1949.

Educated: Dulwich College & Brasenose College, Oxford.

Parents: Wilfred Haward Mallett & Lucy Kathleen Mallett (née Honeysett).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	33	46	4	793	97	18.88	0	1	19
<b>Overall</b>	75	108	14	1764	97	18.76	0	5	62

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6501	264	2658	72	36.91	5-115	2	0
<b>Overall</b>	15005	687	5748	213	26.98	6-42	9	0

A powerful straight hitter and a bowler capable of long, accurate spells of mainly in-swing varied with a straight faster ball, Tony Mallett hardly lived up to his early promise. Rarely can one school have possessed two all-rounders of the quality of Mallett and Trevor Bailey at Dulwich between 1939 and 1942. Serving together in the Royal Marines, although Bailey went on to greater fame in Test cricket, during their school careers 'Chopper' Mallett was never far behind him – second to Bailey in the batting averages in 1941 and 1942, first in the bowling to Bailey's third in 1941, second to Bailey in 1939 and 1942. Early in their careers, a stage when Bailey was in his own estimation 'just a tearaway fast bowler', some respected judges considered Mallett the more promising. Bailey captained Dulwich in 1942, Mallett in 1943. In 1942 Mallett was chosen for The Rest v Lord's Schools and Public Schools v a Lord's Eleven, both at Lord's.

The son of a clerk in the Metropolitan Water Board, Mallett was a year younger than Bailey who had preceded him into the marines. Mallett played a great deal of high-class wartime cricket, for services sides including Combined Services, the Commandos, Royal Navy and Second Army as well as for Sir Pelham Warner's Eleven, various Lord's Elevens, Club Cricket Conference, Surrey Colts and his own club Beckenham. Between 1943 and 1944 he was four times chosen for 'England' at Lord's.

In 1945 with Bailey, he played his first first-class match, under 33 v Over 33 at Lord's, emerging with match figures of 8 for 117 and hitting 52\* out of 75 in 28 minutes against an attack including George Pope, Laurie Gray, Jack Young, James Langridge and Kent's Jack Davies. He also appeared in a one-day match for Kent v Northamptonshire at Beckenham, his first match for the County although he had been in a combined Kent & Surrey side at Lord's in 1943 and a combined Kent and Essex team on the same ground in the following season.

While still serving as a Lieutenant in the Royal Marines, Mallett played in Kent's opening post-war fixture in 1946, v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge, the first of 15 appearances that year, the nearest he would ever come to a full county season but, after some early troubles with direction, he bowled steadily and played one outstanding innings, 97 against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, scored out of 128 in 68 minutes with two huge straight sixes and 10 fours. He was selected for the MCC against the Indian tourists, regarded at the time as virtually a Test Trial, for Gentlemen v Players and three times for Combined Services. In all first-class cricket he scored 561 runs (avge.18.70) and took 51 wickets (avge.30.49) – 413 runs and 29 wickets for Kent. His best bowling was 4 for 45 for Combined Services against Oxford University in the Parks and 5 for 33 for MCC v Sussex at Hastings.

On going up to Oxford in 1947 Mallett's was one of the first Blues awarded. Although only once passing 50, batting down the order, he contributed several hard hit 30s and headed the bowling averages with 46 wickets (avge.18.91) including two match winning performances – 6 for 76 including three wickets in four balls against Leicestershire in the Parks and 5 for 42 v Worcestershire at New Road. Strong, well-built and extremely fit – he liked to play a couple of games of squash (for which he won a Blue) before taking the field – when Lancashire totalled 512-8 in the Parks, he took 6 for 111 in 37 overs.

Less appreciated by teammates was a superstitious insistence on wearing the same shirt and socks for 'matches on end' His socks were reputed to stand up unaided. For MCC he took 5 for 55 against the South Africans but again failed to impress for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's. In five games for Kent he took eight expensive wickets and seems at this time with losing not so much length as direction.

A second Oxford season was less successful with only 19 wickets and no innings of consequence until the University match when, against an attack spearheaded by Trevor Bailey, he hit 57 in an eighth-wicket partnership of 112 in 50 minutes with Hubert Webb (145\*).

With his time occupied by a career in teaching, between 1949 and 1953 Mallett played only 13 more games for Kent, usually in August. His last season for Kent was 1953 when he played seven matches, hit seven scores of between 21\* and 33, and took 17 wickets including 3 for 16 v Somerset at Dover and on his last appearance, against Lindsay Hassett's Australians, claimed the wickets of Jim de Courcy and Alan Davidson. Much in demand for festival cricket, he played at Hastings in 1946, 1948 and 1949, Scarborough in 1947 and Kingston-upon-Thames in 1952.

He toured Canada with MCC in 1951 and played his last first-class match, MCC v Ireland, at College Park, Dublin in 1954. As well as MCC, his other clubs included Free Foresters and Old Alleynians. A distinguished career in teaching embraced Dulwich, Haileybury where he was master-in-charge of cricket, Vice Principal, Peterhouse College, Zimbabwe and for 18 years Principal of Diocesan College, Cape Town. His son Nicholas won a cricket Blue at Oxford and played Rugby for South Africa.

#### **Steven Andrew Marsh (No. 730).**

*Born:* 27.01.1961, Chelsea & Westminster Hospital.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1982-1999. Kent County Cap 1986.

County Captain 1996-1998.

Educated: Waterslade Senior School, Medway College for Further Education

Parents: Melvyn Graham Marsh & Valerie Ann Marsh (née Box).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	291	429	69	10098	142	28.05	9	55	688/61

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	202	5	240	2	120.00	2-20		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	311	223	63	2929	71	18.30	0	6	317/34
<b>Overall</b>	313	25	65	2983	71	18.64	0	6	320/34

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9	0	14	1	14.00	1-3		

Steve Marsh succeeded Alan Knott as Kent's wicketkeeper between 1986-99. He never played for England (unlike eight of his predecessors, two of them after leaving Kent) but he became the first wicket keeper to be appointed official Kent captain. In 1997 he led perhaps the best Kent side of the last 40



years to three painful near misses only to be sacked the following year. In 1991 he set a unique record, eight catches in an innings followed by a century.

Marsh's family moved from London to Kent (Waterslade near Chatham) when he was seven. As a boy he saw cricket as the filler between football seasons and what cricket he played was for his father's team (Lordswood Second XI), where an energetic fielder was no doubt welcome. At 15 he volunteered to replace the regular keeper who was injured mid-match. He took four catches and kept the role. He joined The Mote club in Maidstone where he was spotted by Brian Luckhurst, then Acting Kent Cricket Manager. He made his 2nd XI debut in 1981, at Bristol against Gloucestershire, featuring a 17 year old keeper, Jack Russell. In 1982 Marsh signed for Kent without ever having played representative cricket. He felt this reduced the burden of expectation but, it seems, increased his sense of being an outsider.

In 1982 Kent still had Knott. Marsh joined the other reserve wicket keeper, Stuart Waterton, on a four year apprenticeship until Knott retired at the end of the 1985 season. In that time Marsh played 11 first class games with 29 dismissals and a top score of 48 (Waterton 13 games, 28 dismissals, top score 50). The club seemed undecided as to the chosen successor. Waterton was seen by many as the better batsman and was Tavare's choice. Cowdrey (who succeeded Tavare as captain in 1985) preferred Marsh, seeing his 48 (made against Richard Hadlee in a season he took 117 wickets ave.14) as evidence of maturity and the fighting qualities he was after. Marsh became Kent's keeper and Waterton left for Northamptonshire.

Benefitting from some coaching from Bob Woolmer over the winter, Marsh scored 857 runs at 30.60 in 1986. As throughout his career, his runs often came when most needed (for instance 61 out of 140 at Trent Bridge). A week later, at Folkestone, Warwickshire made 267 (six dismissals for Marsh) and Kent were 224-6 when Marsh came in. His top score of the season (70) helped Kent to a lead of 95, enough for an innings win as Warwickshire were dismissed for 65 (Underwood 7-11 off 35.5 overs).

Kent lost again (the third in four years) in a Lord's final. After Middlesex were kept to 199 -7 off their 55 overs (Marsh three catches and a run out of the top scorer Radley) Kent needed 14 off the last over in pouring rain with Marsh facing. A huge six (third ball) into the top tier of the Warner gave Kent fans hope but, with five needed off the last ball, Kent lost by two runs.

In 1987 Marsh's batting average fell to 18.68 and his total dismissals from 51 to 41. Kent slumped to 14th with just two wins. Their first match (an innings victory at Canterbury over Glamorgan when Marsh, 72\*, added 162 with Chris Cowdrey, 100) was a false dawn. In a wet and miserable fortnight in June, Marsh had a four match sequence of 0\*/0/DNB/0.

Marsh, if not Kent, started 1988 better. At Chelmsford, coming in at 122-6 with another 94 needed to avoid an innings defeat, he scored his first century (120) adding 222 with Graham Cowdrey (145). Kent still lost as Essex reached the 170 required in under 22 overs. Four weeks later he became Kent's fifth centurion of the match against Oxford University (not all his runs were made in crisis situations). Marsh's average rose to 24.58 and his dismissals to 61. Kent's bowling performance improved helped by the greater emphasis on fielding introduced by Kent short-term coach that season, John Inverarity.

The Kent annual report for 1989 said Marsh 'kept wicket extremely well' but 'did not score as many runs as he sometimes does'. It was a poor season for Kent (15th). 1990 was even worse (16th) but in a year of exceptionally high run-scoring, Marsh's average rose from 24.56 to 33.74. His best performances were when most needed, his one century (114\* against Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells) came out of total of 275. His 61 (out of a 'pitiful' 140) secured a draw against Middlesex at Canterbury (they finished six short of victory) all this after Simon Hinks and Neil Taylor had added 366 in the first innings.

In 1991 Benson became captain and Marsh vice-captain. On the first and third of June Marsh made history at Lord's. Replying to Kent's 160, Middlesex ended the first day 93-7 with six catches for Marsh. There was widespread press coverage of this feat – the record then was eight dismissals in an

innings (achieved twice) - and some extra Kent fans went to Lord's that Saturday. Marsh took the next two catches but was left 'one yard from leading the list' (*Wisden*) after a brilliant one-handed slip catch by the substitute fielder (Fleming). The Kent annual suggested none of the catches 'really tested Marsh', Marsh himself said six were regulation and only two hard. Resuming 57\* on Monday (after a Sunday match at Southgate) he completed his century (108\*). Benson's declaration (setting 343 off 62 overs) came too late to win the match. The Tunbridge Wells festival started the next day and Marsh made a duck.

There were other fine performances by Marsh that year. He made 83 at Southend and Kent won after declaration bowling – the Kent annual hedged its bets describing the match as either cricket 'as its worst' or a 'triumph for positive cricket'. Three-day cricket was certainly shown at its best as Somerset finished on 242-9 chasing 244 (Tavare 100\*) after Marsh's 113. Kent were at their best and worst at Leicester when, after six catches for Marsh, they followed on, declared at 403-4 and lost.

In 1991, aged 30 Marsh was reaching his prime and was bitterly disappointed, especially as Kent keeper, not to be picked for England – 'I broke the dynasty'. He expected to be picked for The Oval Test against West Indies when Russell was dropped. Stewart, who took on the additional role, was not then as good a keeper as he became but 'given the selectors' wish to strengthen the batting' it is not clear why Marsh should have replaced Russell. Other candidates, such as Steve Rhodes and Warren Hegg, were seen at the time as more likely options. Marsh's bad luck in never playing for England was probably due more to the timing of his peak than the whims of the selectors.

The next two years each saw another Marsh hundred and another title missed. In 1992, the hundred was against Yorkshire, 125 adding 235 with Graham Cowdrey, the title missed, another Lord's final lost (by 41 runs). In 1993 he scored 111 against the Zimbabweans (who had the previous winter become a test-playing nation). Marsh came in at 23-4, which became 82-6 before he added 166 (out of the total of 264) with Duncan Spencer. Spencer's bowling to Viv Richards (along with the crowd of 12 000) provided the highlights of the last-game decider a week later in the AXA Equity and Law League against Glamorgan at Canterbury (lost by 6 wickets). In a foretaste of what was to come, Marsh captained Kent in this game as Benson was missing with a knee injury.

In 1994 there were no centuries but Marsh's 85\* and nine dismissals (eight, including a stumping, off spinners Hooper and Patel) against Durham at Canterbury led to Kent's seventh successive win (in all matches) under Marsh's captaincy and ended a run of seven first class games in which Marsh made 46 dismissals (43c/3st). In all Marsh made 74 dismissals (69ct/5st) which remains the highest in a season for Kent since 1967.

1995 was Marsh's benefit year (which realised £151, 574). Like others, he found this affected his performance. His average dropped from 32 to 27 and he only made 34 dismissals although this was more consequence than cause of Kent's woeful Championship season. Kent were much more successful in one day cricket. Marsh was captain in yet another Lord's defeat (by 35 runs) which featured one of best innings played in a Lord's final (de Silva) and a controversial umpiring decision (Cowdrey's lbw). After an innings defeat to Warwickshire (confirming last spot for the first time in 100 years whilst Warwickshire celebrated the title) Kent needed to win their last Sunday League game the next day to clinch their first title for 17 years. Kent lost but won the title on run rate as (title rivals) Worcestershire's game was rained off. The large Canterbury crowd spent an hour watching a heavy Kent defeat waiting for the celebrations to start.

That game proved to be Benson's last, and Kent had little choice but to appoint Marsh, a successful vice-captain for the previous five years, as his successor (although his appointment was not formally made until the end of the 1996 season). The team had made a substantial improvement to move up to 4th in the Championship (based, said *Wisden*, 'on their spirit and determination to succeed') and looked a different side in the field. Marsh had another moderate year with the bat (just 478 runs) but his 127 in an innings win at a freezing cold Ilford was a highlight (as was the rapid Kent over rate). Kent briefly went top at the end of August, but Leicestershire won their game in hand and the title.

In 1997 Kent 'turned coming second into an art form' (*Wisden*). At Horsham in May Marsh made his highest first class score (142) in an 'extraordinary' last wicket partnership of 183 with Ben Phillips turning likely defeat into victory. At Maidstone, after a double declaration, Northamptonshire's last pair needed 15 off two overs and four off the last ball (which went to the fine leg boundary). Marsh declared against Leicestershire when he was 98\* but the match was drawn. At Lord's Kent won by four runs second ball after lunch (when hardly anyone seemed to move from their seats). At Taunton Kent needed seven to win off the last over (bowled by Mike Burns) then three of the final ball with Marsh facing. He made two, earning eight points for finishing level rather than 16 for the win.

On 9 September Kent remained top of the championship and the AXA Life Sunday league. A draw at Headingley meant the lead and, the following week, the Championship went to Worcestershire by four points. The day after their draw Kent needed to win their last Sunday game at Headingley for the title. Marsh helped stretch Kent's score from 124-7 to 185-7 but it never looked enough. In July Kent had also yet again lost a Lord's final (by 8 wickets to Surrey). The Kent Annual paid tribute to 'one of the most enthusiastic and inspirational captains in the game'. A year later it reported his sacking.

In 1998 successes - an innings win against Durham (Marsh 92) and a 292 run win against Hampshire (Marsh seven catches) both at Canterbury – were rare. Team spirit had declined which Marsh put down to Hooper's interest in money rather than the team and Fleming's lobbying for the captaincy. Hooper's 'man apart' reputation has been well documented and Fleming made no secret of his captaincy ambitions. Marsh felt his 'dodgy mullet' and Medway accent were judged unfairly by the Kent committee (especially when set against someone from Eton and the Royal Green Jackets) but this may reflect more how he rather than the committee viewed things. A sacking can be harsh, unfair even, without necessarily being based on class prejudice.

He turned down an approach from Middlesex to stay on at Kent. Though as competitive as ever there were few highlights in 1999, 466 runs, 35 dismissals. His last first-class innings was 60 against Gloucestershire at Canterbury, adding 122 with Fleming. That winter when Paul Nixon's contract talks at Leicestershire stalled, Fleming was first to call him offering to double his salary. Nixon duly signed as wicket keeper. Marsh captained the Kent Second XI to another runner up spot in the Championship, hit 196\* in the one day trophy at Chelmsford and mentored Kent's new wicket keeper, Geraint Jones (Nixon went back to Leicestershire at the end of the following season). Marsh was called up to the one day team, as specialist batsman and, having announced his retirement, happily finished with a standing ovation at Canterbury and his first ever man of the match award in Kent's televised win at Worcester that avoided relegation.

Marsh scored most runs (787) against Essex, they were also the only team he scored two hundreds against. He was dismissed most often by Phil Tufnell (six times) and five times by Fraser, Walsh, Hemmings and De Freitas. Most dismissals (63) and three of the ten occasions he took seven or more dismissals in a match were against Hampshire. McCague (87) and Igglesden (86) provided him with most catches, Davis and Patel (both 19) with most stumpings.

After his retirement Marsh became Events Director for the Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) where he helped set up the PCA Masters Cricket matches. Since 2010 he has worked in the City running a team of traders and as a foreign exchange broker. From 2000 to 2018 he played regularly for Gore Court in Sittingbourne. Cricket Archive records 10 hundreds and 35 other scores over 50. McCague played with him between 2002-2008 as did, between 2003-04, his old rival as Alan Knott's successor, Stuart Waterton. Neither of them kept wicket for Gore Court.

*John Winnifrith.*

*Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010  
Marsh, Steve. *The Gloves are Off*, West Ridge Books, 2001

**Anthony Granville Marshall (No. 640).**

*Born:* 10. 09. 1932: Isleworth, Middlesex. *Died:* 05. 12. 1988: Bristol, Gloucestershire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1950-1954.

Second Eleven Cap. 1950.

Educated: Chatham House, Ramsgate.

Parents: Frank Colville Marshall & Alice Beatrice Marshall (*née* Beldam)

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	9	1	29	7	3.62	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	6	11	1	37	7	3.70	0	0	1

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	714	27	308	7	44.00	4-50	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	936	41	399	13	30.69	6-53	1	0

**List A Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	3	3	1	41	31*	20.50	0	0	0

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	228	7	100	3	33.33	3-36	0	2.63

Short for a pace bowler at around five feet nine (175.2 cm) but strongly built, Anthony Marshall was in the Eleven at Chatham House and played his first game for Kent Club & Ground in 1948. In the following season he made his Second Eleven debut, against Surrey Second Eleven at The Oval, and quickly established himself as a regular opening bowler, ending the season leading wicket taker in both Second Eleven and Club & Ground matches.

In 1950 further success for the Second Eleven brought three first team appearances but with moderate results, two wickets at a cost of 212 runs. For the Second Eleven he was again the most successful bowler with 47 wickets (avge.22.00), enough to earn him his Second Eleven cap. Against Surrey Seconds at The Oval he took 5 for 69 and 3 for 40 and at Aylesford against Wiltshire, the county with which he would be associated for most of his life, he had match figures of 11 for 100.

At this point in Marshall's career National Service intervened and, apart from a solitary Second Eleven game in 1952, he did not appear in a Kent team again until he was demobilised in 1953. Back opening the bowling for the Second Eleven, he was again leading wicket taker with 47 wickets including 11 for 104 v Middlesex Second Eleven at Teddington There was one call for first team duty, against Cambridge University at Folkestone where he achieved his best performance, 4 for 50.

In 1954 Marshall was leading Second Eleven wicket taker for the third time with 8 for 64 v Sussex Seconds at Hove among his 46 wickets. He claimed another 43 in Club & Ground matches but in his

only first-class appearance, against Oxford University in the Parks, he failed to take a wicket and at the end of the season he was not re-engaged.

In the following year he played his first game for Wiltshire. Settled in Chippenham where he was a solicitor's clerk, between 1955 and 1970 he took 58 wickets for Wiltshire, second only to James Merryweather as the highest in the club's history. Four times he claimed over 50 wickets in a season, six times headed the bowling averages, eight times leading wicket-taker.

He was three times chosen for Minor Counties representatives sides. Against Pakistan at Swindon in 1967, his last appearance in first-class cricket, he took 6 for 53. In a two-day (non-first-class) match against the Australians at Torquay in 1968 his 5 for 63 included the wickets of Bob Cowper and Bill Lawry. A stalwart and long-term captain of the Chippenham Town club, he appeared on nine occasions in Midland Club Cricket Conference representative sides.

In 1962 he married Pauline Everett in Stepney.

**Algernon James Bullock Marsham (No. 623).**

*Born:* 14.08. 1919, Chart Sutton, *Died:* 11.02 2004, Hastings, East Sussex.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1946-1947.

Educated: Eton College & Christ Church, Oxford.

Parents: Cloudlessly Henry Bullock Marsham & Algitha Marsham (*née* Parker)

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	10	0	75	39	7.50	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	17	26	4	362	74*	16.45	0	2	6

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	276	3	197	5	39.40	3-54	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	2058	24	1381	35	39.45	5-136	1	0

The son of Kent's first Championship winning captain, great-nephew of George Marsham (*q.v.*) and grandson of Rev C.D.B. Marsham (Oxford University), Algernon Marsham was in the Eleven at Eton from 1936 to 1938. Going up to Oxford in 1939, he came into the side in place of the off spinner David Hayward when the programme was almost half completed but 5 for 136 against Free Foresters on his first appearance and another 18 wickets in the next four fixtures were enough to earn him his Blue. In all, his haul was 25 although the Oxford averages printed in *Wisden* credit him with only 15. In July he played his first game for Kent Second Eleven, scoring 53 and taking five wickets against Sussex Seconds at Littlehampton. In July that year he took 23 wickets in a three match tour of the Netherlands with Eton Ramblers.

On the outbreak of war Marsham enlisted in the King's Royal Rifle Corps (60th Rifles). He served with the Regiment's Ninth (The Rangers) Battalion in Greece where, as part of the rear guard of First Armoured Brigade, it suffered heavy casualties during the retreat to the coast. Evacuated to Crete, it was attached to First Battalion Welch Regiment in the Suda Bay area. Following the decision to evacuate the island, due to shortage of shipping only 14 of the battalion escaped and Marsham, by now a Captain, was taken prisoner and spent the rest of the war in Germany, mostly in Oflag 7B in Bavaria.

Repatriated in 1945, he marked his return in August with appearances for 'Lord's Elevens' against the Public Schools and Central Mediterranean Force. In 1946 while still in the Army, he was in the MCC team for the opening game of the season against Surrey and was also picked for MCC against the Indian

tourists. The game was widely viewed as being in the nature of a Test Trial but his was a curious selection and his contribution was relatively modest, the wicket of V.S. Hazare for 69 runs. Batting number nine in one of several games for Combined Services, he hit 74\* against Oxford University in the Parks, his personal highest. He also played once for the Army.

In August he made his debut for Kent, against Leicestershire at Grace Road, but failed to take a wicket. In 1947 Marsham made five first team appearances for Kent, in all but one wicketless. Against Nottinghamshire at Gravesend he took 3 for 54 and 2 for 32 including the prized wickets of Joe Hardstaff and Reg Simpson in both innings. For the Second Eleven he took seven relatively inexpensive wickets and scored four half centuries in his first four matches - 68 v Gloucestershire at Beckenham, 61 at The Oval, 53 in the return at Sittingbourne and 91 v Wiltshire at Broadstairs. He also hit 90 for MCC at Lord's against the Club Cricket Conference.

When at the end of the 1947 season Bryan Valentine announced his intention of standing down as captain, Marsham was considered as a possible successor if, according to the committee minutes, 'suitable employment could be found in the area'. Nothing further was heard of the proposal and an earlier approach from Northamptonshire was similarly abortive.

He ultimately made his career in farming although he also had racing interests. For some years he was race commentator at Ascot. As well as Eton Ramblers and MCC, Marsham played for the Band of Brothers 'junior' section the BaBes and subsequently for BB, Buccaneers, and the Mote. He habitually wore the cufflinks presented to his father for winning the 1906 championship.

### **Kevin David Masters (733).**

*Born:* 22.04.1978. Chatham.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1983-1984

Educated: Fort Luton High School, Chatham.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	7	1	1	1	0.16	0	0	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	449	11	294	6	49.00	2-26		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	14	7	5	12	4*	6.00	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	33	0	27	0			0	4.90
<b>Overall</b>	675	17	360	8	45.00	2-52	0	3.20

Coming to Kent via the Lordswood club, Kevin Masters made his Second Eleven debut in 1981 and in 1982 played in all sixteen Second Eleven Championship matches, taking 33 wickets at the rather high cost of 40.18 each. He began the 1983 Second Eleven season with 5 for 33 against Surrey at Orpington, followed with 7 for 103 v Essex Seconds at Leyton, 6 for 51 v Hampshire at Bournemouth and finished

top of the averages with 50 wickets (avge.19.60) plus another13 in the one-day Aon Trophy and some economical bowling in the Warwick Pool Under-25 Competition. This form earned a late season call up for two first team matches. He failed to take a wicket on debut at Bournemouth but took 2 inexpensive wickets against Leicestershire at Grace Road.

Despite some problems with his run up, Masters had another good Second Eleven season in 1984, once again leading wicket taker with 48 in the Championship at 24.77. With Kent's new ball attack in the hands of Terry Alderman, Kevin Jarvis, Richard Ellison and Chris Penn, first team opportunities were limited but in two matches, against Somerset at Taunton and Sri Lanka at Canterbury, he took four wickets including the prized scalps of Peter Roebuck and IT Botham.

Masters had one more season on the staff in 1985 but, although again leading wicket taker, apart from 4 for 55 and 4 for 32 against Lancashire Second Eleven at Canterbury, days of success were infrequent and in Championship games his total of no-balls (46) exceeded wickets (27). At the end of the season he was released as 'chances of First Eleven cricket were deemed remote'. 1986 was spent with Surrey where he failed to progress beyond the Second Eleven and in 1990 he made two further appearances for Kent Second Eleven. In 1995-1996 he bowled economically for Cambridgeshire in the Minor County Championship and Trophy competitions and between 1998 and 2002 featured regularly in the Kent Cricket Board Eleven, on one occasion playing alongside son David who made his debut for Kent in 2000.

Throughout his career Kevin Masters retained contact with the Lordswood Club and appeared for them in the Final of the Evening Standard Challenge Trophy in 2003 when he took 4 for 36 and in the Cockspur Cup in 2004 when he had figures of 6-4-3-2 v Chingford, 8-4-10-2 v Eastcote, 9-2-22-3 v Potters Bar and 9-2-24-2 v Gidea Park. In 1994 he represented the Kent League against the Southern League in the Club Cricket Conference Inter League Competition. He owns and manages a construction company in Chatham.

### **Richard Mayes (No. 626).**

*Born:* 07. 10.1922, Littlebourne. *Died:* 03. 07.2013, Woolverstone, Ipswich, Suffolk.

Right-handed batsman. occasional wicketkeeper.

Kent 1947-1953. Kent county cap 1952

Educated: Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury.

Parents: Frank Michael Mayes & Daisy May Mayes (late Martin née Turner).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	80	144	7	2689	134	19.62	4	7	28

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	60	2	46	0				

Stylish and technically correct, Dickie Mayes greatly impressed as shrewd a judge as Andrew Sandham yet, although he hit four hundreds for Kent, three in one season, in 51% of his first-class innings he failed to reach double figures, on 23 occasions without scoring. Although acknowledged as a nervous starter - six years in the Army would not have helped - he remains one of the most baffling enigmas of the immediate post-war years.

The son of a dairyman, he was in the Eleven at school and had experience against mature opposition with St. Lawrence when, he came for a trial aged 16 and a half, originally as a leg-spinner. He joined the Nursery staff in 1939, making one (non-Championship) Second Eleven appearance against Middlesex at Canterbury (run out for eight). Further development ended abruptly with the outbreak of

war but during service as a tank driver with the Royal Tank Regiment in North Africa he was fortunate enough to play a lot of cricket for services sides including the Army (Egypt) and travelling as far south as Kenya. On returning to England, he scored 18 opening the batting for the Rest against Kent at Canterbury in August 1945, one of only three to achieve double figures when Norman Harding captured all ten.

Demobilised and back on the staff in 1947, he played for St Lawrence against the Club & Ground in the opening fixture of the season and in June made the first of his five first team appearances, bowled for 0 by Vince Broderick at Gravesend, followed by 0 and 14 at Trent Bridge, 0 and 5 at Bristol, 14 against Derbyshire at Abbeydale Park, and 0 again at Hull. In the Seconds he did better with 313 runs (avge.23.10) with a best performance of 68\* and 47 against Sussex at Aylesford. For the Club & Ground he hit two centuries, 158\* at Dartford and 122\* v St George's Ramsgate.

In seven first team appearances over the next two years Mayes could still not get started. Given the chance to open, he three times reached 30 but at the end of 1949, his third season, his highest score was still only 37. For the Second Eleven he did better scoring 673 runs (avge.37.30) in 1949 with a maiden century - 142 against Wiltshire at Canterbury - when he shared an opening partnership of 253 with Tony Woollett (110). In 1950 he continued to excel in Second Eleven matches with two successive centuries and second highest scorer with 479 runs (avge.43.54) but, despite 65 v Sussex at Gillingham, he was unable to hold down a first team place, playing only nine matches and only once more exceeding 30.

An innings of 133 in five and a half-hours against Hampshire at Southampton in his first match of the 1951 season promised better things but once again promise was not quite fulfilled. Although he played in 21 matches and hit 97 against Glamorgan at Swansea and a fourth-wicket partnership of 179 with Brian Edrich (104), there were 22 scores under 20, including a pair (one run out) against Somerset at Bath and a final return of 736 runs (22.30) could only be judged disappointing.

In 1952 he seemed at times to have turned the corner with almost 1,000 runs (934 avge.23.35) but still too often a good innings was followed by failure. He hit 106 v Glamorgan at Gravesend in a partnership of 221 for the sixth-wicket with Brian Edrich (110), 134 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells where he put on 233, again for the sixth-wicket, with Bill Murray-Wood (107) as well as 105 v Warwickshire at Coventry and 88\* v Northants at Wantage Road but these were interspersed with 21 single figure scores including seven ducks.

The pattern persisted into 1953. He began with 44 and 30 v Warwickshire at Edgbaston and followed with 93 v Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge where he shared a 236 run fourth-wicket partnership with Arthur Fagg (269\*) but, although there were other useful innings - 78 v Hampshire at Southampton, 40 and 42 v Essex at Romford - there was a spell in mid-season when his highest score in ten innings was 23 and he finished the season, and as it turned out his Kent career, with and a pair to Jack Young against Middlesex on a turning wicket in Canterbury Week. The committee decided that Dickie Mayes had 'not shown sufficient consistency or improvement'. Nevertheless, it was not quite the end. He turned out for the Second Eleven twice more in 1954.

For most of his time with Kent Mayes had been playing professional football in the Southern League, mainly with Ramsgate but also with Canterbury City. He combined football with a variety of employment including a spell looking after the bar at Canterbury's County Hotel. In 1956 he went as coach to Woolverstone Hall School, near Ipswich, best known as the Alma Mater of Martin Offiah who played one game for Essex Second Eleven before deciding to concentrate on Rugby. Although perhaps less well-known, Mayes' most successful pupil was Folkestone-born Graham Barlow who went on to make 239 appearances for Middlesex and three for England.

While at Woolverstone Dickie Mayes made 53 appearances for Suffolk between 1957 and 1963 scoring 2,786 runs (avg.30.61) with three centuries and 19 half centuries. His highest score, 106 v Buckinghamshire at Ipswich in 1962 was in a record second-wicket partnership of 239 with Ian Prior



(131\*). While at Woolverstone he played once for Northamptonshire Second Eleven, scoring 55 v Nottinghamshire. His son Brian played one List A match for Suffolk in 1980.

**James Edward Melville (No. 691).**

*Born:* 03.03.1936, Streatham, London. *Died:* 02.06. 2016, Hereford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1962-1963.

Educated: Beaumont College.

Parents: James Edward Melville & Mary Melville (*née* Moore).

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	8	4	20	6	5.00	0	0	4

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	965	53	422	14	30.14	4-78		

The son of a clerical officer in the Admiralty, James Melville was in his College Eleven in 1952 and 1953. In the latter year he headed the bowling averages with 34 wickets at 11.47 but it was on the strength of his performances as an opening bowler with Blackheath that in 1960 he was invited to play – as an amateur - for Kent Second Eleven. After an uneventful start, he created a minor sensation on his second appearance by taking 9 for 94 against a strongish Sussex Second Eleven at Hove. This remains statistically the best-ever bowling performance for Kent in Second Eleven and Minor Counties Championship cricket. Bowling a lively fast-medium with a well concealed slower ball, something of a rarity at the time, in nine matches that season he took 37 wickets (avge.16.78) with two further five wicket returns. Only leg spinner ‘Doughie’ Baker took more.

Presumably from choice, Melville played only one Second Eleven match in 1961 but his 6 for 46 for the Club Cricket Conference v the Australians at Blackheath helped to inflict on the tourists their only defeat outside the Test series. Next year, again capped by the CCC, he claimed 5 for 61 against the Pakistanis at Ealing. but played no further Second Eleven cricket. He did however make five County Championship appearances for Kent in 1962, still as an amateur. On his second, against Yorkshire at Middlesbrough, he took 3 for 28 and 4 for 78, dismissing in the process Geoffrey Boycott (bowled for 0), Phil Sharpe, John Hampshire, Doug Padgett and Vic Wilson, the two latter caught and bowled, victims of his slower ball.

Although he finished the season third in the Championship averages with 13 wickets at 27.46, the Kent CCC Annual Report was unimpressed ‘J.E.Melville, a fast-medium bowler from Blackheath, was given three or four matches but his 13 wickets cost 27.5 runs each’. Both Alan Dixon and David Sayer’s cost more than 30 runs each but the fairly obvious lack of enthusiasm might have been connected with Manager Leslie Ames’ reaction when Melville turned up 15 minutes late for his last match after a night spent driving a mini-cab.

Melville played one more game for Kent, v Somerset at Gillingham in 1963, but henceforth his cricket was confined to Blackheath and occasional matches for MCC including a match against Ireland at Lord’s in 1965. Much of his later life was spent in South Africa.

**Tyrone Anthony Merrick (No. 755).**

*Born:* 10. 06. 1963, St John’s, Antigua.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1990-1991.

Educated: All Saints Secondary School, St John’s.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	26	31	8	270	36	11.73	0	0	5
<b>Overall</b>	88	111	23	1265	74*	14.37	0	2	30

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4341	146	2275	78	29.16	7-99	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	14807	466	7918	311	25.45	7-45	15	2

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	33	16	9	96	22*	13.71	0	0	7
<b>Overall</b>	73	37	15	293	59	13.31	0	1	10

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1593	17	1180	34	34.70	4-24	0	4.44
<b>Overall</b>	3426	59	2277	84	27.10	4-24	0	3.98

Strong and heavily built, Tony Merrick came to English county cricket with excellent credentials. For the Leeward Islands between 1984 and 1989 he took 65 wickets in 22 matches. He also made four appearances for West Indies B and played for the national side at Under-19 and Under-25 level. Already familiar with English conditions following two seasons with Rawtenstall, he had twice represented the League Cricket Conference, against Zimbabwe in 1985, when he took 6 for 37 and 3 for 57 and India in 1986.

He joined Warwickshire in 1987. Despite having to share the overseas player slot with Allan Donald and consequently only playing around half a season, he headed the averages with 57 wickets (avge.25.24) plus another nine in list A matches. On an uncharacteristically pace bowler- friendly Edgbaston wicket, 1988 was another successful season with 65 wickets (avge.22.10) but 1989 saw Donald surge ahead in the pecking order and, restricted to just seven matches, he was released at the end of the season.

With persistent injuries restricting him to only seven first-class and 13 List A matches in 1990, Merrick's first season with Kent was disappointing. In all cricket he collected a relatively modest 34 wickets, 4 for 66 v Middlesex at Lord's in the Championship and 4 for 24 on debut v Essex in the Refuge Assurance Sunday League being bright spots in a fairly bleak season.

In 1991 he began well with 4 for 37 in a rain- ruined game with Hampshire at Southampton and, although expensive in limited-overs matches, he bowled steadily throughout the season in which he appeared in a total of 38 matches. In the Championship he delivered 539 first-class overs, more than anyone else, ending leading wicket-taker with 61 at 29.30.

He reserved his best performance for the very end. Already told that he would be replaced next year by Carl Hooper, as Sussex ran up a total of 436 at Hove, he produced truly heroic figures of 27-1-99-7, the match ending in a tie. Built for English conditions, the suspicion persists that Tony Merrick may still have had more to offer.

**Robert Ernest Frederick Minns (No. 683).**

*Born:* 18. 11.1940, Penang, Malaya (now Malaysia)  
 Right-handed batsman.  
 Kent 1959-1963.  
 Educated: King's School, Canterbury & Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	3	0	88	53	29.33	0	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	20	38	3	947	81	27.05	0	7	12

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Robert Minns' father was a police officer in Malaya and Singapore and, after a spell as a prisoner of Imperial Japan in the infamous Changi gaol, survived to become Deputy Commissioner of the Singapore Police. His son was an outstanding batsman at King's School, Canterbury from 1956 to 1959, scoring a century in his first season and leading the averages in 1958 and 1959. In the latter year, when he was also captain, he scored 853 runs (avge.94.77) with four centuries including 153\* in 89 minutes against Dover College.

He scored 68\* for King's School against Kent Club & Ground in 1957 as well as playing for Kent Young Amateurs and, on the strength of his record for King's in 1959 he was chosen in July for the Kent side against Leicestershire at Mote Park. Batting number four, he scored 13 and 22. He subsequently played half a dozen Second Eleven matches in which his top score was 49 against Hampshire at Basingstoke. In the traditional Lord's matches in August he was chosen to represent Southern Schools v The Rest and Public Schools v Combined Services for whom he was top scorer, 39. On finishing at King's he took a gap year in Australia.

Going up to Oxford, he won a place in the side in 1962, his second year, scoring 509 runs (avge.25.45) with a top score of 58 against Warwickshire at Edgbaston. Generally batting number six or lower, there were two other half-centuries and eleven scores between 20 and 45, a consistency which gained him his Blue. Exams restricted him to only seven first-class matches for the University in 1963 but he did enough for a second Blue, *Wisden* describing him as 'consistently reliable'.

Against Sussex at Hove he hit 81 (eleven fours) in two hours, followed by a robust 80 (top score) in the next match against Surrey at The Oval and 32 and 26\* in the following fixture v Hampshire at Dean Park. He was unfortunate in that, having scored 168 against a by no means negligible Free Foresters side in the Parks, the match was retrospectively declared by MCC to be not first-class. With Duncan Worsley (172), he had added 255 for the sixth-wicket. His highest score against Cambridge was 21 in 1963.

On coming down from Oxford, Minns had already made up his mind to settle in Australia when he was invited to play for Kent, against Nottinghamshire at the Crabble. He scored 53, adding 94 for the fifth-wicket with Mike Denness (79).

Almost immediately afterwards he left for Australia for a highly successful and hugely satisfying 22-year career as a producer of South Australian wines.

### **Robert John Morris (No. 648).**

*Born:* 27. 11. 1926, Swansea, Glamorgan. *Died:* 29. 12. 2007, Harrow, London.  
 Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.  
 Kent 1950.  
 Educated: Blundell's School & Trinity Hall, Cambridge.

Parents: William Percy Morris & Florence Emily Morris (*née* Strong)

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	2	3	0	26	16	8.66	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	22	36	2	778	96	22.88	0	4	7

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	402	19	192	2	96.00	1-38		

Bob Morris was the son of William Percy Morris, Company Secretary to a publishing company and an influential figure in Swansea cricket who played for South Wales against the South Africans in 1912, represented Glamorgan in their Minor Counties days and made 18 first-class appearances for them between 1921 and 1929. Bob Morris was in the Eleven at Blundell's from 1943 to 1945, captain in 1945 when he headed both batting and bowling averages with 558 runs (avge.46.50) and 43 wickets (avge.7.41). He appeared in representative Public Schools matches at Lord's in 1944 and 1945 as well as in a one-day match for Glamorgan against Anti-Aircraft Command in 1944.

Qualified for Kent by residence with his parents at Petts Wood, Morris played for Band of Brothers and in 1948 made seven Second Eleven appearances for Kent with a top score of 36. In the following year he went up to Cambridge to read history, commencing his first-class career with 96 in four hours (5 fours) against Sussex at Fenner's. He was unable to quite maintain this form but hit 550 runs including 58 at The Oval and 56 against the touring New Zealanders. Awarded his Blue as a Freshman, he scored 46 against Oxford in an opening partnership of 84 with John Dewes. He appeared in five matches for Kent Seconds and scored 108 v Wiltshire at Trowbridge, when he shared a second-wicket partnership of 257 with Tony Woollett (212\*).

In his second year at University Morris was unable to find a place in the Eleven. He was unfortunate in that 1950 saw the arrival of Peter May and David Sheppard, further strengthening a side which took the field at Lord's with five current or future England cricketers.

In August of 1950 he made two first team appearances for Kent, both against Derbyshire, with a top score of 16. He did better for the Second Eleven with two 60s, both again against Wiltshire. In 1951, his final year at Cambridge, he regained his place but with little success apart from 53 against Free Foresters and 45 and 23 against Sussex at Worthing. He scored 3 and 13 in the penultimate match, against MCC at Lord's, but did not achieve a second Blue.

As well as BB, Morris played for Beckenham, Cryptics, Free Foresters, MCC and West Kent. At school he competed successfully in the 100 yards, 200 yards, high jump and long jump. Entering the teaching profession, he taught at Stowe where he was master-in-charge of cricket, Winton Hall, Dunchurch and Orley Farm, Exeter.

### Arthur Rex Beale Neame (No. 674).

*Born:* 14.06.1936, Faversham. *Died:* 12.11.2008, Herne Bay.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1956-1957. Second Eleven Cap 1956.

Educated: Harrow School.

Parents: Jasper Beale Neame & Violet Evelyn Beale (*née* Cobb)

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	6	0	55	22	9.16	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	10	18	0	234	69	13.00	0	1	8

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	336	14	170	4	42.50	2-4		

The Neame brewing family has a long association with Kent cricket but Rex Neame is the only member to play first-class cricket for the County. As a schoolboy he was considered among the most promising young all-rounders in the country. For Harrow, in four seasons from 1952 to 1955 he scored 1,215 runs and took 98 wickets. In 1954, the first of his two seasons as captain, he headed both batting and bowling averages and against Eton that year bowled his side to victory with 4 for 47 and 7 for 30. In the following year he took 4 for 43 and 4 for 38 including a hat trick and the wicket of Henry Blofeld twice. In 1954 and 1955 he was chosen for both the representative Public Schools matches at Lord's against the Rest and Combined Services. As captain against the Rest in the latter year he scored 87\* and 45\* and took 5 for 24.

He played his first game for Kent Young Amateurs in 1953 and in the following year hit 53 and 84\* v Middlesex Young Amateurs at St Lawrence. In that season he appeared for Kent Club & Ground and in 1955 played two Second Eleven matches, against Wiltshire at Marlborough College and Hampshire Seconds at Ditton for a top score of 11.

In the 1956 Maidstone Week he made his first team debut, scoring two and 22 against Northants but failing to score in his only innings against Middlesex. For the Second Eleven he scored 269 runs in 12 matches with a top score of 88 against Wiltshire at Folkestone, sufficient to earn him a place in the Second Eleven Challenge Match against Northumberland at Canterbury as well as his Second Eleven cap. He appeared in five first-class matches in 1957, two more for Kent, against Cambridge University at Fenner's and Warwickshire at Edgbaston, two for Free Foresters against the two Universities and one for MCC v Scotland at Aberdeen where he achieved his personal best of 69.

His last first-class matches were in 1958, against Cambridge University at Fenner's and two for Douglas Jardine's Eleven against the two Universities at the Saffrons. For Kent Seconds he appeared in four matches in 1967 with a top score of 40 against Norfolk at Hunstanton and two in 1960 with a top score of 49 at The Oval.

His club cricket included Band of Brothers –as recently as 1988 - Free Foresters, Harrow Wanderers and I Zingari. In 1968 he led the Harrow Wanderers side beaten by Old Malvernians in the Cricketer Cup.

He was a director of Shepherd Neame from 1961 to 1967 and for a period managed the company's farm at Ospringe. He later farmed on his own account in Herefordshire, Norfolk and Scotland. He married three times, Jeanette Wood in 1961, Fenella Johnson in 1968 and Katrina Helen Stuart Swan in 1976.

#### **Peter John Myton Nelson (No. 613).**

*Born:* 16. 05.1918, Finchley, London. *Died* 17. 01.1992, Canterbury.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1946.

Educated: St George's School, Harpenden.

Parents: Peter Angus Nelson & Hilda Nelson (née Mytton)

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	0	3	3	1.50	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	2	4	1	55	32	18.33	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	30	0	9	1	9.00	1-9		
<b>Overall</b>	138	5	51	2	25.50	1-9		

A tall, classical opening batsman, a reliable slip catcher and a medium-pace bowler offering tight control of line and length, given Kent's struggles in the 1950s and his all-round success with Ashford, it was perhaps surprising that Peter Nelson played only one first team game for Kent. He was however, in the words of the current Ashford President, 'a formidable man' who did not suffer fools gladly, if at all, and possibly his 'general aggressive demeanour', not a characteristic normally associated with Chartered Accountants, did not appeal to everyone, at least not always to the right people.

The son of a commercial clerk who subsequently served as a Second Lieutenant in the Royal Garrison Artillery, Nelson was in his school Eleven in 1934 and 1935 and captained in the latter year. In 1933, aged fifteen and before 'receiving his colours', he played for a C.F.Tufnell's Schools Eleven v a Lord's Eleven at Lord's, under the captaincy of Desmond Eagar. He was run out for 13, took a wicket and held two catches but played no other representative cricket. In 1938 he made a rather unexpected first-class debut in which he scored 32 and 20\* for Northamptonshire against Cambridge University at Fenner's.

During the Second World War he served with a searchlight unit and captained a Searchlight Eleven against the wartime combined St. Lawrence & Beverley Club side at Canterbury in 1941. He several times faced county standard opposition – in 1942 for a United Services Eleven at Westcliff against a London Counties attack including Peter Judge, Alan Watt, Jack Young and Jack Lee (Somerset) and in 1943 at Lord's for the Club Cricket Conference against the British Empire Eleven with Ray Smith (Essex) and Trevor Bailey. In 1945 he played alongside both Langridge brothers, Leslie Todd, Claude Lewis, Eddie Crush and 'Hopper' Levett for Dover Wanderers against the Australian Imperial Forces, a team chosen from the relatively few Australian soldiers stationed in Europe, including Lindsay Hassett, Dick Whittington, Cecil Pepper, Bert Cheetham and Charlie Price from the Australian Services side which contested the 'Victory' Test series. Opening the batting, Nelson was bowled by Pepper for 29. He also opened the batting at Canterbury when a 'Rest' team consisting mainly of past or future Kent players was dismissed by Kent for 89.

Nelson was chosen for Kent first team in May 1946. Opening the batting against Northants at Wantage Road, he fell twice without reaching double figures but did better for the Second Eleven at The Oval in June with 29 and 2 for 35. He hit 126 for the Club & Ground v the Mote later that month and appeared in one more Second Eleven game, against Sussex at Canterbury, but that concluded his time in Kent colours.

For Ashford he was, to quote the current President again, 'the player who wielded most influence on the development of the Ashford club in the latter half of the last century'. Joining in 1948, he hit a century against Kent Club & Ground that year and was an outstanding, tactically astute, captain from the late 1950s to the early 1960s. His was the major role in developing the Ashford team that won the Kent League in 1971, the inaugural year of league cricket in the County.

An enthusiast for youth development, he did much to nurture the careers of Alan Ealham and his son Mark. He later became Club President. Nelson lived most of his life in Wingham and unusually for a top club cricketer of his day, did not drive. For home games he stayed in a pub near the club ground.

In addition to Accountancy, he also acted as a Land and Estate Agent. In 1944 he married Margery Chessell in Canterbury. On his death his estate was valued for probate at 'not exceeding £125,000.

**David Nicholls (No. 684).**

*Born:* 08. 12.1943, Drayton, Norwich, Norfolk. *Died:* 10. 06.2008, Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford.

Left-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1960-1980. Kent cap 1969. Second Eleven cap 1962.

Educated: Gravesend Grammar School.

Parents: David John Nicholls & Maria Nicholls (*née* Pearce).

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	201	340	24	7026	211	22.23	2	34	325/13
<b>Overall</b>	202	342	24	7072	211	22.23	2	34	325/13

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	36	1	23	2	11.50	1-0		

**List A Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	98	91	7	1742	64	20.73	0	6	75/11

**Bowling**

Did not bowl

If he never lived up to the promise of his memorable double hundred as a 19 year-old, David Nicholls went on to play an invaluable, and in a sense unexpected, role in the great trophy-winning Kent teams of the 1970s. For ten years from 1967 he was regular choice as wicketkeeper when Alan Knott was on England duty. Resisting approaches from other counties, in all he gave 20 years devoted service to Kent.

Nicholls' connection with the county began in childhood when his father, previously Master of a Public Assistance Institution, Beech Hill House, East Dereham, was appointed as, Secretary of St James's Hospital, Gravesend, formerly a workhouse and later a home for the elderly. His mother was subsequently appointed matron. The hospital overlooked the Bat & Ball Ground, as did the young David's childhood bedroom. Educated at Gravesend Grammar School, he made a considerable impact as a wicketkeeper/batsman in schools cricket and appeared for Kent Schools in representative matches. He played his first game for Kent Club & Ground in 1958 against E.S.C.A' and made his Second Eleven debut in the following year when he scored nine and 22 opening the batting against Pakistan Eaglets at Bickley Park.

In 1960 he joined the Kent staff, primarily as a batsman and, with only three Second Eleven appearances behind him, made his first team debut, against Cambridge University at Fenner's. He did not get a chance to bat but at sixteen and a half he was the second youngest (now the third youngest) debutant in Kent history. In 1961 he registered his first Second Eleven half-century, 59 v Somerset at Sittingbourne and his first century in Kent colours, 102\* v United Hospitals at St. Lawrence. His chance in the Championship came in the following year, 21 against Somerset, at Gravesend – and later that year registered his maiden 50, when, promoted to open, he scored 76 against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge and shared a 137 run second-wicket partnership with Bob Wilson (95). For the Second Eleven, he was awarded his cap and hit over 500 runs including his first century, 106 v Somerset Seconds, on the Metrogas ground, Greenwich.

1963 was a season of distinctly mixed fortunes. Picked for the opening two-day friendly against Middlesex at Sittingbourne, he was left out of the first two Championship matches, was run out without scoring in the third and dropped for the next seven. Back in the side for three games, he scored 38 runs in six innings with three ducks including a pair against Pakistan Eaglets (ranked as first-class for their 1963 tour). Unsurprisingly, he missed the next five matches but when brought back as Peter Richardson's opening partner he struck a rich vein of form. Replacing Brian Luckhurst, who was moved down the order, he began with 71 and 41 against Sussex at Hastings, continued with 81\* against Northants at Kettering and at Folkestone hit 211 against a Derbyshire attack including Harold Rhodes and the great Les Jackson. He batted for 335 minutes, hit 1 six and 33 fours and shared partnerships of 185 for the second-wicket with Mike Denness and 149 for the third-with Luckhurst. This was the highest first-class maiden hundred by any Kent batsman, the only double century by a Kent batsman under 20 and the highest score of the season.

Nicholls ended 1964 with 684 runs (avge.25.33) but, possibly at least in part due to a weakness against good class spin, he did not exceed 500 runs in a season again until 1969. Between 1964 and 1968 he passed 50 only five times and never averaged over 20. Meanwhile, he continued to score consistently for the Second Eleven, exceeding five hundred runs in four of the five seasons – 809 (avge.32.36) in 1966.

With commendable foresight, as early 1965 the Kent management had encouraged Nicholls to re-activate his neglected wicketkeeping skill and, as a result, his talent behind the stumps revived what had signs of a flagging career. He deputized for Knott for the first time at Bristol in 1966 and from 1967, when Knott became England's first choice, until 1977 when Paul Downton appeared, Nicholls proved a highly efficient –albeit not particularly stylish –deputy. At Trent Bridge in 1974 he caught six batsmen in an inning, equalling the then Kent record. Ability when 'keeping to off-spin is sometimes considered a benchmark of wicketkeeping excellence by students of the subject. Of Nicholls' 24 stumpings in first-class and List A matches, exactly half were from off-spinners.

Despite the frequent handicap of coming in down the order in a strong batting side with bonus points a primary consideration, Nicholls contributed valuable runs, scoring exactly 1,000 (avge.32.35) in 1971 when he also registered his second century, 135 v Lancashire at Southport. Although never playing more than 20 matches in a season, in four other years he exceeded 500, 743 in 1969 when he was awarded his county cap, 841 in 1972. Short with unusually small hands, stockily-built and happier on the back foot, his aggressive approach often proved effective in limited-overs cricket, especially when used as an opener.

The arrival of Paul Downton in 1977 ended Nicholls' career in first-class cricket. He played seven matches that year, one purely as a batsman, and remained on the staff for a further three seasons, playing regularly for, and on occasions captaining, the Second Eleven. When Downton departed for Middlesex in 1980, Nicholls returned as first team wicketkeeper in four limited-overs matches. In all, he kept wicket in 108 first-class and 74 first team List A fixtures. In 1980, his final season, he was awarded a benefit (which raised £36,050) and scored the last of his eleven centuries for the Second Eleven. Nine years later he played for Derek Underwood's Eleven against Alan Oakman's Eleven at Hastings in the last match on the fondly remembered Central Recreation Ground.

David Nicholls played Rugby as hooker at school, county and England Under-16 level. He later played for London Welsh, both parents having been born in the Principality. Post retirement, he worked in marketing for West Kent College. Tonbridge and was employed there when he died after a short illness in Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford.

### **Sydney O'Linn (No.653)**

*Born:* 05.05.1927, Oudtschoorn, Cape Province, South Africa. *Died.* 11.12.2016, Cape Town, South Africa.

Left-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1951-1954. Second Eleven Cap 1951.



Educated: Sea Point High School, Cape Town.  
 Tests: Seven for South Africa.  
 Parents: Isaac O'Linsky & Marika O'Linsky (née Kreyns)

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	26	51	10	1275	111*	31.09	1	8	22/3
<b>S. Africa</b>	7	12	1	297	98	27.00	0	2	4
<b>Overall</b>	92	156	29	4525	120*	35.62	4	29	97/6

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18	0	12	0				
<b>S. Africa</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	256	7	119	2	59.50	2-14		

Registered at birth as Sidney O'Linsky, the son of a kosher butcher, although like his father, brought up in the Dutch Reformed Church, Syd O'Linn represented South Africa at both cricket and Association football. A batsman with a technique very much his own, he had a strong defence, quick feet, limitless concentration and the ability to cut and hook with minimal backlift. Although a competent wicketkeeper, he more often played as a batsman and, like most footballers, he was fast in the outfield. In 194 League and Cup games for Charlton Athletic he scored 34 goals, playing at what would now be known as mid-field, latterly at right-half but for most of his career at inside-right.

Educated at the same school as Stuart Leary (*q.v.*) and Eddie Firmani, (both recommended to Charlton by O'Linn) , prior to his arrival in England in December 1947, O'Linn had played one match as wicketkeeper for Western Province in the 1945-1946 season and another (as opening batsman) in the following year. As a footballer, noted for his powerful shooting, he played for Clyde Town (Cape Town) and toured for South Africa in Australia and New Zealand as an inside forward. Shortly after returning to South Africa he sailed for England to join Charlton in the 1947/1948 season.

In 1948 O'Linn had a trial for Kent and was judged a 'useful bat and wicketkeeper' but he refused the terms offered. He had a season of local club cricket and during his second English summer played for Whitburn, County Durham together with Stuart Leary and another of Charlton's South Africans, Ken Kirsten. This was at the instigation of the Durham-born Charlton Athletic manager Jimmy Seed. In 1950, due at least in part, to their South African contingent, Whitburn won the Durham Senior League, having finished bottom in the previous season.

Apparently no great lover of England and the English – although for some reason a great admirer of the Scots – O'Linn, by now established as a Charlton footballer, in 1951 accepted Kent's improved terms and signed on a month's trial. After only three Club & Ground games and one Second Eleven match he made his first team debut in July that year and on his second first team appearance, against Surrey at The Oval, scored 42\* (top score) and 25\*. This was followed in his next innings by 63\* (again top score) v Yorkshire at Mote Park.

Next year found him a first team regular from the start of the season until football called him away at the end of July, ending his truncated season with 1,080 runs (avge.29.18). He was first in the side to reach the thousand and had the distinction of exceeding his previous personal highest score in three successive innings – v Oxford University in the Parks, 81 and 86\*, v Northants at Wantage Road, 98. His one century was at The Oval, scored in five hours against the full Surrey Championship-winning attack of Laker, Lock and both Bedders.

A successful first full season notwithstanding, this was almost the end of Syd O'Linn's career with Kent. He spent the summer of 1953 back in South Africa, periodic returns being a necessity for Charlton's South Africans if they wished to avoid being called up for National Service in this country. He returned in time for the 1953/1954 football season and in November 1953 played in a 6-2 win at Highbury for an Anglo-South African Eleven against South Africa. Stuart Leary was out of action through injury but three of his Charlton teammates – Eddie Firmani, John Hewie and Albert Uytendogaart - took part. O'Linn returned to Kent in 1954 but, despite scoring 363 runs (avge.45.37) in half a dozen Second Eleven matches and averaging over 60 for Club & Ground, he was picked only once for the first eleven, v Warwickshire at Edgbaston where he scored 29 and 21\*.

At the end of the season, Kent dispensed with his services. It was never stated officially but he was not perhaps always as respectful to those in authority as some thought necessary at the time. On the other hand, it seems there were those within the Kent hierarchy who did not want too many footballers on the staff who were unavailable in August and September. Fred Lucas left at the same time. O'Linn returned to South Africa in 1955 but changed his mind and played two more seasons with Charlton, playing with considerable success after switching to right-half.

Between 1957-1958 and 1965-1966 he played 32 games for Transvaal and five for Transvaal B, scoring over 2,000 runs with two centuries and in 1960 was chosen as one of the Cricketers of the Year by the *South African Cricket Journal*. In the 1960-1961 season he averaged 68.78 and was selected for the 1960 tour of England.

Picked for all five Test matches, he scored 261 runs (avge.32.62) including a memorable 98 in a losing cause at Trent Bridge. Batting six hours with fifteen fours, he shared a seventh wicket partnership of 109 with his friend and business partner John Waite (60). In all first-class matches on the tour he scored 1,014 runs (avge.36.21) with one century and six half-centuries. In 1960-1961 he played two home Test matches against New Zealand.

After working for a while in the petroleum industry, Syd O'Linn was in partnership with Waite in Eric Andrews Sports, a large, Johannesburg-based, sports goods business with over 50 retail outlets.

### **Malcolm Francis Olton (No.692.)**

*Born:* 20.06.1938, San Fernando, Trinidad. *Died:* 10.04.2021. Bexleyheath.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1962.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	1	14	13*	14.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	3	6	1	98	28	19.60	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	186	7	123	2	61.50	2-86		
<b>Overall</b>	276	7	199	2	99.50	2-86		

It is not entirely clear whether 'Mike' Olton was offered terms by Kent. His name does not appear in the club's Trial Book and between 1962 and 1965 he is only twice mentioned – and very briefly mentioned - in the annual Cricket Sub-committee reports published in the Club Annual. Several good judges considered he could have made a career at first-class level, but he worked for a large car dealers in Lewisham and possibly by the time he was qualified by residence he was not interested in a relatively modestly rewarded life as a professional.

A superb slip fielder, certainly on his record in Second Eleven cricket he seems likely to have been good enough although, as an off-spinning all-rounder, he would have been in direct competition with Alan Dixon – not capped till 1960 – and Graham Johnson. Prior to his arrival in England in 1961, he had played two first class matches in 1960, for Trinidad against the MCC tourists and for South Trinidad v North Trinidad in the Beaumont Cup.

He began his Kent career with 49\* against Northants Seconds at Canterbury in 1961 but played no more that year. In the opening game in 1962 he took 6 for 5 in 7.2 overs against Hampshire Second Eleven at the London Transport Ground, Beckenham, followed later by 7 for 51, 10 for 93 in the match, against Sussex Seconds at Hove. He also hit two half-centuries including 91 against Gloucestershire Second Eleven at St Lawrence, as well making his one and only first-class appearance against the Pakistani tourists.

In 1963 he played only five Second Eleven Championship games and did little of note apart from 4 for 34 against Northants at Beckenham but in the following season he made 16 appearances, scoring 355 runs (avge.17.75) and taking 24 wickets (avge.28.25). For the Club & Ground against Beckenham he scored his personal best for Kent. 94\*.

Virtually a legend in South London club cricket, Olton was known for his fast-scoring propensities and with Andy Hooper (*q.v.*) formed a formidable spin partnership for Blackheath for whom he played until well into his 40s. The partnership helped to take Blackheath to two Lord's finals in the National club Knock-out competition – winners in 1971, beaten in 1981 – and League titles in 1982 and 1986. It has been suggested that his nickname 'Pepsi' was bestowed because he was never actually seen to dilute his trademark Old Oak rum with Pepsi, or with anything else.

### **John Colin Theodore Page (No.641)**

*Born:* 20. 05.1930, Mereworth. *Died:* 14.12.1990, Sevenoaks.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium/off spin bowler.

Kent 1950-1963. Second Eleven Cap 1951, County cap 1957.

Educated: Maidstone Commercial School.

Parents: Walter Herbert Page & Winifred Irene Page (*née* Hood)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	198	273	124	818	23	5.48	0	0	74

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	30394	1288	14967	521	28.72	8-117	22	2

Colin Page will always be remembered as one of the architects of the great days of Kent cricket which, in the 1970s, brought Kent three Championships, albeit one shared, and seven one-day trophies. Second only to Les Ames, he deserves much of the credit for identifying and nurturing many of the Kentish greats of the time including Derek Underwood, Alan Knott, Brian Luckhurst, Alan Ealham, Graham Johnson, Bob Woolmer, Norman Graham, Alan Brown and Kevin Jarvis. It should not however be forgotten that he was a considerable cricketer in his own right, one of the group of 31 Kent players who passed the 500 wicket mark.

Like a number of Kent bowlers, he had no pretensions as a batsman. In all first-class matches, his top score was 23.

The son of the Assistant Manager of a stone quarry, Page came to Kent as a fast-medium bowler but quite early in his career he seems to have bowled off spin, -or possibly off cutters - initially as a sort of

second string. He took his first wicket, opening the bowling for the Club & Ground at Dover in May 1948, and just over a fortnight later took three wickets for the Mote against the Club & Ground. He again opened the bowling but one of the three was stumped, which might mean that he was already experimenting. The batsman concerned was Maurice Fenner who, as well as playing 14 first team matches for the County, served as Kent Secretary from 1977 to 1982.

In July he made his Second Eleven debut against Wiltshire at Canterbury, the first of six appearances that year. His 14 wickets were expensive at 31.42 but he took 3 for 11 in the return with Wiltshire at Trowbridge and 5 for 29 v Devonshire at Instow.

He managed only nine expensive wickets in five Second Eleven matches in 1949 but for the Club & Ground he took 3 for 29 at Dartford, 3 for 6 (all bowled for ducks) at Broadstairs and 4 for 49 against Band of Brothers, always a handy place for aspiring young bowlers to take wickets. In May the following year he began with 1 for 99 against Surrey Seconds at Gore Court but took 4 for 64 (including a young Ken Barrington) in the return at The Oval and followed with 3 for 35 & 3 for 73 against Sussex Seconds at Bromley. In the first match of Gravesend Week, he was picked for the first team against Northants.

Opening the bowling, he failed to take a wicket in his first match but held his place although it was not until his third match, at Old Trafford, that he took his first wicket, Brian Statham, batting number 11. He was given four matches in all but still had only one wicket from 36.2 overs but returned for two more matches in August. This brought him three tailend wickets at Scarborough but he was wicketless at Derby. Three matches in 1951 were better, producing six first-class wickets including 4 for 64, all top order batsmen, at Derby, but it was not until 1952 that he won a regular first team place.

Immediately after taking 5 for 44 & 4 for 95 against Middlesex Seconds at Dartford, it was in the 10th first-class match of the 1952 season that he was picked for the first team at Northampton. After dismissing two late order batsmen in the first innings, with the ball turning in the second, he switched to off spin and, with Wright taking 5 for 57, Page chipped in with 4 for 35 and Kent won by an innings. His haul included Dennis Brookes, Desmond Barrick and George Tribe.

He played a further 17 matches that season, taking 61 wickets (avge.29.80), third highest wicket-taker after Wright and Dovey. Although he opened the bowling in every match according to *Cricket Archive*, at least two of his best performances were clearly with off spin. Against Leicestershire at Folkestone his 6 for 76, was described by *Wisden* as 'mostly with off-breaks' while at Coventry, where he took 5 for 84 & 4 for 61, spin seems to have predominated. On the other hand, at Maidstone against Lancashire, *Wisden* referred to the pace of Ridgway and Page (4 for 109), while against Derbyshire in Canterbury Week, Ridgway (3 for 34) and Page (5 for 56) bowled all but one over when the visitors were chasing 112 in 85 minutes. At the end of the season, *Wisden* thought Page 'looked a better bowler when he resorted to off spin'. Among notable scalps gathered during his first proper season were Len Hutton (when his score was 189), Peter May, Cyril Washbrook, Donald Carr, George Cox and Pahlen Umrigar.

Possibly there had been talks with coach Claude Lewis and committee members during the winter. At any event, in 1953 Page's career appeared to be re-launched. In the first match at Edgbaston he was second change and played as a spinner throughout the season. Dovey took over the dual seam/spin role, sharing the new ball with Ridgway throughout most of the season until the amateurs arrived in August. Page played 25 first team matches, taking 4 for 66 in the first innings in each of his first two and finishing with 66 wickets at 32.65 apiece. At usually spinner-friendly Bath, he took 5 for 35, including two stumpings, in the first innings but suffered at the hands of Harold Gimblett in the second when the home side declared at 416 for 8 dec. and Kent were bowled out by the 17 year-old off spinner Brian Langford. Page did better with 5 for 57 v Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells and 4 for 25 from 4.5 overs at Hastings.

1954 was a rather mixed season for Page. In May and June he played only five matches out of a possible 14 and picked up five wickets. His first success came in July with 6 for 50 at Maidstone when Somerset

were seeking quick runs for an, ultimately successful, declaration, Three matches later came 6 for 76 & 6 for 93 at Northampton when *Wisden* commented on his 'accurate off spin bowling'. On a rain-affected pitch at Old Trafford he took 5 for 39, *Wisden* again commenting on his 'off breaks bowled with telling effect.

A little unexpectedly in view of his conversion to off spin in the previous season, in eight of the matches in which he bowled in 1954, most of them mid-season, he took the new ball. He also opened the bowling three times for the Seconds. It can be difficult to determine how often he took wickets with seam, but against the Somerset openers at Maidstone he dismissed Gerald Tordoff for three and among his twelve wickets at Northampton, were the openers Brookes, 0 & 4 and Peter Arnold 2. His 50 wickets cost 28.80.

Although for Kent only Wright claimed more than his 58 wickets (avge.26.31) in 1955, Page had a disappointing season, eventually losing his place at the end of July to the left arm spinner allrounder Jimmy Allan.

Beginning well with 4 for 60 at Leicester and 5 for 99 in the return at the Bat & Ball, in June he produced his best figures to date 6 for 33 when Middlesex were beaten by 6 wickets at a rain-affected Lord's. 5 for 64 at Yeovil in the next match was encouraging, as were 3 for 6 when Northants were dismissed for 60 at Tunbridge Wells and 5 for 110 against Essex at Gillingham, but wickets became a bit harder to come by in high summer and, with Allan proving an ideal foil to Wright, he was left out of the side from late July onwards.

In terms of economy, at 26.31 per wicket the suggestion in the Kent Annual that he was expensive, seems more than a little odd. There were undoubtedly several noted spinners below him in the national averages, notably Test cricketers Ray Illingworth and Martin Horton.

Due in part perhaps to the arrival of David Halfyard, Page was chosen for 17 matches in 1956, the fewest since 1951. The outcome was 34 expensive wickets and, apart from 5 for 32 v Northants at a rain-affected Mote, nothing else of particular note. He did well for the Seconds, leading wicket-taker with 60 at 12.98 each., more than half of them matches in which he took the new ball.

Despite missing half a dozen games through injury, rather unexpectedly, 1957 proved Page's best season to date – delivering 682.4 overs, only Halfyard bowled more – he claimed 69 wickets at 25.18 and, somewhat belatedly, gained his County Cap. At a batsman-friendly Edgbaston, he bowled 39.2 overs for 8 for 117 as the home side complied 443. At Maidstone he had match figures of 8 for 132 when Gloucestershire were beaten by 8 wickets and at Dover he kept Kent in the game up to a point with 6 for 61 to dispose of the entire Middlesex second innings middle order, including Edrich and Compton, only to see the Kent batsmen succumb for 43 all out.

In 1958 Kent were without Wright for the first season since 1932 but, in the words of *Wisden* 'Page seized the opportunity to come right to the fore'. He could be 'truly dominating and 'imparted genuine off spin'. In his most prolific season, 86 wickets at 18.34, he began with 5 for 39 & 5 for 24 at Fenner's and, in June, 5 for 14 from 14 overs at Oxford but if this devalues University batsmen's wickets in the eyes of the 21st century the Light Blues included Ted Dexter, Roger Prideaux and Henry Blofeld and Oxford future Test cricketers A.C.Smith and Javed Burki. At Southampton, his 7 for 37 included five of the top six and 5 for 78 in a memorable victory at Rectory Field.

Still often used as second or third change, he produced some remarkable bowling figures from short spells, 4 for 8 from eight overs v Essex and 3 for 4 from seven overs v Lancashire, both a Gravesend, 3 for 10 from 8.1 overs v Middlesex at Lord's and 3 for 20 in 8.2 overs at Clacton.

In the long, dry summer of 1959, Page bowled 716 overs, the most he had ever delivered in a season, and ended second highest wicket-taker with 72 at 28.98. Considering that in that season off spinners David Allen, John Mortimore and Jim McConnon were all in the top ten of the national averages, Page

seemed a bit below his best, *Wisden* suggesting his need for the support of an accurate second spinner. At times it was hard going. Five times he was wicketless in a match and five times rewarded only with a single wicket but he had his days, 3 for 67 & 3 for 30 against Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells, and when batsman flourished at Taunton and Peter Wight carried his bat for 222\* in a total of 450, he was the pick of the bowlers with 4 for 87 from 24.2 overs. On helpful pitches, at Dover, against Northants he took 4 for 27 and against Gloucestershire 7 for 62. It was however to be his last full season.

In 1960 Page played five of the first 11 Championship matches, emerging with seven wickets, his best 3 for 78 v Essex at Gravesend. Derek Ufton had captained Kent Seconds regularly in 1958, and in 1959 had been formally appointed Second Eleven captain. Now, when Tony Catt had a lapse of form in mid-June, Ufton was brought back as first Eleven keeper and Page was appointed Second Eleven captain in his place. The fact that Alan Dixon had arrived as another dual seamer/spinner and a better batsman and fielder cannot have been entirely without significance.

Page's involvement with coaching stretches back to at least 1951 and his appointment was a turning point of his career. Under his captaincy, Kent won the Second Eleven championship in 1961, 1969 and 1970, a new generation emerging under his regime. In 1974 he took over from Leslie Ames as team manager and under his guidance, Kent shared the county championship with Middlesex in 1977, won it in 1978 and added the John Player League in 1976 and the Benson & Hedges Cup in 1976 and 1978.

In 1981 he was diagnosed with a heart condition and was advised to rest, Brian Luckhurst taking over the first team. Although taking things more easily, he had expected to resume with the first team in 1982 but instead he was asked to revert to running the second team which resulted in a certain amount of friction. He continued as Director of Coaching (or of Youth Coaching) until April 1990 when he took voluntary retirement. Sadly, he was unable to enjoy his retirement. He died in December that year while driving home from a coaching session at an indoor school in Sevenoaks.

No doubt by modern standards, not an outstanding technical coach, he got results, Beneath an often stern, sometimes abrasive, exterior, he was a good practical psychologist with a rare gift for building a player's confidence in his own abilities. In modern terms a motivator. In 1993 a memorial plaque to his name was mounted on a wall in the Cricket School at Canterbury.

In 1960 he married Patricia Cockerell at Maidstone.

He did not reach 100 wickets against any of his county opponents but, predictably if his record is studied, his highest was 54 against Northants. This was followed by Leicestershire 46, Essex Lancashire & Somerset 37, Surrey 35. He enjoyed most success at Gravesend 46, Maidstone 43, Blackheath 30, He took 23 at Northampton.

Batsmen dismissed most often in his career were 11: D.Brookes, 7: G.E.Tribe, 6: E.A.Bedser, G.A.Smithson, F.J.Titmus, D.M.Young, Other notables include K.F.Barrington (3), D.C.S.Compton (3), W.J.Edrich (4), T.W.Graveney (5), J.Hardstaff, L.Hutton (2), P.B.H.May (2), R.T.Simpson, M.J.K.Smith (2), C.Washbrook (3), K.D.Weekes.

### **Robert James Parks (No.765).**

*Born:* 15. 06.1959, Cuckfield, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1993.

Educated: Eastbourne Grammar School & Southampton Institute of Technology.

Parents: James & Irene Parks.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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<b>Kent</b>	1	1	1	13	13*		0	0	4
<b>Overall</b>	256	285	83	3957	89	19.58	0	14	642/72

#### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	189	1	166	0				

#### List A Career Record

##### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	1	0							0/1
<b>Overall</b>	251	112	52	972	38*	16.20	0	0	266/47

#### Bowling

Did not bowl

Bobby Parks had ended his playing career with Hampshire when, following the departure of Graham Kersey (*q. v*) to Surrey, Kent signed him as cover for Steve Marsh. In the event, he played only one first-class and one Sunday League match, both at Mote Park. Alan Knott had been one of his most influential early mentors.

His career with Hampshire was ended, prematurely as some thought, by the greater batting ability of Adrian Aymes but not before he had established a Hampshire wicketkeeping record with 700 dismissals. He also holds the county's record for most catches in a match (ten). His last game for Hampshire was in 1992 when he was recalled to the side for the final of the Benson & Hedges competition against Kent. Against New Zealand at Lord's in 1986 he came close to an England cap when, following a head injury to Bruce French, he was named as official substitute and kept for 62 overs.

Few cricketers have been blessed with a more distinguished cricketing pedigree. His father JM Parks (Sussex, Somerset & England), grandfather JH Parks (Sussex & England) and great uncle HW Parks (Sussex), all played first-class cricket. Collectively, they made 1,946 first-class appearances with a combined record of 83,724 runs, 916 wickets, 2250 catches and 164 stumpings.

Trained as an accountant Bobby Parks worked in the air freight industry.

#### Minai Mahesh Patel (No.754).

*Born:* 07. 07. 1970, Bombay (now Mumbai). India.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1989-2007. County Cap 1994.

Educated: Dartford Grammar School, Erith Technical College & Manchester Polytechnic.

Tests: Two for England.

#### First Class Career Record

##### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	194	259	48	3667	87	17.37	0	16	93
<b>England</b>	2	2	0	45	27	22.50	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	208	278	51	3945	87	17.37	0	17	102

#### Bowling

Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
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<b>Kent</b>	41671	1805	18005	589	30.56	8-96	28	9
<b>England</b>	276	8	180	1	180.00	1-101	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	44787	1955	19309	630	30.64	8-96	30	9

#### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	83	43	16	269	27*	9.96	0	0	24
<b>Overall</b>	85	43	16	269	27*	9.96	0	0	24

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3540	48	2632	84	31.33	3-20	0	4.46
<b>Overall</b>	3648	49	2701	88	30.69	3-20	0	4.44

#### Twenty20 Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9	4	1	18	8	6.00	0	0	0

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	196	0	257	15	17.13	4-26	0	7.86

Although sometimes criticised by purists for too often resorting to bowling over the wicket into the leg-stump rough, Min Patel upheld the traditions of Kent left-arm spin bowling in a seam-obsessed age, an era of heavy bats, short boundaries and bland, covered wickets. A versatile fielder with a powerful throw and a useful lower-order batsman, he became one of the most consistent spinners in the country but suffered, not only from more than his share of injury, but also from the theory, fashionable in some influential quarters, that, despite considerable evidence to the contrary, finger-spin had no major role to play in the modern game.

Another product of Metropolitan Kent club cricket, Patel appeared for NCA Young Cricketers, MCC Schools, English Schools and was a member of the Metropolitan Districts side which twice won the AKCC Under 19 title. In 1987 his performances for Blackheath earned him the title of Kent Cricket League Young Player of the Year.

He was a member of the Kent Under-19 side in 1987-1988 and made his Second Eleven debut in the latter year, against Lancashire at Canterbury in the final game of the season. Restricted by his studies at Manchester Polytechnic to the latter half of the season, in 1989 Patel collected 22 wickets in four Second Eleven matches including 8 for 56 v Gloucestershire Seconds at Dover.

Reward came with a place in the First Eleven in the last fixture of the season against Middlesex at Canterbury – unfortunately ruined by rain and restricted to 1 for 34 from ten overs. While still studying in Manchester, he joined the Kent staff in the following year. Dickie Davis (*q.v.*) was firmly entrenched as number one spinner but with seam bowlers toiling in a freakish season of hard, close-shaven wickets and a newly introduced ball with a flat, nine-strand seam, Patel's chance came when Kent opted to field two left-arm spinners. Nine first team appearances yielded 20 wickets, ten of them against Leicestershire on a spin-friendly wicket at Dartford when the Davis/Patel pairing accounted for all 20 wickets (Davis 6 for 63 & 4 for 79, Patel 4 for 91 & 6 for 57).



First team opportunities were limited to five matches in 1991 but he finished top of the second team averages among the regular bowlers and next year an injury necessitating cruciate ligament surgery restricted him to five second team appearances. In 1993, with Davis losing form, he gained a regular first team place in August and at Lytham had the first of a string of successes against Lancashire – 5 for 107 and 7 for 75. Following the departure of Davis, in 1994 progress was little short of spectacular, 90 first-class wickets at 22.86 making him the country's leading wicket-taker and by a large margin the most economical spinner. High points included 4 for 68 & 6 for 84 v Durham, 8 for 96 v Lancashire, both at St Lawrence, 5 for 68 v Yorkshire at Maidstone and 6 for 91 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. Recognition in tangible form came with a county cap and selection for the England A tour of India and Bangladesh where, although fellow left-arm spinner Richard Stemp had the better record on the tour overall, Patel did rather better in his two unofficial Tests.

In 1995 he suffered a double cheek bone fracture while batting for his club Bexley and was fortunate to emerge undamaged from a high-speed motorway crash but nevertheless again finished as his team's leading wicket-taker - 66 (avge.35.39). He remained for another ten seasons – 1997 and 2003 were almost entirely lost to injury – among the best of the English left-arm spinners. Despite fitness problems, twice more he exceeded 50 first-class wickets. In 2004, his benefit year, he missed his 50 by one.

In 1999 his 63 first-class wickets were exceeded among spinners only by Muttiah Muralitharan and his 59 in 2005 by Mushtaq Ahmed. Three times he took eight in an innings, twice against Lancashire, in 1994 already mentioned and 8 for 115 at Old Trafford in 1999 and 8 for 119 v Somerset at Canterbury in 2001 (12 for 144 in the match.). He continued to reserve some of his best performances for Lancashire, 59 wickets (avge.23.42), five times five in an innings, three times ten in a match. He also exceeded the 50 mark against Sussex, 57 (avge.27.71) and Warwickshire, 52 (avge.20.30).

As a lower-order batsman, Patel made bowlers work for his wicket. He shared in four substantial late-order partnerships – 159 for the eighth-wicket v Glamorgan at Cardiff in 2005 (M.van Jaarsveld 262\*, Patel 87), his individual highest and for a short period a Kent eighth-wicket record, 131 for the eighth again v Derbyshire at Canterbury in 2000 (P.A.Nixon 80\*, Patel 60), 123 for the tenth v Hampshire at Canterbury in 1998 (D.W. Headley 81, Patel 58\*) and 107 for the ninth v Yorkshire at Maidstone, 1994 (N.R.Taylor 139, Patel 31).

Patel's selection for two Tests against India in 1996, the first at Leeds and the third at Trent Bridge came in what was for him a moderate season – in all 586 overs and 33 wickets (avge.47.09). On spinner's graveyard pitches he bowled 46 overs for 180 runs and one wicket (S.J.Manjrekar). He was not picked again although he was apparently considered as a replacement for the injured Ashley Giles during England's tour of Pakistan in 2005.

Formally appointed Kent's vice-captain in 2006, Patel's leadership skills were highly regarded, not only by Kent but by MCC and the Club Cricket Conference who chose him to lead their sides in both the UK and on tour. He captained the MCC side to Bangladesh when they were being evaluated for Test status. Probably doubts about his fitness kept him out of the running for the county captaincy.

In 2005-2006 he took 19 wickets while helping Central Districts to win the New Zealand State championship; few cricketers having travelled more widely. He currently serves on the MCC Touring Committee. As well as club cricket in South Africa he has played with MCC in Argentina, Bangladesh, Chile, China, Fiji, Malta and Nepal, with Club Cricket Conference touring sides in Australia, Denmark and the UAE. He was awarded his conference cap in 2002. Despite further cruciate reconstruction surgery and persistent back and shoulder pain ultimately requiring an operation to fuse together two vertebrae, he continued to play club cricket for Bexley He has also played for Tunbridge Wells (2007) and Hartley Country Club (2008-2010).

Patel has undertaken a wide variety of coaching engagements, managed the Unicorns, established Spindles Cricket Academy in Otford and was coach and Cricket Development Officer to the Club

Cricket Conference. Other sports include Badminton, golf, snooker, squash and table tennis. Like many in the modern game, he is an enthusiastic poker player, regularly competing at professional level.

### **Henry Anthony Pawson OBE (No.619).**

*Born:* 22.08.1921, Chertsey, Surrey *Died:* 11.10.2012, Chilcomb, Winchester, Hampshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, off spin bowler.

Kent 1946-1953. County cap 1946.

Educated: Horris Hill School, Winchester College & Christ Church, Oxford.

Parents: Albert Guy Pearson CMG & Helen Humphrey Pawson (*née* Winer).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	43	70	7	2100	137	33.33	2	13	16
<b>Overall</b>	69	113	11	3807	150	37.32	7	23	36

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	194	3	131	4	32.75	2-26		
<b>Overall</b>	543	11	280	7	40.00	2-26		

One of the last of the genuine amateurs, few cricketers made their mark in life across a wider range of activities, sporting and otherwise, than Tony Pawson. As a batsman, despite a crouched stance which displeased the purists, his was a highly effective method, founded on a strong defence and a range of strokes including numerous variations on the cut. Prematurely grey and looking older than his age, he was quick on his feet, excelled against spinners and was, even by current standards, exceptionally fast between the wickets, not merely in quick singles, but in turning ones into twos, twos into threes and threes into fours. On one occasion, helped by an overthrow, he reputedly ran six in partnership with the similarly inclined Godfrey Evans.

Pawson came from a distinguished cricketing background. His father captained both Winchester and Oxford University and kept wicket for the University from 1908 to 1911. He played only one other first class match, for Worcestershire v Oxford University in 1908 but in 1909 Lord Hawke, seeking a deputy for regular stumper David Hunter and, it was rumoured, with future captaincy in mind, invited him to play for Yorkshire. Injury prevented him from doing so and further cricket was severely restricted by a successful career in the Sudan Civil Service, culminating in his appointment as Governor of the Blue Nile Province. In 1934 he retired to Penshurst and played club cricket until well into his seventies. His elder brother, Clive gained a Blue at Oxford in 1903.

On his first appearance for Winchester in 1936, Tony Pawson, not yet 15, scored 53\* against New College, Oxford. In the following year his scores included 77 v Marlborough, 57\* v Eton and 237 (plus five wickets) when captaining Lord's Schools against C.F. Tufnell's Eleven at Lord's. This remains the record at Lord's for an under-17 but *Wisden* was lukewarm 'Marked by astonishing maturity and endless patience, his technique was that of the innings (*sic*) rather than that of a stroke player, but time will certainly develop his strokes'. In 1938 he made his debut for Kent Seconds v Middlesex at Ealing. Opening the batting against an attack including Jim Sims (already an experienced Test cricketer), 'Big Jim' Smith and Jack Young, he hit 123, adding 130 for the second- wicket with John Pocock (36) (*q.v.*).

Captaining Winchester in 1939, he hit a century against Harrow and in August, on the second of two Kent Second Eleven appearances that year, hit 105\*, again against Middlesex, this time at Hampstead, facing an attack in which the most successful bowler was the future Essex batsman Dickie Dodds who took four wickets. In 1940, his final season at Winchester, he hit 100\* v Eton.

This was more or less his last serious cricket until, after a distinguished war record, he was demobilised in 1946. Although he had played little cricket, just an MCC qualifying match against University College and one Second Eleven game, Kent invited him to play in Canterbury Week. It was a promising debut. Coming in against Hampshire, at 257 for four according to his own account, 322-5 according to published scores, he scored 90 in 105 minutes with 12 fours, last out, run out going for a second run. After two more matches he was awarded his County cap, played for the rest of the season and hit two more half-centuries. Against Glamorgan on a rain-affected pitch at Dover he contributed 71 to 144 run fourth-wicket partnership with his captain Bryan Valentine (84).

On going up to Oxford in 1947, Pawson's county cap coupled with 103 against Gloucestershire on University debut made a Blue as near a certainty as such things can ever be. He scored two more hundreds, 150 at Worcester and 135 in the University Match when he added 226 in 230 minutes with Geoffrey Keighley (99). His innings included eight all-run fours –probably a record – and ended with another self-inflicted run out. Chosen for MCC against the South African tourists, he impressed the critics with a gritty 34 but only managed single figures for Gentlemen v Players. Seven matches for Kent, in which he registered four half-centuries, and one game for the South in the Hastings Festival rounded off the season in which he totalled 1,312 runs (avge.38.58).

Elected Oxford captain for 1948, Pawson emulated his father by leading his team to an innings victory over Cambridge, a unique father/son double. 'Instilling his team with some of his own infectious enthusiasm and happy spirit (*Wisden* 1949) he headed the University averages with a century against Sussex, and five half-centuries.

After the University Match he was offered a place in the Kent side for the remainder of the season but fishing commitments restricted him to five matches and there were those in the Kent hierarchy who felt his priorities were wrong. He scored a brisk 50 against Notts in Canterbury Week and a memorable cameo of an innings against Bradman's Australians. Having been dismissed for 51 in their first innings, Kent were 45-5 when Pawson was joined by Godfrey Evans. Together they added 71 in 32 minutes, a partnership ended when Evans, sent back by his partner, was run out for 49. Pawson's 35 contained five fours.

Captaining East v West in the short-lived Kingston-upon-Thames Festival, Pawson scored 128 & 51 and, judging his off-spinners the most innocuous bowling option, took over at one end while the by now veteran Jim Sims, not only reached his hundred wickets for the season, but also picked up all ten for the only time in his career. At the end of the season Pawson was 11th in the national averages with 1,025 runs (avge.46.59).

After University, the need to earn a living limited Pawson's cricket but there was time for seven matches in 1949 and ten in 1950 when he hit two centuries, 137 at more than a run a minute v Essex at Mote Park and 103\* v Middlesex in Canterbury Week when, with Arthur Fagg (88), he put on 106 for the fourth-wicket. As a pair, they were an almost unbelievably ill-matched between the wickets and it comes as no surprise that the partnership ended with Fagg run out. In the second innings, Pawson was at the wicket when Leslie Ames reached his hundredth hundred. Thereafter, business took over although he played four matches and hit his last half-century, 73 v Northants at Dover in 1951, and two matches in 1953.

Pawson established a considerable reputation as an amateur footballer, benefitting immensely from playing alongside the great Tom Finney while both were serving with 6th Armoured Division in Italy. Playing at what was at the time known as outside-right, he won a Blue at Oxford and appeared with distinction for the combined Oxford and Cambridge team Pegasus with whom he won an Amateur Cup at Wembley in 1951 and 1953. For England, he gained twelve amateur international caps as well as a place in the Great Britain squad at the 1952 Olympics in Stockholm.

Against Spurs at White Hart Lane on Boxing Day 1952 he made the first of two appearances for Charlton Athletic in the old First Division. With Kent colleague Derek Ufton (*q.v.*) at centre-half and

fortified by a tot of whisky administered by the club doctor, his mishit corner led to Charlton's first goal, the second came from a more orthodox cross and the third he scored himself. Charlton won 3-2. In his second game in the following season, a 0-0 draw against Burnley at The Valley, two more Kent cricketers, Syd O'Linn and Stuart Leary (*q.v.*) were in the same forward line.

Fishing was probably Pawson's favourite sport. He was a member of the English Fly fishing Team when they won the World Championship in 1982 and in 1984, he won both the European Individual Championship in France and the World Championship in Spain, the first Briton to do so. His OBE in 1988 was for his contribution to the sport. His son John emulated him by winning both Championships.

After leaving the Army, he taught history at Winchester for a brief period before making a career in industrial relations. Joining the Reed Group, he became Personnel Director. Subsequently he was public relations consultant to the Brewing Industry and to the Paper Industry Federation. He served on the Cabinet Sports Award Committee, on the Wolfenden Committee on Sport and on a Sports Council committee studying the future of angling. He was also involved with the late Harry Crabtree in the original MCC Coaching Scheme and was part author of the original MCC Coaching Book.

In parallel with his career in industrial relations Pawson became one of the most highly regarded sporting journalists of his generation, originally covering football and cricket for *The Observer*. In 1968, while still reporting football, he succeeded Alan Ross as the paper's cricket correspondent, a post he held for more than a decade. He also covered angling and other sports as well as contributing extensively to fishing journals. He was Chairman of the Cricket Writers' Club 1980-1981 and was author of 14 books.

Tony Pawson had already been accepted for Oxford in 1940 but as soon as the recruiting age was lowered to 19, he joined the Rifle Brigade. A double century at Lord's and a three-figure batting average for Winchester proved a short cut to a commission and, after training, he was posted to the 10th Battalion in what was then known as a motor battalion which formed the motorized infantry component of 26 Armoured Brigade, 6th Armoured Division. By Christmas, he was a 21 year-old platoon commander serving in Tunisia. At the end of the War, he was a 24 year-old Major with 8th Army confronting Marshal Tito's territorially ambitious partisans on the Austro/Italian frontier.

Pawson had fought with the Division through a dozen battles including Kasserine, Fondouk where his company sustained 30% casualties, and Longstop Hill in Tunisia, then across the Mediterranean to Cassino and the Gothic Line. For outstanding patrol work in Tunisia, he was mentioned in despatches. While on a solitary patrol at night, on one occasion he somehow found himself among German infantry busily digging themselves in. Waiting until it was really dark and relying on the confusion which can occur in all armies while settling into a new position, he walked out, machine carbine over his shoulder, without anyone noticing. Readers with sharp eyes may be able to spot him in his carrier, driving at the head of his platoon in the wartime propaganda film *The Way Ahead* featuring, among many others, David Niven, Peter Ustinov, Raymond Huntley and Stanley Holloway.

Tony Pawson seems to have played little club cricket, but he twice represented the Club Cricket Conference. As late as 1973, by now President of Oxford University Cricket Club, he scored a rapid 46 for Free Foresters against a University attack including Imran Khan and Tim Lamb. He served on the Kent General Committee from 1951 to 1954, 1956 to 1958 and 1959 to 1970.

In 1950 he married Hilarie Ann Bassett (1921-2011) in Winchester College Chapel. There were two daughters and one son.

Two of Tony Pawson's 14 books deal with his cricket career *Runs & Wickets* (Faber & Faber, London, 1980) & *Indelible Memories. Playing Fields & Battlefields*. (Privately published). The latter has a substantial cricket content but is devoted mainly to his wartime experience. With the exception of the works of Bob Crisp, it is probably the best book written on the war by a first-class cricketer.

**Christopher Penn (No.731).**

*Born:* 19. 06.1963, Dover.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1982-1994. Second Eleven Cap 1983. County cap 1987.

Educated: Dover Grammar School.

Parents: Reginald & Brenda Penn.

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	128	146	36	2048	115	18.61	1	6	56

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18611	602	9840	296	33.24	7-70	12	0

**List A Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	99	54	18	359	40	9.97	0	0	21

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4483	52	3316	104	31.88	4-15	0	4.43

Notwithstanding his own modest self-evaluation as a 'phantom quickie', Chris Penn was a wholehearted, talented cricketer who achieved less than at one time seemed likely due in part to recurrent injury but also perhaps to the frequency with which he was charged with 12th man duties. Admittedly, for much of his career Kent were well-endowed with new ball bowlers but, with hindsight, he might perhaps have played more often given that, of those vying for a place in the Kent seam bowling battery, he was no less liable to injury than others but distinguished himself in the field and was one of the most likely to contribute runs.

Penn came to Kent via ESCA and AKCC Under 19 and in 1981, shortly after taking 5 for 15 for Kent Club & Ground against Dover College, he made the first of three Second Eleven appearances, commencing with a duck and 5 for 71 against Middlesex Seconds at Southgate. In 1982 Penn joined the Kent staff and made his first team debut against Glamorgan at Canterbury. While doing nothing of note in seven Championship matches, he proved useful in the shorter game with 17 wickets at 23.82 each including 4 for 34 against Surrey at Canterbury in the Benson & Hedges Cup, all four top order batsmen, and 40 in a losing cause against Sussex at Mote Park in the John Player League.

He was selected for England Young Cricketers against West Indies Young Cricketers in two 'Test' matches, top scoring with 46 and taking 4 for 55 in the Third at Hove, and in two Limited Overs Internationals. At the end of the season he won a Whitbread Scholarship to spend the winter playing cricket in Australia.

In what was otherwise a disappointing season, in 1983 Penn was awarded his Second Eleven cap having hit three Second team half-centuries with a top score of 89. On his first Championship appearance in 1984, he scored his maiden century, 115 at Old Trafford, putting on 130 for the sixth-wicket with Stuart Waterton (50) This was only his 12th first-class innings. He was given a run of four more first team outings that year but by mid-June he was back with the Seconds and over the next few seasons, he was in and out of the side, seldom playing successive matches in any competition. In 1986, entrusted with the new ball against Somerset at Mote Park, he took 2 for 30 and 5 for 65 but missed the next six

matches. Given more opportunity in 1987 he claimed 48 first-class wickets, 70 in all competitions and gained his county cap. 1988 proved his best season – leading first-class wicket taker, 81 at 24.55, 99 in all competitions. Six times five or more in an innings, notably 7 for 70 v Middlesex at Lord's, 6 for 66 v Yorkshire at Canterbury and 5 for 29 v Sussex at Hastings.

In the 1988/1989 winter Chris Penn combined working with the England A squad with spells assisting the St Lawrence ground staff. When Chris Lewis was called from the A squad in Kenya to join the senior team in West Indies, Penn came close to selection as a late replacement.

The 1989 season which followed proved a disappointment. Although starting well with 4 for 57 from 20.4 overs against Essex at Chelmsford and a Whitbread Fremlin's Man of the Match award for a career best 4 for 15 from eight overs against Gloucestershire in the Refuge Assurance League at Maidstone, his 53 wickets in all matches cost more than 40 runs apiece.

After another moderate season in 1990 he returned to somewhere near his best in 1991. Kent regularly fielded a four-man pace attack and, after a winter spent playing and coaching in South Africa, despite missing half a dozen games, Penn finished second in the county averages with 52 first-class wickets at 25.44, including 5 for 105 & 4 for 44 v Middlesex at Canterbury, 4 for 48 & 4 for 50 v Surrey at The Oval and 4 for 36 in the return at Canterbury, 5 for 43 v Northants at the Mote and 5 for 90 v Leicestershire at Canterbury.

From then on, increasingly troubled by a long-term shoulder injury, he played only a handful of matches and retired in 1995 on medical advice. In his final season he played only Second Eleven cricket but exited on a high note. Captaining at St Lawrence and batting number nine against a Sussex Seconds attack including Paul Jarvis and James Kirtley, he struck 112 from 103 balls with 6 sixes and 10 fours.

Kent gave Chris Penn a Testimonial in 1996. He became a leading member of the England and Wales Cricket Board's regional coaching scheme and has coached at the Duke of York's Royal Military School, Dover.

### **Jack Pettiford (No.661).**

*Born:* 29.11.1919, Freshwater, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia. *Died:* 11. 10.1964, North Sydney, New South Wales, Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent 1954-1959. County cap 1954.

Educated: North Sydney High School.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	153	251	37	5103	133	23.84	2	17	71
<b>Overall</b>	201	324	48	7077	133	25.64	4	30	99

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11849	512	5780	194	29.79	6-134	5	0
<b>Overall</b>	18310	643	9259	295	31.38	6-134	7	1

Signed by Kent on a five-year contract, Jack Pettiford came late to the daily grind of county cricket. Known to his Kent colleagues as 'Old Jack', there were persistent rumours that he was some years older than his 'official' age. A cultured man with a love of classical music and literature, in Stephen Chalke's *Runs in the Memory* he is portrayed as a solitary, even 'anti-social' character but this is not entirely borne out by others who played with and against him, certainly not when at the bar with the numerous fellow Australians then playing for English counties, particularly among those from the 1939-1945

generation. At such times he could become aggressive and on occasions literally a 'Pommie basher'. When Bill Alley married his second wife, Jack Pettiford was best man.

Before the war Pettiford played for the Gordon Club in Sydney, a club whose membership roll includes Victor Trumper, Charlie Macartney, Bert Oldfield, Neil Harvey and Adam Gilchrist. Joining the Royal Australian Air Force shortly after the outbreak of war, Pettiford had reached the rank of Pilot Officer when he arrived in the UK in 1944.

As well as playing games for the RAAF - in one of which he had a match return of 7 for 21 - he also appeared in RAF teams and once for Sussex, v West Sussex at Chichester. Promoted to Flying Officer, next year he became a regular for the RAAF in charity matches all over the UK and was chosen for the last two of the five Victory 'Test Matches, scoring 107 runs with a top score of 39 and taking four wickets. Selected to bat number three in the historic Dominions v England match at Lord's, he failed with the bat and, one of three right-arm leg-spinners in the side, Cec Pepper and Bob Cristofani were the others, took 2 for 68.

At the end of the season a somewhat jaded Services team toured India and Ceylon (as it was then known). An arduous itinerary included three 'Test' matches against the full strength of pre-partition India. In an attack containing five wrist spinners, Pettiford struggled for wickets but headed the 'Test' batting averages with 269 runs (avge.67.25) including 124 at Bombay and 101 at Calcutta.

When the Services returned to Australia, they were still committed to play against the states. Mercifully perhaps, during the third fixture with New South Wales Pettiford was struck with appendicitis. At that stage, between 7th May 1945 and 12th January 1946 he had traversed the UK from Hove to Glasgow, from Cardiff to Scarborough, travelled by sea from the UK to India, by air from India to Australia and, beginning at Perth, taking in Melbourne and Sydney. At least 80 days had been devoted to playing cricket.

At a time when they had far more talent than could be accommodated in one team, he held his place in the New South Wales side throughout the next two seasons. He was chosen for the Australian Eleven v MCC fixture which preceded the 1946/1947 Test Series and, with his allround credentials and experience on English wickets, was reputedly considered as a candidate for the second-leg spinner place in 'Bradman's Invincibles' which eventually went to Doug Ring. His best efforts were both against Queensland, 71 and match figures of 10 for 103 at Sydney in 1946/1947 and 87, 25 & 3 for 85 at Brisbane in 1947/1948.

In 1949, like several Australians unable to secure a place in the Test side, he opted for League cricket in England. Although damp northern wickets were not ideal for his leg-spin, he played with considerable success with Nelson in the Lancashire League (1949-1950) and Oldham in the Central Lancashire League (1951 to 1953). In 1949 he toured India, Pakistan and Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) with a strong Commonwealth side, scoring half-centuries in two of his three 'Test' matches.

In his first season with Kent he headed the averages with 1,238 runs (avge.30.19) with two centuries, 133 v Essex at Blackheath and 119 at Trent Bridge, plus five half-centuries. While providing stiffening to a fragile middle order, his overall record for the County was disappointing for a player of his wide experience. He totalled 1,336 in 1955 (ave.28.42) but never again approached the thousand or averaged over 30. and, handicapped by fitness problems and a sequence of damp seasons, was unable to match his form of the immediate post-war years. In his Kent history, Bob Arrowsmith is scathing - 'to watch him was a penance', 'a spectator who had once seen Pettiford and did not thereafter pray he would get out as soon as possible must have been an ardent supporter of Kent indeed'.

The annual Committee report was more temperate referring to 'staunch innings when they were needed' (1958) and 'a more valuable member of the side than figures indicate' (1959). Many of his best innings came in times of crisis - 30\* in an all-out total of 54 v Derbyshire, Gravesend in 1954, next highest score seven, 50\* (top score in the match) at Grace Road in 1958 when, coming in at 59-6, he shepherded

the total to 188 and Kent went on to a ten-wicket victory, 51\* (top score) against Middlesex on a drying wicket at Dover in the same year and 95\* (again top score) in a struggle for a narrow first innings lead against Middlesex at Gravesend in 1959.

Pettiford had a hand in two famous victories over the generally all-conquering Surrey. At The Oval in 1955 when Kent won by 13 runs, his stubborn 50 was top score when Kent gained a valuable 35-run first innings lead and at Blackheath in 1958 when Kent beat a side including Laker, Lock, both Bedsers and Loader by 29 runs, he scored 63 and shared a 127 run sixth-wicket partnership with John Pretlove (78) and his bowling figures of 3 for 37 and 3 for 59 included the wicket of Peter May twice, caught for 99 and bowled for 36.

Until Doug Wright retired, Pettiford probably suffered by being relegated to the role of second or, more often third, spinner. With Wright gone, he had his most productive seasons, 40 wickets at 24.22 in 1958, 44 at 35.22 in 1959 including 5 for 33 against Derbyshire at Canterbury in his Benefit match. Arthur Phebey, who was due for a benefit that year, stood aside in his favour but in the event the result was only £2,724, the lowest benefit in the post-war era. He died only five years later from a heart attack.

### **Arthur Henry Phebey (No.616).**

*Born:* 01. 10.1924, Catford. *Died:* 28. 06.1998, Royal Marsden Hospital, Sutton Surrey.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1946-1961. Kent Cap 1952,

Educated: Catford Central School.

Parents: William Harry Phebey & Mabel Lucy Phebey (*née* Hillier)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	320	585	33	14299	157	25.90	12	69	202
<b>Overall</b>	327	599	34	14643	157	25.91	13	71	205

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	20	3	4	0				

The son of a carpenter, Arthur Phebey was a technically correct batsman, playing with the straightest of straight bats who made his debut for Kent Second Eleven against Sussex Seconds at Hastings in May 1946. His was a lengthy apprenticeship and not until 1952 did he become settled as an opening batsman and first team regular. Always an elegant batsman, in his early years he was primarily an offside player and as he became known around the county circuit, bowlers tended to concentrate on leg stump. With hard work, he broadened his technique and in the latter half of the 1950s became among the most technically proficient among the openers on the county circuit.

If he never quite achieved the volume of runs his technique promised, Kent wickets of his day varied, to put it no stronger, and if he only scored 13 hundreds, he was seven times dismissed in the 90s. Calm and unruffled, from the beginning he had always looked the part. In his obituary *Wisden* called him 'meticulous', 'even his sleeves were rolled up inch perfect'.

As a fielder he became a specialist in the gully and in 1959 took 25 catches in a season. An all-round sportsman, at football he had been a schoolboy international and later played for Dulwich Hamlet and Hendon as inside-forward, having turned down approaches from several league clubs including Arsenal. In 1939, he played cricket for Kent schoolboys but first there was the 1939/1945 War which would turn him into a much travelled, mature young man.



Joining the RNVF, he learned to fly in the UK, and was promoted Midshipman in March 1944. In July that year he sailed to the USA in the *Queen Mary* with the nucleus of a new Fleet Air Arm fighter squadron, No.1851. In September 1944 the squadron was formed at Brunswick, Maine, equipped with Chance-Vought Corsair Mark 1V single-seater fighters, widely considered the most advanced ship-borne fighter of its day. He was promoted Acting Sub-Lieutenant in the same month. At the end of the year, the squadron returned to the UK in the American-built escort carrier *HMS Thane* and docked in Belfast in January 1945. After landing the squadron, *Thane* was torpedoed by *U1172* in the Irish Sea, damaged beyond repair and scrapped.

In March 1945, 1851 Squadron joined the light Fleet carrier *HMS Venerable* and sailed to Malta where she exercised with the Mediterranean Fleet, prior to sailing to the Pacific. In May 1945 the Squadron became part for the 15th Carrier Air Group based in Trincomalee and subsequently sailed to Sydney to join the US Third Fleet. In August they were engaged in the re-occupation of Hong Kong. On 30th August, the day British forces re-entered Hong Kong, 1851 Squadron attacked Japanese shipping in Lammas Bay and provided air support for the re-occupation of Kowloon. They also seem to have been employed on anti-piracy duties.

Following the Japanese surrender, *Vengeance* was employed repatriating POWs and other Indian nationals from what was then French Indo-China and transporting them from Hai Phong (now in Vietnam) to Madras (Chennai). The ship then returned to Trincomalee where aircraft were disembarked to make room for more passengers for further repatriation duties although some aircraft and squadron members must have been retained as some time was spent supporting Dutch forces against 'insurgents' off Java. The ship returned to Colombo, re-embarked the full complement of aircraft and at the end of the year sailed again for Sydney. The ship was still used as a transport until mid-April 1946 when she returned to the UK but Phebey had clearly preceded her as on 22nd May he made his debut for Kent Seconds at Hastings.

In his debut match he scored 62, sharing a fourth-wicket partnership of 150 with Brian Gunn (133) and added another 22\* in an unfinished partnership of 50\* in the second innings with Derek Ufton (30\*). He played one further Second Eleven and two Club & Ground early season matches. On June 22nd he made his first-class debut, against Somerset at Bath, top score 22, dismissed in both innings by one of the Somerset legends of the period, Bertie Buse.

Batting between numbers five and eight, he retained his place to the end of Canterbury Week, twelve games in all, scoring 354 runs (avge.19.66) with a top score of 54\* at Edgbaston. Possibly his best effort was 32 & 39 v Surrey at Blackheath. Technically still in the Royal Navy for most of this time, he was demobbed in mid-August. 1851 Squadron was disbanded at about the same time.

There is nothing to indicate that Phebey was actually a member of the Kent staff in the first post-war season and certainly some at least of his former colleagues seemed to have believed that he played as an amateur. According to at least one teammate he changed with the amateurs, perhaps not surprisingly, given the social climate of the period, he seems to have usually arrived at the ground in his Fleet Air Arm uniform. However, in the 1947 *Wisden* he is not listed among the expenses only fraternity. He played no cricket at all for Kent in 1947 but joined the staff in the following year.

He did not appear for Kent until mid-June 1948 when he played the first of eight Second Eleven matches, hitting four half centuries with a top score of 60\* at Bristol. A trifle belatedly, he appeared in the last two first-class matches of the season, once opening with Arthur Fagg, with a top score of 17. He also played half a dozen Club & Ground matches, hitting his highest to date in Kent colours, 94 v St. George's, Ramsgate.

Phebey was not chosen for first five fixtures of 1949 but was then given a run of seven matches and subsequently was in and out of the side, playing half of the 28 match programme. He hit three half-centuries including 56 & 67 v Surrey at Blackheath, the latter featuring an opening partnership of 120 with Jack Davies (120). As well as at Blackheath, Phebey opened in five other matches, three with

Fagg, two with Les Todd. He scored 44 against Warwickshire at Maidstone, adding 143 for the fourth-wicket with Les Ames (120).

For Phebey, 1950 and 1951 could only be described as modest seasons, the former especially so. Beginning well with 48 and a second-wicket partnership of 124 with Ames at Bristol, this remained his highest of the season. In 24 innings he averaged 10.45 and was dismissed for single figures 13 times.

In 1951 he failed to achieve double figures in half of his 36 innings but, as well as contributing 46 to a 101 run opening partnership with Fagg (61) against Northants at Dover, he twice carried his bat. At Lord's, against Middlesex, he contributed 54\* in a second innings total of 126; no other recognised batsman scoring more than ten, while against Worcestershire at Kidderminster, although according to *Wisden* 'the ball rose quickly on a lively pitch' and several batsmen were injured, he batted with 'commendable pluck and perseverance' for 89\* in a Kent total of 209.

Phebey played 22 matches in 1952, opening in all of them and for the first time reaching his thousand runs- 1,042 (avge.25.41), the first of nine successive seasons in which he would register four figures. The season did not start particularly well. By the beginning of July he had shared five half-century opening partnerships, highest 64, but had only twice reached 40, had lost his place for four matches and twice being absent through injury.

At Taunton in the second round of matches in July he scored 75 and shared a 186 run second-wicket partnership with Evans who went on to 144. There followed half-centuries in three successive games, 83 in a 93 minute first-wicket partnership of 103 with Tony Woollett at Worcester, 76\* & 55 v Hampshire and 55 (again) v Derbyshire, both in Canterbury Week. In late August he shared two century opening stands with Fagg, 102 at Clacton (Fagg 65, Phebey 57) and 127 against India at St. Lawrence (Fagg 76, Phebey 61).

After missing the opening game in 1953, Phebey was ever present, opening with Fagg in 24 matches, Woollett in five. The results were not dissimilar to 1952 – 1,314 (avge.25.26) - but in his 91st first-class match arrived at his maiden century, 114 v Gloucestershire at Gillingham, in a little under four hours and shared a 4th wicket partnership of 151 with Derek Ufton (66). There were also seven half centuries including 88 at Hastings where he added 198 for the second wicket with Peter Hearn (114), and 85\* v the Australians when, for the third time, he carried his bat. Missed four times, he was 83\* on the first evening but suffered a strain on the second morning and for the remainder of the innings was restricted to defence, adding only two runs.

Although dismissed for single figures 17 times, Phebey totalled 1,313 runs (avge.26.26 ) in 1954, opening in every match, with six different partners, 16 with Fagg, eight with Jim Allan, three with Ted Witherden, once each with Brian Disbury, Alan Shirreff and Woollett. At Gloucester, he took part in century partnerships with Fagg in both innings and, with Allan, 120 in the first innings against Hampshire in Canterbury Week. 92 in the second. As well as nine half- centuries, he recorded his second century, 113 in five hours against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells and carried his bat for a fourth time, 50\* at Northampton in a total of 127.

1955 was a curious season. Settled as opener and playing well for the first two months, Phebey ran into a barren patch in the closing days of June and in a sequence of ten innings in five matches his highest score was six and included three ducks. Against Lancashire at Mote Park, he was dropped to number six in the first innings; restored to opener in the second, scored a rather patchy nine and 20 and was left out of the next five fixtures.

Brought back against Warwickshire for Dover Week again batting at six, he was last out for 49 but was overshadowed by Doug Wright (66\*) who had the major share in their 88 minute, 99 run, last- wicket stand. Restored as Fagg's partner in the second half of the Dover Week, in the next match, at Northampton, Phebey returned to form with 122, putting on 173 for the third-wicket with Allan (105), reaching his thousand runs for the season in the process.

Beginning 1956 with 96 v Glamorgan at Canterbury, although this remained his highest for the year, *Wisden* named him as Kent's most consistent batsman. Among his 11 half-centuries were four in the 80s including 88 against Middlesex at Mote Park where he put on 130 for the second-wicket with Bob Wilson 76) and two in successive matches, 85 at Northampton and 86\* v Somerset at Gillingham where, with Wilson (103\*), 180\* were added in two hours, 35 minutes in an unfinished partnership.

Once more a fixture at the top of the order, he batted with seven different first-wicket partners, putting on 159 & 96 v Leicestershire at Tunbridge Wells with Wilson and nine other half-century first-wicket partnerships, three each with Colin Cowdrey and John Prodger, one each with Allan, Fagg and Shirreff. In all, he totalled 1,459 runs (avge.28.05).

In 1957 he reached 1,500 runs for the first time, 1,576 (avge.29.18) the Phebey/Wilson opening partnerships beginning to flourish to the tune of four century partnerships and ten between 55 and 89. *Wisden* thought them the most consistent opening pair in the country. Beginning with 179 against Middlesex at Lord's (Phebey 86, Wilson 92), they put on 162 at Rushden (Phebey 90, Wilson 77), 107 v Worcestershire at Folkestone where Phebey went on to 111 in four and a half hours and 171 against Essex in Canterbury Week (Phebey 95, Wilson 82). They also put on 75 against a West Indies attack containing Wes Hall, Gary Sobers and the sometimes near lethal Roy Gilchrist.

He totalled 1,112 runs (avge.33.69) in 1958 and for the first time averaged over 30, but, due mainly to persistent back problems, he missed eight matches. Before injury interrupted he compiled over 900 runs, including three centuries, 157 at Bristol, a personal best, 122 v Nottinghamshire at Blackheath where he put on 210 for the third-wicket with Cowdrey (139) and 105 v Middlesex at Lord's with a 133 run opening partnership with Prodger (75). At Southampton his scores were 97 & 65\* and at Trent Bridge 84 & 58\* where he took part in two century partnerships for the second-wicket with Stuart Leary.

On returning to the side after injury however, in 18 innings including Canterbury Week, he only three times passed 20 with a top score of 28.

In his benefit year Phebey was ever present at the top of the Kent order in 1959 with the exception of the University fixture at Gillingham and in all but three matches Wilson was his opening partner. His 1,800 runs (avge.33.33). remained the highest of his career.

Beginning with 83 in the first match, with Middlesex at Lord's in which he added 149 for the second-wicket with Cowdrey (89), he took part in seven hundred run partnerships, three with Cowdrey. At Blackheath against Essex, Phebey scored 130 (14 fours), sharing a third-wicket partnership of 165 with Cowdrey who went on to his personal best of 250. With Wilson he shared century opening partnerships of 138 against Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells and two against Notts, 124 at Worksop and 134 at Folkestone. His second century of the season, 106 v Sussex in the second half of the Week at the Nevill, included a second-wicket partnership of 116 with Jack Pettiford (77), a match terminated by a spectacular storm.

On a dusty pitch at Taunton, when Kent were bowled out for 173 in their second innings (leg spinner Colin McCool 7 for 39), Phebey was left high and dry at 77\*, the fifth time he had carried his bat in a first-class fixture. During the season, he was run out six times, twice in successive matches, at Kettering and Gloucester and both matches in Maidstone Week, against Worcestershire and Leicestershire, all four matches taking place in July. In the Leicestershire match he was run out on 99. His fifth run out was against Hampshire in Canterbury Week and the last at Headingley, when he was on 93, both during August. His benefit raised £5,800, a new record and the highest by any of the county beneficiaries that year.

Due to injury, Phebey missed four successive matches in May 1960 and, in what turned out to be his last full season, his total fell to 1,105 and his average to 26.95, his lowest since 1955. Apart from one

match with Wilson and one with Cowdrey, Peter Richardson was his new opening partner. Against Glamorgan at Blackheath, Kent had lost Richardson and Prodder for ten runs when Wilson came in to join Phebey. Together they put on 304 in five hours (Phebey 155 with 19 fours, Wilson 157). The same pair put on 119 for the third-wicket at Ilford (Phebey 62, Wilson 75),

The Phebey/Richardson pairing produced only one century partnership in 1960, 142 at Sheffield, (Phebey 122\*, Richardson 77), his last century as it transpired. There were however six other first wicket starts between 55 and 75. Following his Sheffield century, apart from 49 against Middlesex at Lord's in the following match, the runs rather dried up and in the remaining 14 games he only once passed 40.

With Richardson settled in and the arrival of Roger Prideaux as opener in 1961, Phebey did not get into the side until the fourth match of the season and, batting mainly at number four, in the end missed 13 of the scheduled 30 fixtures. He did however deputise whenever Cowdrey was absent and in the Committee's Annual Report he was judged to have led 'with skill and no little success' winning five including victories over Middlesex and Yorkshire, drawing nine and losing five.

Finishing with 834 runs (28.75), as well as scoring 93 & 80 at Fenner's and 59 against the Australian tourists, probably his best innings was in his last on Kent grounds. Against Northants at Dover, after being run out without scoring in the first innings, he added 144 for the third-wicket (Richardson 132, Phebey 75). At the end of the season, he decided to retire 'in order to give full time to his business interests'.

He played a number of first-class matches for MCC and scored 57 v Hampshire in 1959, 103 v Gloucestershire in 1961 and 62 v Cambridge University in 1962, all three matches at Lord's. He also played for Lord's Taverners. His last first-class match was for MCC v Ireland at Dublin in 1964. Playing for MCC v Scotland at Glasgow in 1963 he suffered his 21st run out.

On retiring from cricket, Phebey was involved in property development and trade and technical publishing, mainly in construction, notably as joint managing director of Phebey Golding Publications. For some years after his playing days were over, he wrote a regular column on cricket in the *Kent Messenger*. His death was from cancer.

Arthur Phebey served on the Kent General Committee from 1978 to 1982, 1983 to 1984 and 1985 to 1991 and was Chairman of the Cricket sub-Committee from 1979 to 1989. He captained Kent in 39 first-class matches, winning 12, losing 11 with 16 drawn.

He shared in 42 first-class century partnerships, 20 for the first wicket, 12 for the second, 7 for the third, 2 for the fourth and 1 for the fifth.

The most successful bowlers against Phebey were a varied collection - 11: N.I.Thomson, 10: L.Jackson, J.J.Warr, 9, V.H.D.Cannings, P.J.Loader, A.E.Moss, R.Smith (Essex), C.T.Spencer, 8: G.E.E. Lambert, D. Shackleton, J.B.Statham, 7: B.Dooland, M.J.Hilton, G.A.R.Lock, K..C. Preston, G.E.Tribe, 6: T.E.Bailey, J.B.Mortimore, R.T.D.Perks, R. Tattersall, R.G.Thompson, F.H.Tyson. Of those who claimed his wicket five times, as well as some obvious candidates such as Alec Bedser and Fred Trueman, there are the first bowler to claim his wicket, Bertie Buse, and Charles Palmer who, as well as bowling orthodox medium pace, used to indulge at times in his own version of Conan Doyle's 'Spedegue's dropper' to which, according to at least one witness, Phebey fell victim on one, possibly more, occasions.

Phebey married twice, Peggy Reid in Beckenham in 1954 and Ann Bromley in Surrey in 1979. There was one son and one daughter by the first marriage.

**Ben James Phillips (No.772).**

*Born:* 30.09.1974, Lewisham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1996-2000.

Educated: Langley Park School, Beckenham, Beckenham Sixth Form College.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	27	39	4	584	100*	16.68	1	2	8
<b>Overall</b>	124	172	32	2991	100*	21.36	1	16	38

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3697	140	1914	65	29.44	5-47	2	0
<b>Overall</b>	17200	739	8132	271	30.00	6-29	5	0

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	26	12	4	59	29	7.37	0	0	9
<b>Overall</b>	137	85	29	1042	51*	18.60	0	1	37

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	894	11	666	33	20.18	4-25	0	4-46
<b>Overall</b>	5556	63	4623	153	30.21	4-25	0	4.99

### Twenty20 Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	63	39	11	438	41*	15.64	0	0	19

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	1281	1	1723	62	27.79	4-18	0	8.07

An example of abundant promise never quite fulfilled, Ben Phillips was 6 ft.6 in. and strong, ‘a workhorse’ according to Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell’s *Trophies & Tribulations*, around the time Phillips began playing for Kent, the County suffered from a positive plague of injuries among pace bowlers. Quite soon he would suffer, much like the others, but he did have one highly successful season as a potential replacement for Alan Igglesden with the additional bonus of unexpected runs.

Coming to Kent through the Hayes Club in the Woolwich Kent, League, in 1993 he made his debut for Kent Seconds at Trent Bridge scoring 5\* and 14 and taking 1 for 52 and 0 for 26. He also made four appearances for Kent Colts as well as playing for MCC Schools v MCC and for a Development of Excellence Eleven at Sleaford against West Indies under 19s, a team including Shivnarine Chanderpaul.

In 1994 he appeared in eight of the 17 Rapid Cricketline Second Eleven matches as well as the same number in the one-day Bain Clarkson Trophy and in the following year was taken on the staff on a one-

year contract. Playing 14 Second Eleven matches with 163 runs and 26 wickets, he took 4 for 36 and 3 for 45 at The Oval and also appeared in eight matches in the Bain Clarkson Trophy.

Retained in 1996 and wintering in Cape Town on a Seaboard Scholars Scheme, on May 30th Phillips made his first-class debut against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. Sharing the new ball with Martin McCague, he had Danny Law caught at the wicket for 22 and gained 3 for 34 in the second innings. Retained in the side for the next match at Grace Road, wicketless in the first innings, he was not called on in the second and, although picked again at the end of August, he was not asked to bowl. He also made four appearances in the Axa Equity & Law League and took 24 wickets in the Second Eleven Championship.

Things began to improve in 1997. In his first Championship match, at Horsham, he took 5 for 47 in the Sussex first innings and in Kent's second, coming in at 257 for nine, he scored 65\* with ten fours, putting on 183 with Steve Marsh (142), the then 12th highest tenth wicket partnership in first-class history. The Kent Annual described Phillips' batting as 'showing astonishing calmness and maturity in a brilliant innings'.

Two matches later, against Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells, still batting number ten, he hit 41 in a 109 run partnership for the ninth-wicket with Julian Thompson (59\*) and picked up 3 for 48 in the visitors' second innings. In the next match, at Old Trafford, he came in as nightwatchman at 151 for 5. Next day, 3\* overnight, he scored 100\* from 210 balls with nine fours, adding 174 for the last four wickets. Without again scoring more than 47, and still batting no higher than nine, his figures included 5 for 86 at Taunton, 4 for 64 at Portsmouth and 4 for 44 v Gloucestershire at Canterbury.

At the end of the 1997 season he was the first winner of the NBC Denis Compton Award, presented at a dinner in the Lord's Long Room. During the presentation Clive Rice the South African captain suggested he 'because of his desire to listen and work hard' could go far in the game. Unfortunately it did not quite work out that way.

In 1997/1998 he spent the winter in Australia where, together with David Masters, he received coaching from, among others Dennis Lillee, but various injuries restricted him in the 1998 season to 11 matches in which, elevated to number eight, his top score was 54 v Worcestershire at Canterbury. He also collected 17 rather expensive wickets with a best effort, 3 for 66 v Middlesex, again at St. Lawrence. He did rather better in one-day matches with 20 wickets at 22.10.

Injuries restricted Phillips to a handful of Second Team matches in 1999 and in 2000 he was confined to three List A matches which earned him four wickets in two Benson & Hedges matches and 4 for 25 v Northants at Canterbury in the Norwich Union National League. Originally his problems were identified as muscular imbalance but eventually, after X-rays, a fractured collar bone was diagnosed. He was eventually released and joined Northants in the following season.

Phillips played for Northants from 2002 to 2006 and was capped, scoring 1,425 first-class runs and taking 111 wickets. Between 2008 and 2010 he was with Somerset and with Nottinghamshire from 2011 to 2013.

### **John Burton Phillips (No.669).**

*Born:* 19. 11.1933, Canterbury. *Died:* 18.10.2017, Banbury, Oxfordshire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1955.

Educated: King's School, Canterbury & St. Edmund Hall, Oxford.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
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<b>Kent</b>	4	6	0	4	4	0.66	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	32	43	15	151	25	5.39	0	0	9

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	768	24	374	7	53.42	2-42	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	5205	177	2567	72	35.65	5-62	1	0

Chosen for his school eleven before his 16th birthday, John Phillips was leading wicket taker and headed the bowling averages in each of his four years in the King's School eleven. In representative matches at Lord's in 1952, he took 4 for 35 for Southern Schools v the Rest and 4 for 40 for Public Schools v Combined Services. At Oxford in 1955, inexpensive wickets in the Freshman's' match and in the subsequent Trial led to selection for the opening game of the season. He went on to win his Blue, missing only one match and finishing with 38 wickets (ave.26.73).

At the end of the University term he made his debut for Kent at the Oval but had limited opportunity as Kent's spinners bowled their side to a famous 13 run victory. He played four first team matches in all and was seen at his best at Trent Bridge where he took 2 for 42 and 2 for 49, dismissing Fred Stocks and Cyril Poole twice. As a batsman he was a confirmed tailender, with scores of 0 and four, followed by two pairs.

Although he retained his place in the Oxford side for most of his second season, he was unable to repeat his form of 1955, his 23 wickets costing 40.08 apiece, despite having the experienced West Indian Test cricketer Esmond Kentish (aged 39) as his new ball partner. He was omitted for the University Match. He did however take 4 for 69 against the Australians including the wickets of Keith Miller and Richie Benaud. In his final year at Oxford he found time for only three matches.

He played club cricket for St Lawrence and *circa* 1970 onwards, for Banbury CC where he not only opened the bowling with considerable success but led the side and went on to become President and Secretary for some 20 years. He played for and captained Banbury RFC and, prominent in local life, was on the committee of Bloxham Museum. A successful business career culminated in his appointment as Personnel Director, Alcan Aluminium Ltd, in Banbury.

John Phillips' father Frank (1899-1972) was on the Kent staff between 1926 and 1928 and played 15 games for Kent Second Eleven. Batting at number ten at The Oval in 1927, he hit 111\*, adding 195 for the ninth- wicket with Harold Hever.

### Roy Francois Pienaar (No. 743).

*Born:* 17.07.1961, Johannesburg, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1987-1989 Cap 1988.

Educated: St Stithian's College, Cape Town University.

Parents: Ronald & Heather Pienaar.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	45	72	6	2876	153	43.57	8	15	15
<b>Overall</b>	199	346	27	10896	153	34.16	18	62	81

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3306	129	1632	51	32.00	5-27	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	10388	372	5079	153	33.19	5-24	3	0

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	29	25	2	745	119	32.29	1	3	9
<b>Overall</b>	233	222	18	6705	135	32.86	7	47	37

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	750	9	503	23	21.86	4-34	0	4.02
<b>Overall</b>	3406	36	2576	84	30.66	4-34	0	4.53

Some of Kent's overseas players are fondly remembered for their achievements and individual performances. Others are not. The name Roy Pienaar may not bring a smile of recognition from Kent supporters or warm memories of great innings or bowling spells. But (in first-class cricket) only four men who batted more averaged more for Kent. His batting was 'stylish' and 'attractive' (*Wisden*), his bowling (despite knee problems) accurate and effective, particularly in limited overs cricket. He was a vital member of a side that was just a point from the championship. He deserves to be better remembered.

Pienaar said he only started playing cricket because of his brothers and 'was never an avid watcher'. The first first-class match he watched was his debut (opening) for Transvaal B aged just 16. Four years later he moved to Western Province but averaged just 10.60. A (self-described) 'lifestyle change' brought improvement but in 1987, after ten years of first-class cricket, he had just three hundreds, with an average under 30, and 79 wickets.

When Kent's only overseas player that year, Eldine Baptiste, injured his side Pienaar (playing for Worcestershire 2nd XI) was signed as an emergency replacement. His debut came at Ilford just three days after the injury. He made 41 'saving the side from complete demoralisation' and bowled 34 overs (the most he had ever bowled in an innings) in Essex's reply. At Derby, on his 26th birthday, he watched Graham Cowdrey's jaw being broken by Michael Holding but made 153 which remained his career best score. He finished the season with 327 runs (ave.40.87) and 15 wickets.

After a modest winter Pienaar returned to Kent in 1988 with a new rival for the overseas slot, Hartley Alleyne. After playing the first three matches (all of which Kent lost easily) Alleyne injured his heel. Pienaar's 144 (the next highest score in the match was 67) helped Kent win the next match, the first of six successive victories and he played for the rest of the season. In a summer favourable to seam bowlers he made 1,228 runs (ave.37.21) with three centuries and took 36 wickets 'at important stages of matches' (*Wisden*). His best bowling was 5 for 27 against Middlesex at Tunbridge Wells.

In the winter he had operations on his knees (which had first troubled him when he was 10) and he missed the first month of 1989. Then the weather warmed up and, better suited (the Kent Annual felt) to 'home from home' harder pitches, he scored hundreds in successive matches in August (against Yorkshire, Glamorgan and Leicestershire). He finished with 1,239 championship runs (ave.59.00) but bowled just 96 balls in total, his only wickets (a couple of Dorset tailenders) coming from off spin.

Pienaar maintained his batting form into a 'vintage' winter (1,010 runs averaging over 60) and scored steadily for another ten seasons in South Africa. But sensing his bowling was virtually finished (there were to be just ten more wickets in his career) he cancelled his contract with Kent. Instead he set up a successful business (sold 20 years later to a listed company) in biltong.

*John Winnifrith.*

**Howard John Pocock (No. 629).**



*Born:* 08. 04. 1921, Maidstone. *Died:* 10.08. 2003, Sutton Valence.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1947-1949.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School.

Parents: Alfred Henry Pocock & Mabel Pocock (*née* Beeching)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7	11	1	118	34	11.80	0	0	3

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	93	0	70	1	70.00	1-53		

The son of a master baker with five shops in and around Maidstone, John Pocock joined Kent in 1937, at the same time as his friend Godfrey Evans. In that season he hit 97\* (out of 156 for 9) for Maidstone Grammar School against the Mote, 113 for Kent Club & Ground against the same opponents and 156 for the Mote against Bradfield Waifs. At this stage he was also a quick but inaccurate fast bowler.

Making his Kent Second Eleven debut against Middlesex at Gore Court in 1938, up to the outbreak of war he had scored 445 runs in Second Eleven matches with a top score of 70 against Sussex at Canterbury. In June 1940, again in company with Godfrey Evans, Pocock joined the Army and served throughout the war in the Royal Army Service Corps, reaching the rank of Captain.

On returning to civilian life, he too became a master baker and carried on the family business with two shops in Maidstone while playing occasionally for Kent as an amateur. Making his first-class debut against Derbyshire at Dore in 1947, on his second appearance, against Yorkshire at Hull, he scored 34, sharing a 97-run fourth-wicket partnership with Arthur Fagg (121).

In 1949, by now only an occasional bowler in club cricket, due to a rash of injuries he opened the bowling in his last first-class match, at Old Trafford, and claimed the wicket of Ken Grieves. Between 1946 and 1952 he played 28 Second Eleven matches, scoring 685 runs including one century 105\* v Sussex at Rye.

John Pocock was elected to the Kent General Committee in 1966 and served as Chairman from 1978 to 1986, a period embracing Kent's 'Glory Years'. During his term of office he was also involved in more controversial events such as the termination of Mike Denness' highly successful spell as captain and the decision to continue to play the so-called Packer 'rebels'. He was President in 1988 and elected a life Member in 1989. In club cricket he was a heavy scorer for the Mote, averaging over 50 in 1948 and scoring the last of his many centuries in 1969. He was captain from 1956 to 1964.

After many successful years in the bakery business, Pocock sold out to Spillers and joined with Eddie Crush (*q.v.*) in his Dover-based sports goods business. In 1942 he married Joan Marie Louise Parmenter in Maidstone. A man of diverse interests, in 1964 he competed in the Monte Carlo Rally.

### **Ian Caesar Potter (No.681).**

*Born:* 02.09. 1938, Woking, Surrey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1959-1961.

Educated: King's School, Canterbury & Corpus Christi College, Oxford.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	5	5	12	11*		0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	19	24	10	124	34	8.85	0	0	11

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	522	22	197	12	16.41	4-36	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	3024	139	1300	45	28.88	6-74	2	0

Delivering on the sharp side of medium and more accurate than most schoolboy bowlers, Ian Potter was in the King's School eleven from 1955 to 1957 and in his final year gained recognition by selection for Southern Schools v The Rest and Public Schools v Combined Services at Lord's. In July that year he played his first game for Kent Second Eleven, v Norfolk at Hunstanton and also appeared three times for Kent Young Amateurs and once for the Club & Ground.

In 1959, on his first-class debut, he took 3 for 57 and 4 for 59, opening the bowling for Kent against Cambridge University at Fenner's and for Kent Seconds was leading wicket-taker with 22 at 15.40.

Going up to Oxford in 1960, he took 6 for 74 against Gloucestershire in the first game of the season but failed to find a regular place in a pace attack led by David Sayer and Andy Corran (Notts) and managed only one more wicket in five further appearances. In 1961 he was in and out of the side but 5 for 65 against Sussex at Hove was enough to win him his Blue.

Consistently steady bowling in three seasons for Kent Second Eleven earned him two matches in Kent's Championship side in August, and, thanks to 4 for 36 at Leicester, he finished nominal head of the Kent averages with five wickets at 16.20. In 1962, a distinctly non-vintage year for Oxford, due to a combination of exams and injuries, he played only three games, only one first-class, prior to the University Match but nevertheless achieved a second Blue.

The 1962 University Match proved to be his last first-class match and he made only one further appearance for Kent Seconds. His club cricket included Band of Brothers. At Oxford he won a Blue for hockey.

Graduating with a BA in Zoology, Professor Potter enjoyed a highly successful academic career completing a PhD thesis at the University of New South Wales, subsequently working at Duke University, North Carolina, conducting research and lecturing at the University of Bath and ultimately becoming the inaugural Professor of Animal Biology and later Research Professor at Murdoch University, Perth, Western Australia.

### Laurie Potter (No.726).

*Born:* 07. 11.1962, Bexleyheath.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm medium pace/ spin bowler.

Kent 1981-1985.

Second Eleven Cap. 1981.

Educated: Kelmscott Senior High School, Perth, Western Australia.

Parents: Ronald Henry Ernest & Audrey Megan Potter

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	47	78	6	1951	118	27.09	3	10	27
<b>Overall</b>	223	354	42	9027	165*	28.93	8	50	190

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2043	90	1015	28	36.25	4-87	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	14637	611	6879	177	38.86	5-45	1	0

#### List A Career Record

##### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	38	35	1	747	52	21.97	0	1	17
<b>Overall</b>	207	198	24	4218	112	24.24	3	16	81

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	360	3	245	15	16.33	4-9	0	4.08
<b>Overall</b>	3840	60	2624	81	32.39	5-28	1	4.10

Taken to Australia by his parents at the age of four, Laurie Potter, his technique honed by a Christmas present of two half-hour coaching sessions with Norman O'Neill, for a period of four years attracted attention while playing Grade cricket for West Perth (now Willitton ), Western Australia.

In 1980 he returned to England, making his Second Eleven debut for Kent, against Surrey at Orpington in the first game of the season, opening the batting and scoring 90 against Middlesex at Enfield on his second appearance. In the 1980/1981 winter he captained Australia Under-19 on a tour of Pakistan, scoring 108\* in the third 'Test' match at Karachi.

Back in England for the 1981 season, he joined the Kent staff, played three first-class matches, scored over 500 runs in the Second Eleven Championship, registered his maiden century, 100\* against Middlesex Seconds at Southgate as well as four half-centuries and was awarded his Second Eleven cap. For England Young Cricketers against Indian Young Cricketers, he was selected for all three 'Test' matches and three Limited Overs Internationals.

Next season, brought into the Kent side against the Indian tourists when Bob Woolmer was rested, he hit 96 and 118, only rain cheating him of a century before lunch. Playing a dozen first team matches, he ended the season with 775 first-class runs (avge.40.70), over 1,000 in all competitions, including 108 v Middlesex at Lord's, 90\* v Surrey at Maidstone as well as three other half-centuries.

Unfortunately, this proved to be the high point of his career with Kent. Over the next three seasons, although always looking a high-class batsman and a consistent performer in Second Eleven cricket, he was unable to hold down a regular place in the Championship side. Only once did his season's aggregate exceed 500 - in 1984 when he scored 574 (avge.23.91) including a superb 117 against Glamorgan at Canterbury - and, although a switch from medium pace seam to left-arm spin briefly raised hopes of all-rounder status, 21 wickets at 36.76 in 1985 was disappointing and at the end of season he joined Leicestershire.

Leicestershire originally signed Laurie Potter as a replacement for the left-arm spin of Nick Cook but, although a useful change bowler, it was as a batsman that he made his main contribution. Between 1986 and 1993 he scored over 9,000 runs in all competitions with over 1,000 first-class runs in 1989, 1990 and 1991. Although he four times averaged over 30, during his time with Leicestershire he hit only four centuries

In English winters he played for Griqualand West in 1984-1985 and 1985-1986 and for Orange Free State 1987-1988.

On leaving Leicestershire, he played Minor County cricket for Cornwall (1994) and Staffordshire (1995-2001). In club cricket he captained Cannock 1996 to 1998, leading them to the Birmingham League title and from 2004 to 2006 Market Harborough. Other clubs included Syston Town (2007) and, despite problems following a knee operation, Hinckley (2010).

### **Nicholas William Preston (No.771).**

*Born:* 22. 01, 1972, Dartford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1996-1997.

Educated: Meopham Secondary School, Gravesend Grammar School & Exeter University.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9	12	4	71	17*	8.87	0	0	3

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	833	29	373	12	31.08	4-68		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	2	1	11	7*	11.00	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	114	2	89	0				

Like his namesake ninety-odd years earlier, Nick Preston served a long Second Eleven apprenticeship without managing to establish himself in the first team. Having played for Kent Colts in the previous season, he joined the staff in August 1990 while still at university and made his Second Eleven debut against Yorkshire Second Eleven at Marske-by- the-Sea in August that year.

With some 26 second team fixtures to his credit, It was not until 1994 that he made his mark in the Second Eleven. Previously very much a tail-ender, he hit two half centuries to go with 23 relatively inexpensive wickets. In 1995 he raised his total in the two Second team competitions to 48 wickets and hit over 500 runs including his only century, last out for 103 from 136 balls against Worcestershire Second Eleven at Ashford.

In the following season he made his first team debut, against Essex at Ilford, one of eight bowlers of medium-pace and above used that season. He bowled only two overs and, back to number eleven, was lbw for a duck but on his second appearance, against Yorkshire at St Lawrence, he dismissed Anthony McGrath, David Byas, Michael Bevan and Peter Hartley for 48 runs. Unfortunately, six further first-class and six List A matches brought only seven more wickets. He remained a consistent performer in Second Eleven cricket but played only one more first team game in 1997 and was not re-engaged. In 107 Second Eleven matches in all competitions he scored 1,574 runs and took 172 wickets.

Nick Preston played most of his club cricket for Sevenoaks Vine. In 1994 he took five wickets in five balls against Midland Bank. It was almost six; a more than likely looking lbw appeal was turned down. He had coached and played club cricket in South Africa and on leaving Kent made his home there.

### **John Frederick Pretlove (No.670).**

*Born:* 23. 11.1932, Camberwell, London. *Died:* 1.4.2018, Chislehurst.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1955-1959. Kent Cap. 1957. Second Eleven Cap.1956.

Educated: Alleyn's School & Caius College, Cambridge.

Parents: Frederick Charles & Olive Isobel Pretlove.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	85	143	11	3128	112	23.69	4	17	51/2
<b>Overall</b>	124	212	21	5115	137	26.78	10	26	70/2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	790	38	350	17	20.58	4-59	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	3023	147	1319	43	30.67	5-55	1	0

Lightly built but with a square cut to die for, on first coming into the school team before his 15th birthday, John Pretlove was in the Eleven at Alleyn's from 1947 to 1951, scoring over 500 runs in 1950 and 1951 and twice taking over 50 wickets, 71 in 1949, 67 in 1950. He captained in his final year and was chosen for Southern Schools v the Rest at Lord's. Going up to Cambridge in 1954 following National Service in the Intelligence Corps, he scored 52\* and took four wickets in the Freshmen's match and finished the University season top of the averages with 779 runs (avge.38.95). 137 with 18 fours against Essex at Fenner's on his fourth appearance virtually secured the award of his Blue and three more hundreds followed, 124 batting number eight against MCC, 100\* at Northampton, 115\* at Horsham and rounded off with 73 in the University Match.

Although less prolific in 1955, he produced the best all-round performance of his career against Middlesex at Fenner's with scores of 44 and 110 together with match figures of 9 for 121 and again excelled on the big occasion with 114 (in 230 minutes) against Oxford although unfortunately he failed when selected for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's.

In the week following the University match he made his debut for Kent at The Oval, participating in a famous victory over the Champions. Qualified by residence, Kent had appointed him Assistant Secretary, a device often derided but adopted by several counties at the time as a means of enabling talented amateurs to remain in the game without turning professional.

In addition to scores of five and eight, for Pretlove his debut was not in other ways a happy introduction to county cricket. While still at Alleyn's, he had appeared for Surrey Young Amateurs and in 1954 made three appearances for Surrey Second Eleven. This gave rise to one or two comments by Surrey fielders and some of the Kent team were not best pleased with the Assistant Secretary appointment. Pretlove was one of three young amateurs, straight from the University Match, drafted into the side at the expense of aspiring professionals which antagonised some of the seasoned pros. Nevertheless, he remained in the team for the remainder of the season, playing nine matches and registering a maiden county half-century, 60\* v Lancashire at Maidstone.

Obliged to miss more than half of the 1956 university fixtures due to examinations, Pretlove nevertheless registered five scores between 45 and 89\*, gained his third Blue and his 34\* was top score in the second innings. Helped by four not outs, he gain headed the averages. For Kent, he failed to

achieve double figures in his only two first team matches but, as official Second Eleven captain, led the team to their second successive Minor Counties Championship, culminating in an innings victory over Northumberland in the Challenge Match at St Lawrence and finishing second in the Second team averages. Chosen for Gentlemen v Players at Scarborough, he again failed to reach double figures.

Free to devote himself to a complete season of county cricket in 1957, Pretlove responded with 1,191 runs (avge.25.89) including one century, 101 against Leicestershire at Gravesend, when he shared a 160 run second-wicket partnership with Bob Wilson (157). There were seven other scores between 50 and 73. Often seen at his best in a crisis, when he scored 50 against Middlesex at Dover the next highest was 14 as Kent were dismissed for 108. He held 21 catches that year plus two stumpings from Stuart Leary while deputising for Ufton in the second innings against Cambridge University at Fenner's.

In the first two months of the 1958 season he hit 112 with one six and 17 fours at Hastings as well as three half-centuries but, although due to injuries he missed seven matches, from mid-July to the end of the season he played 19 innings without once reaching 20 and ended the season with an average of 20.24.

Pretlove's final season of county cricket in 1959 ended in July when he embarked on a strenuous but hugely enjoyable 25 match tour of Canada and USA with an all-amateur MCC side. The truncated season was in many ways his best. Where previously he had been primarily an accumulator, he began using a long-handled bat to explore the open spaces behind the bowler. In 19 games he hit 933 runs (avge.31.10) with centuries against Northants at Kettering and Essex at Blackheath. In the latter match he hit 102 in a 242 run fourth-wicket partnership with Colin Cowdrey (250).

After his North American tour he took part no more first-class cricket but played occasional games for MCC including matches against Denmark and the Netherlands. His last for MCC was in 1968 against Ireland in Dublin. An enthusiastic club cricketer, for Brentwood and for Bromley as well as for Lord's Taverners; he appeared for Bromley in the 1969 *Cricketer* Knock-Out Cup competition.

As a young man he was turned down for membership of Band of Brothers due to his having a father 'in trade' – his father was a 'Oil & Colourman Manager' according to the birth certificate - but joined as a Social Member in later life when their approach to such matters had become more liberal. He served on the Kent Committee from 1973 to 1978 and from 1981 to 1986. He was President in 1999.

An all-round sportsman, John Pretlove won a soccer Blue in 1954 and 1955, captained Cambridge and also played for Pegasus and Corinthian Casuals. Outstanding at Rugby fives, he represented Cambridge from 1954 to 1956 and was open singles champion in 1953, 1955, 1956 and 1958 as well as finishing runner-up three times. Between 1952 and 1967 he was seven times doubles champion with four different partners, four years in succession with Dennis Silk. After cricket he took up golf.

Specialising in marketing and public relations, after leaving Kent he worked in the construction industry, with Blue Circle, Ready Mixed Concrete (for 20 years) where he was a director of Hall & Co and ran two of their operating companies. Taking early retirement, he set up business on his own before joining the Costain Group where he worked from 1986 to 1992, subsequently going into consultancy. In 1991 he was appointed President of the Edward Alleyn Club, the Alleyn's Old Boys association.

In 1958 he married Ann Punter. There were two children.

### **Roger Malcolm Prideaux (No.686).**

*Born:* 31.07. 1937, Chelsea, London.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1960-1961.

Tests: Three for England (while with Northamptonshire)

Educated: Tonbridge School & Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge.

Parents: Owen Leslie & Marie Alice Prideaux.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	33	64	7	1325	116	23.24	1	5	21
<b>England</b>	3	6	1	102	64	20.40	0	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	446	808	75	25136	202*	34.29	41	131	301

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	0	4	0				
<b>England</b>	12	2	0	0				
<b>Overall</b>	333	18	176	3	58.66	2-13		

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	102	99	8	2609	81	28.67	0	18	25

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	20	0	24	0				7.20

The son of a 'General Merchant' in India, Roger Prideaux headed the batting averages in each of his three years in the Tonbridge Eleven (1955-1957) and captained in his final year. On going up to Cambridge in 1958 he was awarded his Blue as a Freshman and scored over 800 runs with centuries against Hampshire and Free Foresters but, although looking a quality player and again gaining his Blue, he had a moderate season in 1959 and it was not until 1960 that he lived up to his reputation. Promoted to opener, he scored 1,311 runs (avge.38.57) including four centuries - 102 & 106 against Somerset at Taunton, 140 against Essex and 109 against Kent, both at Fenner's. Despite his three Blues, in his appearances against the Dark Blues his highest score was 26.

There followed selection for Gentlemen v Players at Lord's, the first of three appearances in successive years in the then annual fixture. In 1960 he scored 70 (top score in the match), followed by 57 in 1961 and 109 in 1962. He also appeared twice for the Gentlemen in the Scarborough Festival.

Prideaux had appeared for Kent Young Amateurs as early as 1955 and scored 102 v Surrey Young Amateurs at The Oval in 1957. In that year he played his first match for Kent Second Eleven, against Wiltshire at Tonbridge School and scored 40 and 43 – in the first innings the next highest was 14. It was not until after the University Match in 1960 that he made his first-class debut in county cricket. In the light of his success for Cambridge, it was a disappointing start, one half-century in ten matches, but in the winter, he prospered for MCC in New Zealand. No Test matches were included in the itinerary, but Prideaux scored over a 1,000 runs in all matches, the only batsman to do so.

In 1961 and what proved to be his final season with Kent, Prideaux began with 74 against Somerset at Gillingham and on the last day of May registered his first Championship hundred, 116 against Glamorgan at Gravesend, with 22 fours in just over four hours. With Richardson (70) he put on 147 for the first-wicket and 80 for the second with Wilson (52). He finished the season with 1,033 runs (avge.25.82) but for a player of his ability, overall results were again disappointing and it became known that he was looking for another county.

He joined Northamptonshire as Assistant Secretary and vice-captain to Keith Andrew, exceeding his 1,000 runs in every season from 1962 to 1970, twice reaching 1,900 and captaining them from 1967 to 1970. By now widely accepted as being in the upper echelon of English batsmen, while at Wantage Road he gained his three England caps. He then played a further three seasons for Sussex where he exceeded 1,000 runs in 1971 and 1972 and missed by only 45 runs in 1973. He was capped by both counties.

On retirement he emigrated to South Africa where he gained a considerable reputation as a radio and television commentator.

At Sidcup in 1963 he married Ruth Westbrook who played cricket for England 11 times between 1957 and 1963. An innovative coach, she and Molly Duggan were the first two women to gain the MCC advanced coaching badge. In 1988 she became full time coach of the England Women's team and guided them to World Cup victory in 1993.

### **Thomas Leslie Pritchard (No.672).**

*Born:* 10.03.1917, Kaupokonui, New Zealand. *Died:* 22.8.2017. Levin, Madawalu-Wagunui, New Zealand.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1956.

Parents: John Edward Pritchard & Annie Pritchard (*née* Bubitz)

### **First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	7	1	49	30	8.16	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	200	293	41	3363	81	13.34	0	6	84

### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	669	16	435	11	39.54	3-95	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	42871	1390	19062	818	23.30	8-20	48	11

The first Kent cricketer to reach the age of 100, Tom Pritchard was widely considered the only genuine fast bowler in county cricket in the immediate post-war years. It was with Warwickshire that he played most of his cricket but after finishing his professional career, he played four matches for Kent as an amateur. His wife was Maidstone-born.

With Warwickshire he claimed 695 wickets (avge.23.32) in ten seasons, 569 between 1947 and 1951. On the strength of his record for the Midland county, it seems likely that but for the war Pritchard would have had a career in Test cricket. Commitments at Edgbaston notwithstanding, there were many who advocated his inclusion in the 1949 New Zealand touring party but Pritchard himself believed, wrongly as it turned out, that a break would jeopardise the benefit he had been promised after five years' service. As it was, the nearest he came to representing his country was ten years earlier when he appeared for New Zealand against Sir Julien Cahn's team at Wellington in 1939. Opening the bowling with Jack Cowie, he took the wicket of Stewart Dempster, at the time New Zealand's leading batsman, at a cost of 34 runs.

Curiously, Pritchard was relatively unsuccessful against touring teams apart from 4 for 46 against the Indians on debut in 1946, 6 for 96 against the 1949 New Zealanders and 3 for 37 against the 1950 West Indians. Twice selected for the Players, at Lord's in 1948, he took the wickets of Bill Edrich (twice), Charles Palmer (twice) and George Mann at the cost of 103 runs. He appeared in four Scarborough Festivals and three times for North v South.



Pritchard came from a farming family. His father was born in Wrexham, North Wales but his son hardly knew him; he was drowned in 1921. His mother was German, from Pomerania. Essentially a country cricketer, Pritchard was in his school First Eleven in 1931-1932 and attracted wider notice by taking 3 for 52 for Taranaki against the 1935/1936 MCC tourists.

Next season for Manawatu, where he had moved to work as a railway porter, he attracted more attention in the Hawke Cup with 3 for 10 v Wanganui, 6 for 21 & 6 for 33 v Southland and 53, 3 for 13 & 5 for 42 v Wairarapa. Shortly after the latter match, he was picked for a Wellington Country Eleven and, despite having played no first-class cricket, he was widely supported as a candidate for the forthcoming tour of England.

In December 1937 he made his first-class debut, for Wellington against Canterbury. In 12 matches for Wellington between 1937 and 1940 he claimed 71 wickets (avge.18.21), his best performance 7 for 32 v Otago at Wellington in 1938.

In 1941 Pritchard joined the New Zealand Army and after completing his training was posted to the 3rd Army Tank Battalion, 1st New Zealand Army Tank Brigade. In February 1943 he took 10 for 39 for Central Military District v Northern Military District at Wellington and shortly afterwards the battalion was deployed to Egypt to join the elite 2nd New Zealand Division which was being converted to the 'New Model,' two thirds infantry, one third armour configuration.

In Egypt a chance encounter with the Essex and England leg-spinner Peter Smith who was serving as a Staff Captain, led to his becoming involved in wartime cricket in Egypt. Playing for a variety of mainly scratch teams, he appeared in Cairo, Alexandria, even El Alamein. Among his most notable performances was 9 for 6 for Alexandria v RAF Aboukir. He also played Rugby.

In October 1943 Pritchard's unit sailed for Italy, landing at Bari. By now a Sergeant, he remained with the battalion throughout the remainder of the Italian campaign, ending his war at Trieste.

With the end of the war in Europe, a series of matches were staged in Italy between locally raised services sides involving most of the many first-class cricketers serving in the Mediterranean theatre and culminating in a match in Rome between Middle East Force and Central Mediterranean Force. The latter were about to embark on a tour of England, a venture sponsored by Field Marshal Alexander.

For the CMF Pritchard took 3 for 46 in the MEF second innings but, not selected for the tour, he was on the beach to say farewell as the team prepared to depart by flying boat when, shortly before take-off, it was learned that Sergeant 'Dusty' Rhodes (Derbyshire) was too unwell to travel. Pritchard was hauled aboard the aircraft with only the clothes he stood up in, khaki shorts, singlet and scruffy plimsolls and five days later, in cold, damp, unseasonable weather, in boots two sizes too big for him, he took 4 for 20 opening the bowling at Lord's against a Lord's Eleven.

Included in the MEF team was Gunner H.E. 'Tom' Dollery, one of Warwickshire's greatest cricketers. It was Dollery (and Mrs Dollery) who found clothes and cricket gear for Pritchard and strings were pulled to allow demobilisation in London without having to return to New Zealand. Without a trial and solely on Dollery's recommendation, Pritchard became a Warwickshire player. The rest is cricket history, or at least Warwickshire cricket history. His benefit in 1952 raised £3,800. With Dollery and Eric Hollies, he was instrumental in the formation of the Warwickshire Old Players' Association.

Pritchard worked for what is now Surridge Sports and, after finishing with Warwickshire, he set up his own businesses, Solihull Sports Services, a sports equipment shop, and IRT Limited, dealing in fancy brassware and motor spares. This enabled him to play as an amateur and, although by the time he joined Kent he was no more than fast-medium, he was a useful addition to a rather sparse seam attack.

Statistically he was not a great success, finishing bottom of the Kent bowling averages but he was probably over-bowled. His 11 wickets were all top order batsmen, six of them openers including Gordon

Barker, 'Dickie' Dodds and Roy Marshall, the latter pair twice each, as well as notable names such as Henry Horton, Alan Watkins and Dick Spooner. His last first-class match was against Warwickshire at Coventry. In 1958 he played for the London New Zealand Club against the New Zealand tourists at The Oval.

Pritchard later worked for National Standard, a US manufacturer of wires for motor tyres, first as a travelling salesman, then for 19 years as a director. With National Standard he travelled all over the World, including frequent trips to New Zealand. While in New Zealand in 1962 he took 4 for 67 and 2 for 58 for Manawatu against a Fijian touring team and made two further appearances for Manawatu in the Hawke Cup, the last against Waikato in 1966, 30 years after his first appearance in the competition.

In 1986, while holidaying in New Zealand, he decided to stay for good and was ultimately joined by his extended family. He had begun training and breeding dogs while with Warwickshire and in the late 1950s he upgraded (as some may think) to horses. He continued to breed horses back in New Zealand and achieved considerable success with thoroughbreds. Following success with his first, Quality Prince, all his horses carried the Quality prefix. He continued breeding horses into his 90s and in 2013, aged 96, he was still attending race meetings. His other main hobby was fishing.

Tom Pritchard is New Zealand's fourth-highest wicket-taker and his three hat-tricks remain a Warwickshire record. He was the first Kent (and Warwickshire) cricketer to reach the age of 100.

In December 1945 he married Mavis Cheeseman at Maidstone Registry Office. A war widow she was at the time a Sergeant Nurse in the ATS. Their daughter, now Mrs Julie Meiring, played for West Midlands Women when they were beaten finalists in the Women's Area Championships in 1980 and when they won the trophy in 1982. Her son Donald, Tom Pritchard's grandson, played two first-class and three List A matches for Central Districts in 2014/2015.

**John Michael Prodger (No.673).**

*Born:* 01. 09.1935. Forest Hill.

Right-handed batsman.

Kent 1956-1967. Kent Cap. 1965. Second Eleven Cap. 1956.

Educated: Dartford Grammar School.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	151	259	22	4835	170*	20.40	3	23	170

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	18	0	14	1	14.00	1-14		

### List A Career Record

## Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
Kent	2	2	1	30	30*	30.00	0	0	1

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
Kent	Did not bowl							

Joining the staff in 1952 before his 16th birthday, John Prodger had a long career with Kent without entirely establishing himself as a first team regular. According to some accounts his problem was nerves before going to the wicket but, with three centuries and two 90s to his credit, this sounds like a bit of an over-simplification. What is beyond dispute is that he was one of the best slip fielders of his generation – unusual for a cricketer of supposedly nervous disposition. His eight catches against Gloucestershire at Cheltenham in 1961 remain a county record and five times he held 20 or more catches in a season.

He had two first-class catches to his credit four years before his official first-class debut. Fielding substitute for Essex at Tunbridge Wells in 1952, he held a fine running catch to dismiss Douglas Wright and followed with a spectacular diving effort to dispose of last man Ray Dovey.

Limited to Club & Ground matches in his first season, Prodger impressed in the field but runs did not flow and, though given four matches in the Second Eleven in 1953 beginning against Surrey at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham., when he left for National Service in the Royal Army Ordnance Corps even including Club & Ground games, his top score in Kent colours was 38.

Back to full time cricket in 1956, at the end of June he was picked for the First Eleven to open with Arthur Phebey at Old Trafford against Lancashire. Scoring 25 and 24 and putting on 50 in the first innings, he was not picked for the next match at The Oval and of the next ten fixtures he played five, never more than two in succession. Four more times he passed 20 with a top score 36 at Northampton when, with Phebey, they scored 96 for the first-wicket. In addition he took eight catches. For the Second Eleven he scored 464 runs including 95 against Somerset Seconds at Sittingbourne and hit two centuries for the Club & Ground, one of them against his own club, Dartford.

He was not selected for the first team again until 1958. On his first appearance, against Essex at Gravesend, he hit 98, top score in the match, and shared an opening partnership of 134 with Bob Wilson (40). There were three other half-centuries season including 75 in an opening partnership of 133 with Phebey (105) against Middlesex at Lord's and in all he totalled 847 runs (avge.20.65) in 25 matches but of these 601 (avge.35.35) were scored in the first twelve matches. In the remaining 13 his top score was 27.

During his career only once more did he play more than 20 first-class matches in a season. Four times he exceeded 500 runs. In 1961 he totalled 526 (avge.21.91) including 170\* (26 fours) against Essex at Maidstone when he put on 122 for the first-wicket with Peter Richardson (71) and 134 for the fifth with Peter Jones (61). In 1965 he played 23 matches and scored 761 runs (avge.25.36) with seven half centuries, among them arguably his best innings, 62 in the second innings against David Allen and John Mortimore on a turning Cheltenham wicket on which the next highest score by a Kent batsman was 18. Probably his best season was 1964 when he scored 642 runs (avge.27.91) and held 24 catches. Against Sussex at Hastings he scored 102 (thirteen fours), sharing an ultimately match winning sixth-wicket partnership of 121 with Alan Dixon (61).

In 1966 Prodger scored his final century, 114\* v Glamorgan at Gravesend, sharing a 129 run fifth-wicket partnership with Luckhurst (110). He again took 24 catches in only 17 appearances but his total runs for the season was only 384. Next year he played just five first team matches and resigned at the end of the season.

During earlier winters he had worked as a draughtsman for local Dartford engineering company J&E Hall and he now opted for a full time career in engineering. In his final season he competed in the Charringtons Kent Single-wicket Tournament, losing in the final to Alan Dixon.

Starting with Wilmington FC, throughout his career with Kent John Prodger played football as a goalkeeper, mostly professionally. He played one friendly and three London Mid-Week League games for Charlton and had two spells with Dartford, two with Margate, one with Gravesend and Northfleet and one with Sittingbourne. While with Margate he played in an FA Cup match with Crystal Palace.

At Dartford in 1958 he married Margaret Smythe.

**Barry James Keith Pryer (No.627).**

*Born:* 01.02.1925, Plumstead. *Died:* 15.10.2007. Perth, Western Australia.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg-spin bowler.

Kent 1947-1949.

Educated: City of London School & St Catherine's College, Cambridge,

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	3	0	7	7	2.33	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	27	37	10	252	75*	9.33	0	1	9

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	210	0	147	4	36.75	3-44		
<b>Overall</b>	3745	116	1888	48	39.33	4-25		

Although never making his mark in first-class cricket, Barry Pryer spun his leg breaks and googlies much more than most of his kind and could be devastating against lesser opposition. He was in his school Eleven from 1941 to 1943, leading the side in his final two years and in 1942 heading both batting and bowling averages. He was chosen for the annual Public Schools v Lord's Schools fixture in 1942 and 1943.

Joining the Royal Navy where he reached the rank of Lieutenant, he twice represented the senior service at Lord's in 1946. Against the RAF, he took 6 for 48 in their second innings and in the end of season Kingston-upon-Thames Festival marked his first-class debut with 4 for 25 for Combined Services v Surrey.

In 1947 he made his first-class debut for Kent, against Northants at Gravesend where he bowled 13 overs without taking a wicket. For the Second Eleven he was more successful with 14 wickets in three matches including match figures of 9 for 86 against Norfolk at Lakenham. Three matches for Combined Services rated first-class gained him half a dozen wickets and in two appearances for the Royal Navy in two-day matches at Lord's he took 8 for 63 v the RAF and 4 for 76 v the Army.

Going up to Cambridge in 1948, Pryer was awarded his Blue as a Freshman but, at 57.22 each, his nine wickets were expensive. It probably did not help that his captain, John Mills, bowled in similar style. Although a confirmed tail-ender, he scored 75\* against Middlesex at Fenner's, adding 149 in 90 minutes in an unfinished ninth-wicket partnership with Richard Pearsall (80\*). He again did well for Kent Seconds, finishing second highest wicket-taker with 27 at 20.85 and taking 5 for 90 v Gloucestershire Seconds at Bristol, 4 for 20 v Norfolk at Lakenham and 3 for 21 & 5 for 75 v Wiltshire at Trowbridge.

Pryer retained his place in the Cambridge side at the start of the 1949 season but, despite match figures of 5 for 101 v MCC at Lord's and 4 for 65 & 3 for 68 v Worcestershire at New Road, he was dropped immediately before the University Match. He had bowled more overs than anyone else but possibly leg-spin was beginning to go out of fashion and 23 wickets at 41.43 was deemed too expensive. In August 1949, with Doug Wright playing for England, Pryer made his second appearance for Kent, against Somerset at Weston-Super-Mare. He produced respectable figures – 3 for 44 & 1 for 52 – but this proved to be his last game for the County.

In 1950 Pryer took 4 for 34 in the first pre-season trial at Cambridge but did not regain his place in the Eleven although he played one more first-class match at Fenner's, against the University for Free Foresters.

This ended his first-class career. He continued to appear for Free Foresters for another ten years, touring the Netherlands with them in 1960. His other clubs included Band of Brothers, Buccaneers and West Kent. His death went unnoticed by *Wisden*.

### **Douglas Charles Gordon Raikes (No.631).**

*Born:* 26. 01.1910, Clifton, Bristol. *Died:* 27. 03.1993, Strathglass, Inverness, Scotland.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1948.

Educated: Shrewsbury School & Queen's College, Oxford.

Parents: Thomas Algernon Raikes & Jean Edith Raikes (*née* Baird)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	3	1	7	4*	3.50	0	0	4/1
<b>Overall</b>	12	12	2	76	37	7.60	0	0	21/8

Douglas Raikes kept wicket for his school from 1926 to 1928 but did not gain his Blue at Oxford until his penultimate year, 1931. He had not participated in any of the Trials and according to *Wisden* he only found a place in the side because John Mayhew (illness) and Peter Oldfield (broken finger) were unavailable.

Teammate and future well-known (some used other words such as curmudgeonly ) sporting journalist Lyn Wellings saw things differently. In his *Vintage Cricketers*, he suggests 'We almost missed our best wicketkeeper.' The Cambridge captain Denis Moore, like Raikes a Salopian, was determined to avoid any suggestion of favouritism. 'Until I urged his claims, Raikes would not have been tried on the tour'. In the event, despite having played only four first-class matches, Raikes' work behind the stumps in the University match won praise from sections of the sporting press. Although a confirmed tail-ender, in the MCC game immediately before the University match he scored 37 and shared a 69 run last-wicket partnership with Walter Bradshaw (21\*).

Exams kept Raikes away from cricket at Oxford in 1932, but on coming down he played five matches for Gloucestershire, proving a capable deputy for Harry Smith, absent through illness. Eight of his 11 dismissals were from the bowling of two of the great exponents of spin, Charlie Parker (one catch, two stumpings) and Tom Goddard (two catches, one stumping).

In 1948, while Raikes was playing club cricket for Sevenoaks Vine, he made two appearances for Kent as deputy for Godfrey Evans, absent playing in a Test Trial at Edgbaston and against Australia at Trent Bridge. His 'keeping on a drying wicket in the first match against Worcestershire at Gravesend was much-praised by the *cognoscenti*.

The son of a senior official in the British South Africa company and latterly with the National Bank of Egypt, Raikes joined ICI in 1933 and rose to a senior position in their Overseas Division. During the 1939/1945 war Raikes served with the Royal Army Ordnance Corps, holding several staff appointments and attaining the rank of Major.

In 1935 he married Mona Goulden (1904-1966). There were three sons and one daughter. In 1967 he married again, in Sevenoaks, Pauline Grace Mason (1924-2008).

### **Peter Edward Richardson. (No.682).**

*Born:* 04. 07.1931, Hereford. *Died:* 16.02.2017, Ashford, Kent.  
 Left-handed batsman.  
 Kent 1959-1965. Worcestershire County cap. 1952. Kent County cap 1960.  
 Worcestershire captain 1956-1958.  
*Wisden* Cricketer of the Year: 1957.  
 Tests: 34 for England.  
 Educated: Cathedral School, Hereford.  
 Parents: Walter Sylvester Richardson & Nancy Richardson (*née* Jones).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	162	290	12	9975	172	35.88	18	52	96
<b>England</b>	34	56	1	2061	126	37.47	5	9	6
<b>Overall</b>	454	794	41	26055	185	34.60	44	140	220

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	226	11	164	4	41.00	2-32		
<b>England</b>	120	9	48	3	16.00	2-10		
<b>Overall</b>	763	35	499	11	45.36	2-10		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	3	0	168	127	56.00	1	0	0

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

By now of course commonplace, until the latter half of the 20th century for a fully-fledged county cricketer, still less a Test cricketer, to switch counties was unusual, more so perhaps in the case of Kent than most counties. When Peter Richardson joined Kent from Worcestershire in 1959 it was rare indeed. At that stage, he had played 25 Test matches with five Test hundreds to his credit and had scored over 13,000 first-class runs. He had captained Worcestershire from 1956 to 1958 and been chosen as one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year as recently as 1957.

The son of a Master Butcher, Richardson had played as an amateur throughout his Worcestershire career but now he came as a professional and in his relatively short Kent career only in the first and the last did he fail to reach his thousand runs, three times exceeding two thousand. He was comfortably Kent's leading run-scorer in every season from 1960 to 1963 and during his time with the County only once did any other Kent batsman, Bob Wilson, reach the 2,000 mark.

According to his friend Trevor Bailey, Richardson was limited to just four scoring strokes and had gained a reputation for dourness, helped partly at least due to his famous 488 minute Test century at Johannesburg on the 1956/1957 MCC tour. By the time he came to Canterbury he had become more aggression minded and, while still strong in defence with a short backlift, blessed with strong forearms, he was a powerful driver and cutter, a prolific pusher and deflector on the leg side and adept in keeping the scoreboard moving with quick singles.

The media made much of his record in the 1956 series against Australia when Richardson was caught behind the wicket in every Test, eight innings in all but he still ended third in the Test averages with 364 runs (avge.45.50) including 81 & 73 at Trent Bridge and 104 at Old Trafford. In truth, when he

finished at Worcester, he had been caught behind by the nominated keeper in 18% of his innings which seems unusually high but during his later career with Kent the figure fell to a more normal 13%.

Possibly to some extent a carry-over from his amateur days, for Kent, as with Worcestershire, he trod on a few toes, more often than not at the expense of committee men and officials who did not quite share his highly developed sense of humour, notably the late, great 'Jim' Swanton, some of which became legends around the counties. His penchant for finding unlikely names for team members such as Harold Macmillan John Profumo etc. as well as fictitious double barrelled Colonels, some found their way on to the Trent Bridge score board and very nearly into the sporting press.

Always willing to take risks as a captain, he led Kent in 44 first-class matches, the most by any Kent captain not nominated as such at the start of the season. His record, won 9, lost 13, 22 drawn.

Commencing his season with a pair of games for MCC, Richardson began his 1959 Kent career with a duck against Cambridge University at Gillingham. Worcestershire had contested his switch and in his qualifying season his only other first-class match for Kent was against the Indian tourists at Canterbury. His one innings of substance was on his debut for Players v Gentlemen at the Scarborough Festival where he scored 84. He had previously played six times for the Gentlemen but this was his highest in the fixture. For Kent Second Eleven he was leading scorer, 799 runs with one century against Essex at Hadleigh, and five half-centuries.

After a fairly low key start, in 1960 he finished second in the Kent averages with 1,608 runs (avge.35.75) with 11 half centuries and a top score of 96 at Rushden. Among his most satisfying innings was 88\* at Edgbaston where the next highest score was 16 and Kent were 165 all out. After another quiet start in 1961, Richardson scored over 2,000 runs in all matches - 2,152 (avge.37.75) - the first Kent player to reach 2,000 since Arthur Fagg in 1951. He registered four hundreds, including 171 v Surrey at Blackheath, 132 against Northamptonshire at Dover, and 111 at Cheltenham, as well as 91 v Worcestershire at Gravesend, the beginning of a run of a half-century or better in five successive matches. In all there were 12 half centuries and he shared in six century partnerships. He also held 29 catches, a personal best.

One of those out of selectorial favour following the 1958/1959 Australian tour, he was back in the fold for the tour of Pakistan, India and Ceylon (as it was) in the 1961/1962 winter. Playing in all eight Test matches, three against Pakistan, five against India, he scored two half centuries against India and at Bombay (now Mumbai) shared a 159 run opening partnership with Geoff Pullar (Richardson 71, Pullar 83). His top score against Pakistan was 48. Against East Zone at Cuttack he scored 59 and 147 and in all first-class matches on the tour totalled 1,003 runs (avge.37.14).

Beginning with a hundred at Northampton, his second for Kent against the county, he was consistent throughout the 1962 season, finishing with 2,081 runs (avge.38.53), all of them for Kent, with four centuries, 11 half-centuries and nine century partnerships. At Gravesend, after asking Somerset to bat first, he was obliged to dig his team out of a hole of his own making with a stolid 135 and a match-saving 116 run sixth-wicket partnership with debutant Brian Luckhurst. At Romford, on a pitch relatively grassless at both ends, he scored 148 and put on 177 for the second-wicket with Wilson (101), only to lose by one wicket.

In late July, early August, he had successive scores of 94 & 60 at Hastings, 162 & 71, the latter out of a team total of 136, at Middlesbrough and 85 in the only innings against Hampshire at the start of Canterbury Week.

First to both his thousand and two thousand runs in 1963, Richardson's totalled 2,110 runs (avge.39.07), only Brian Bolus (2,190) scoring more, and no other batsman in the country reaching his 2,000. Top of the Kent averages and eighth in *Wisden*, with Cowdrey out for the season from June onwards after a fractured hand in the Lord's Test, Richardson seemed to thrive on the additional burden of captaincy with five first-class hundreds and 11 fifties, twice out in the 90s.

In addition, Richardson contributed 127 (14 fours) against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in the newly introduced Gillette Cup one-day competition. Kent were dismissed for 243 in 56.2 overs of the allocated 60 and only Cowdrey and Underwood of the others passed 20. Richardson won the Man of the Match award.

Following 105 against Northants at Dartford, his third against the Midland county, he posted 124 in his next innings, v Middlesex at Lord's and ran into a highly productive vein of form two matches later with, in successive fixtures, half centuries against Yorkshire at Gravesend and Hampshire at Southampton, 131 at Leicester, 139\* at Nuneaton and 95 in the return with Middlesex at the Nevill. In Canterbury Week he scored 172 v Hampshire which included 204 for the third-wicket in 135 minutes with Leary (132) and 96 v Leicestershire, enlivened by a 124 run first-wicket partnership in 23 overs with David Nicholls (48).

Richardson participated in nine century partnerships in 1963 including 199 for the second wicket with Wilson (121) in the Northants match at Dartford and 189\* for the first wicket with Luckhurst (44\*) at Nuneaton.

In July he played his last Test match, against West Indies, at Edgbaston – bowled Wes Hall 2 and caught off Charlie Griffith for 14. At Dartford, he was top scorer with 85 against a strong Pakistan Eaglets side including Asif Iqbal, Intikhab Alam, Majid Jahangir and Wazir, Mushtaq and Sadiq of the Mohammad brothers. During the winter he scored two half-centuries in an eight match tour of Pakistan with a remarkably strong Commonwealth Eleven and in a three match tour of Jamaica.

Without looking particularly out of form, in 1964 the runs were not coming and halfway through June Richardson had only one half-century to his credit and had not yet reached 400 runs for the season. From this point the runs began to flow but it was mid-July before he notched his first hundred, 111\* in a drawn game with Warwickshire at Mote Park. Once again he flourished in Canterbury Week with 124 v Hampshire which included 103 before lunch and a second-wicket partnership with beneficiary Wilson (130) of 147 in a little over two hours. Retired hurt in the second innings, he was to miss the next six matches.

Back in the side at Canterbury against the Australians, he emulated Cowdrey in 1961 with a century in each innings. His 111 came in 150 minutes with 22 fours and the second 115 in two hours with 21 fours. In the first innings he shared 164 for the first-wicket with Ted Fillary (46) and 122 for the third with Cowdrey (90).

Thanks to his variable form at the beginning of the season and his injury, 1,417 runs (avge.32.95) was his lowest average for a full season since his first with Worcestershire in 1952. In the winter he captained in two Festival matches a Commonwealth team against the President's team at Eden Gardens, Calcutta (now Kolkata), scoring 130 in the first but the match was played twelve a side and, not ranked first-class. In the second, at the same venue but ranked first-class, he scored 43 and 29. In the New Year he toured West Indies with the International Cavaliers under the captaincy of Trevor Bailey against full strength opposition, his best score 114 in the first match at Bridgetown, Barbados.

Batting mainly at four or five, in the second half of the season in what transpired to be his final season, in May Richardson scored 83 against Oxford University, 64 v Northants at Gravesend and 64 and 117 v Glamorgan at Swansea but subsequently did little apart from two 40s and, before the end of the season, he had decided to retire. He already had business interests outside cricket which were now expanded. He played 21 matches in all with 819 runs (avge.24.08) and in his Swansea hundred he shared the last of his century partnerships, 141 for the third-wicket with Denness (41) after Kent were 0 for two.

On leaving Kent, the committee presented him with a silver salver and a cheque (amount unspecified).



He continued to play recreational cricket into the 1980s, one of the last of note for Old England, against Minor Counties at Reading in 1981. In the previous season he had scored 52 for Old England v Lord's Taverners and played twice in that same season for Old England v Old Australia. As well as Old England, he appeared both for and against Lord's Taverners and for International Cavaliers. In 1976 he scored 45 for D.H.Robins' Eleven against Kent at Canterbury and in 1972 81 for MCC v Argentina at Lord's.

Apart from the two counties he played for, Kent and Worcestershire, he registered a century against every county except Lancashire, and Sussex, four each against Essex, Gloucestershire and Northants.

His five Test centuries were two against West Indies, one each against Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. His 12 centuries outside Test and county cricket included three against Australian teams, two against Oxford University, one against Cambridge University, one against Wellington and one against what was then Rhodesia.

The most successful bowlers against Richardson were - 11: B.A Langford, D. Shackleton, F.S.Truman. 9: E.Hollies, J.C.Laker, J.B.Statham.: 8:D.B.Close, N.I.Thomson, 7: J.A..Flavell, B.R.Knight, P.J.Loader, A.E.Moss.

On his last trip to Australia in 1958/1959, Richardson had four times lost his wicket to Richie Benaud and in India and Pakistan in 1961/1962 he was said to have had trouble with leg spinners Chandrakant Borde, Subhashchandra Gupte and Intikhab Alam. At a time when leg spinners in England were becoming as rare as hen's teeth, he lost his wicket to most of the few surviving practitioners. Eric Hollies is mentioned in the previous paragraph, others included B.Dooland (3), G.Goonesena, T.Greenhough (3), W.T.Greensmith (5), E.Leadbeater, G.Lester (2), J.M.Sims and D.V.P.Wright.

Peter Richardson's two brothers both played first-class cricket. Derek Walter 'Dick' played 371 first-class and 13 List A matches for Worcestershire between 1952 and 1967, scoring over 15,000 runs including 16 hundreds, holding over 400 catches, and playing one Test for England against West Indies at Trent Bridge alongside brother Peter. Brian Anthony made 40 appearances for Warwickshire between 1963 and 1967, scoring two centuries.

### **Frederick Ridgway. (No.618).**

*Born:* 10. 08.1923, Stockport, Cheshire. *Died:* 26. 09.2015, Maidstone.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1946-1961. County cap 1947.

Tests: Five for England.

Educated: Dialstone Lane Central School, Stockport.

Parents: Frederick Ridgway & Catherine Ridgway (*née* McDonald)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	298	442	100	3812	94	11.14	0	9	203
<b>England</b>	5	6	0	49	24	8.16	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	341	486	115	4081	94	11.00	0	9	234

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	50372	1876	22740	955	23.81	8-39	38	6
<b>England</b>	793	23	379	7	54.14	4-83	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	56616	2113	25381	1069	23.74	8-39	41	6

For almost a decade and a half, Fred Ridgway was the heart, soul, sinews and backbone of the Kent pace attack. Of the post-war generation, only Derek Underwood took more wickets for Kent. Although at around five feet nine inches, short for a fast bowler, when he first appeared he was among the quickest in the country, albeit in a limited field. In 1951 *Wisden* thought him 'perhaps the fastest bowler in England at top pace'. With a wholehearted approach much appreciated by the Kentish faithful, his long run-up culminated in an extended last stride which appeared to impart much of his pace and hostility. When at his best, few on the county circuit moved the ball so late.

He was unfortunate in that much of his career spanned the Statham, Trueman, Tyson, Loader era when England were spoilt for choice, while with Kent, he shared the new ball with 20 different, often inexperienced partners. As a result, he became, if not quite a workhorse – he was better than that – one of the most hard-worked strike bowlers in England. Especially with some of the less experienced skippers, many of his teammates had little doubt that he was often over-bowled.

When he first appeared for Kent in 1946, he shared the new ball with Norman Harding (*q.v.*), giving Kent the luxury of genuine pace at both ends but following the latter's death from poliomyelitis in 1947 there was no settled new ball partner until the arrival of David Halfyard (*q.v.*) in 1952. His most frequent partners were Eddie Crush and Ray Dovey, both of whom bowled a tight line but were no more than medium pace.

The son of a labourer in a brickworks, Ridgway was eldest of six children and originally played for his school as wicketkeeper but revealed unexpected fast bowling talents when asked to bowl during net practice. In his final year he captained the school at both cricket and football. On leaving school he worked as a lathe operator and followed his father by playing cricket for Stockport CC where he benefitted from the coaching of Jack Iddon. As a footballer, in 1939 he was offered a trial by Wolverhampton Wanderers but signed instead for Stockport County.

In 1941 Fred Ridgway joined the Royal Marines and, like many professional sportsmen, became a PT instructor. During his service he played representative football for the Marines and guested on the wing for Portsmouth. While stationed at Deal he met his future wife, Kathleen Hills who was serving in the WRNS. They married in Stockport in 1944. There were two daughters.

When Lance Corporal Ridgway was demobilised, the couple remained in Kent and in 1946, following a trial, he joined the Kent staff in time for the start of the season. He also signed for Ramsgate FC, playing mainly on the wing.

His career for Kent began with a hat-trick. Opening the bowling in his first match for Kent Second Eleven against Sussex, with the score 23 for 1, he accounted for Hylton Rimmer (bowled), John Duffield (lbw) and John Dew (bowled), finishing with 3 for 59 from 28 overs. In the second innings he took 3 for 24.

He continued to take wickets for Kent Seconds and when an injury to Harding gave him a chance in the first team he had already claimed 35 wickets in Second Eleven and Club & Ground games. On his debut, against Lancashire at Mote Park, his one wicket cost 91 runs but he retained his place and when Harding returned for Canterbury Week, the two combined to dismiss Hampshire in their second innings for 173 (Harding 4 for 78, Ridgway 6 for 59). There followed 5 for 44 at Leicester and at the end of the season, he had taken 30 first-class wickets at 21.20 apiece.

In 1947, despite the obvious merits of having Harding and Ridgway to bowl in tandem, as was customary at the time when amateurs such as Tony Mallett or Jack Martin (*q.v.*) were available, Ridgway sometimes found himself back in the Seconds. Early in July however, 7 for 27 & 5 for 59 v Yorkshire at Hull and 4 for 74 and 6 for 48 v Leicestershire at Dover in August made him difficult to drop and by the end of the season he was capped, a fixture in the side and, injury and illness apart, would remain so until 1961.

Although never achieving 100 wickets in Kent matches alone, he twice reached the 90s. His best seasons were 1958 (his benefit year) 98 wickets (avge.14.83), 1949 97 (avge.22.69), 105 in all matches, and 1951 89 (avge.20.92) and only twice did his total fall below 50. 1950 was not one of his best seasons but he twice took eight in an innings. Against Essex at Clacton, his figures were 0 for 60 when he took the second new ball; he finished with 8 for 112. At Dover, where Nottinghamshire totalled 1577, he produced his personal best – 8 for 39, only three batsmen achieving double figures. In both cases he was on the losing side but in 1960 he took 8 for 39 again when Lancashire were beaten by an innings at Dartford. In what was virtually his last season, his match figures were 12 for 101.

At Folkestone in 1951, Derbyshire were 204 for 3 when a tired, stropky and reluctant Ridgway was persuaded to take the second new ball by acting captain Jack Davies, using a blend of cajolery, threats and flattery. With the first delivery of his second over he bowled Alan Revill, the second. third and fourth accounted for John Kelly, 'Dusty' Rhodes and Cliff Gladwin via catches to Arthur Fagg (slip), Colin Cowdrey (leg slip) and Godfrey Evans (wicket) respectively and finished with 6 for 44. This was the first four-in-four in England since 1937 and the first for Kent since Joseph Wells in 1862. Again Kent lost but they were winners when Ridgway took his second hat-trick, (Alan Smith, Michael Eagar & Andy Corran) against Oxford University at Oxford in 1958. In the innings he took 7 for 42 Earlier in the day he had himself been the middle victim of a hat-trick by a Kent teammate, David Sayer.

Apart from a Test Trial and appearances in festival matches, Ridgway played no representative cricket in England but toured India, Pakistan and Ceylon (as it was then known) with England in 1951-52. In the previous winter he had travelled more or less the same territory with a Commonwealth team. Considering that the only other Commonwealth seam bowlers were Derek Shackleton and Frank Worrell, he did not fare too badly with 12 wickets (avge.31.08) in the four unofficial 'Tests' and 45 at 21.48 each in all matches.

The England tour too was hard work. The other seam bowling consisted of Brian Statham, Shackleton and Alan Watkins for a 24 match itinerary and, apart from 4 for 83 in the Third Test at Calcutta (now Kolkata), he found wickets hard to get. Nevertheless, 41 wickets at 26.04 in all first-class matches was a reasonable return.

Fred Ridgway was never given to the type of on-field histrionics so common –and in some quarters, so much admired - today. He could however be a fiery character if provoked. When the Indian tourists played at Canterbury in 1952, he delivered what appeared to be a deliberate throw at 'Polly' Umrigar who was busily compiling 204. Umpire Alec Skelding, his mind possibly on higher things or possibly secretly in sympathy, did not see, or at least said nothing and the incident passed off with minimal media attention. Possibly his recent experiences toiling on sub-continental wickets got the better of him. Whatever the motivation, it was probably a relief when, just a week later, he took 6 for 50 & 3 for 53 for an England Eleven v the Indians at Hastings. Unfortunately perhaps, Umrigar was 12th man.

According to Derek Ufton (*q.v.*) who joined Kent on the same day as Ridgway, it was not unknown for his teammates to deliberately rile him. Bowling in tandem with bowlers such as Dovey who bowled off a few paces, left Ridgway with little time to rest between overs. Often, he had barely settled in his place at third man, when it was time to trudge back and bowl again. On occasions, his teammates, sometimes helped by a batsman in on the joke, speeded up the process with the poor bowler getting hotter and hotter and angrier and angrier. Fortunately, he did not lack a sense of humour.

During his career Ridgway dismissed most of the leading batsmen of his time including Denis Compton, Ted Dexter, Neil Harvey, Len Hutton, Rohan Kanhai, Peter May and Gary Sobers. His most frequent scalps were Don Kenyon (14 times, eight times for single figures), Denis Brookes and Bill Edrich (10 each). 59% of his wickets were batsmen in the top five of the batting order and, of these, 51% were dismissed for single figures.

With the obvious exception of 1955 when injury restricted him to six matches he only twice, 1957 and his last in 1960, delivered fewer than 500 overs in a season. In 1949 he bowled 912 overs, more than 700 in 1948, 1950 and 1951.

A useful batsman, allrounder status might perhaps not been beyond him had he not had to do so much bowling. In 1953 he scored 679 runs (avge.18.35) with a top score of 94 against Cambridge University at Folkestone (batting number seven). Against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in 1949 he hit 89 (4 sixes, 10 fours) in a then record ninth-wicket partnership of 161 in 70 minutes with Brian Edrich (193). In the field, he spent much of his time on the boundary, but he was also a talented close catcher. Three times he exceeded 20 catches in a season, 29 in 1956.

With 44 wickets at 20.84 each, Ridgway had a good season in 1960 but injury and illness restricted him to 12 matches. Following the family's move to Maidstone in 1955, he had been working in the winter at Reed's Paper Group in Aylesford. At the end of the 1960 season there came an offer of full-time employment with the Group in production planning and he decided to retire. He played one last match in 1961, v Nottinghamshire at Tunbridge Wells.

On leaving Kent, he played club cricket for Reed's and for Luke's CC as well as golf for Cobtree Seniors. His benefit in 1958 raised £4,640.

### **Giles Nicholas Spencer Ridley. (No.699).**

*Born:* 27. 11.1944, Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe)

Right-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1965.

Educated: Milton High School, Rhodesia & Pembroke College, Oxford.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	1	0	10	10	10.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	45	68	8	889	50*	14.81	0	1	40

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	54	1	26	0				
<b>Overall</b>	8150	513	3051	123	24.80	7-110	2	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	6	6	0	43	29	7.16	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	228	10	112	2	56.00	1-22	0	2.94

When he came to the UK to take up his place at Pembroke College, Giles Ridley had already toured England twice, with Rhodesian Schools Fawns in 1962 and with South African Schools in 1963. When taking five wickets against Marlborough College in 1962, among his victims were Christopher Martin-Jenkins and the future Sussex captain, Mike Griffith.

While his solitary appearance for Kent in 1965 was uneventful and he did nothing of note in three games for Kent Seconds, Ridley met with considerable success during his four years in the Oxford University Eleven, beginning with 7 for 110 on his first-class debut against Gloucestershire in the Parks. In 1966 he was joint leading wicket-taker with 42 (avge.23.07) and when he captained the University against Cambridge in 1967 he took 4 for 57 & 3 for 43, hit 46 in a sixth- wicket partnership of 96 in 90 minutes with David Toft (145) and headed the bowling averages with 35 (avge.23.77). In his four University Matches he took in all 20 Cambridge wickets (avge.17.25).

Between 1969 and 1972 he played 30 Minor Counties Championship, and two Gillette Cup matches for Oxfordshire. In 1970 he was leading wicket-taker with 47 wickets at 17.00 and in the following season claimed 27 at an economical 12.11. He hit three half-centuries with a highest of 77\* v Berkshire at Cowley in 1972 and eight times took five or more wickets in an innings with a best of 7 for 49 v Wiltshire at Witney in 1970.

With MCC Ridley toured North America in 1967 and Ireland in 1968 and 1970. He represented Minor Counties v India in 1971, when he hit 4 sixes in an innings of 35, and v Australia in 1972 when he also played four times for Minor Counties South in the Benson & Hedges competition.

Giles Ridley lived for a while in Germany but ultimately settled in South Africa where he founded a company which became one of the World leaders in the field of sports photography. His brother Christopher played six games for Cambridge University in 1971.

#### **Charles James Castell Rowe. (No.711).**

*Born:* 27. 11.1951, Hong Kong.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm/left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1974-1981. County cap. 1977.

Educated: King's School, Canterbury.

Parents: George Rowe CBE and Betty Rowe.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	122	194	33	4226	147*	26.24	5	20	43
<b>Overall</b>	175	277	43	6173	147*	26.38	6	30	63

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4812	212	2301	59	39.00	6-46	3	1
<b>Overall</b>	10056	401	5127	128	40.05	6-46	3	1

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	78	65	14	971	81	19.03	0	3	18
<b>Overall</b>	119	96	19	1563	81	20.29	0	7	25

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	115	0	144	8	18.00	5-32	1	4.74
<b>Overall</b>	601	8	528	18	29.33	5-32	1	5.27

Born in Hong Kong where his father was in the Colonial Service and ended his career as Director of Social Welfare, Charles Rowe was one of the outstanding allround schoolboy cricketers of his generation. He was in the King's School Eleven from 1966 to 1970, captaining in his last two years. In his first year, not yet 15, he took 25 wickets and in each of the two following seasons headed both batting and bowling averages. In 1969 he claimed 55 wickets at 11.00 and rounded off his school career in 1970 with 583 runs (avge.83.28) and 48 wickets (avge.12.66).

Genuinely ambidextrous, at this stage he bowled leg-breaks and googlies with his right-arm and Chinamen and googlies with his left. Against Eastbourne College in 1967 he took 5 for 32, two bowling right-arm, three left-arm. Subsequently, he usually switched to his left-arm method when he wanted to buy wickets. In his final two years at school he often came on as first change, swinging the ball at medium pace and, if the wicket did not suit his leg breaks he could switch to off spin.

Unsurprisingly, his hero was Gary Sobers. In an article on Schools' Cricket in the 1968 *Wisden*, the usually acerbic Lynn Wellings labelled Rowe 'the cricketing equivalent of a one-man band'. Beginning in 1968, he represented NAYC South, Public Schools, MCC Schools and, in 1970, England Young Cricketers against West Indies Young Cricketers. In 1970-1971 he toured India with ESCA and in 1971 Sri Lanka, Singapore and Sabah with the Hong Kong Club.

Still at school when Rowe played five matches for Kent Second Eleven in 1969, commencing against Worcestershire at Amblescote where he took 3 for 11. He made occasional appearances in 1970 and 1972 but the people who mattered in Kent showed no great interest. Rightly or wrongly, at the time there were suggestions that Kent were not particularly keen on public school cricketers. In 1973, possibly due to a little lobbying from Colin Fairservice (*q.v.*) his coach at King's, he played four matches, scoring 71\* against Sussex Seconds at Folkestone and producing match figures of 5 for 28 and 3 for 27 against Surrey at Norbury, enough to place him top of the Second Eleven bowling averages.

Expectations were high when, in 1974, he joined the Kent staff. Spoken of in some quarters as a future Kent captain, like several others who arrived with an impressive record in schools cricket, he took a while to become established. Making his debut against Surrey at The Oval, batting number ten he was unbeaten on 4\* and claimed two wickets, number eleven Pat Pocock in the first innings, number one John Edrich in the second. On his fourth appearance, batting number nine, he hit a maiden half-century, 58\* at Trent Bridge, and finished the season with 237 runs (avge.29.62) plus five expensive wickets.

While Rowe proved one of the best allround fielders in the side, as a bowler he became for the most part little more than a useful change. It probably did not help that, in line with the prevailing – and some might now think misguided – orthodoxy of the time, Kent persuaded him to switch from what was considered to be the extravagance of wrist-spin to conventional off-breaks as back-up for Graham Johnson. Even so, in 1976 he was leading Second Eleven wicket taker.

Handicapped by being frequently asked to bat in the lower- middle order where batsmen were often obliged to sacrifice their wickets in the quest for bonus points, he progressed slowly in his first four seasons. There were some who believed he might have achieved more with better handling and it has been suggested that this perceived lack of guidance was a factor in the loss to Kent of another product of King's School, Tunbridge Wells-born David Gower.

Probably his best early effort as a batsman was in support of Colin Cowdrey's match-winning 151\* against the 1975 Australians at Canterbury. When he was caught behind the wicket off Gus Gilmour for a gritty 30, he quite legitimately waited for the umpire's decision. This drew a lively vocal response from the Australians but nevertheless the great Dennis Lillee joined in the applause while Rowe made his way back to the pavilion.

In 1976 he showed glimpses of his class. Batting number eight against Surrey in the second match of Canterbury Week, he was top scorer when he rallied a faltering innings with 79\* (1 six, 13 fours) out of 140 and repeated the performance in the following match batting number nine at Taunton with 75\*

(2 sixes, 9 fours) out of the last 112. Against Derbyshire on a drying, turning Dover wicket he out-bowled Graham Johnson with 5 for 25 and 6 for 46, 3 for 0 from nine balls on the final morning. Given a rare chance to bowl in limited-overs cricket, at New Road in the John Player League, he took 5 for 32 in 30 balls.

In 1977 he totalled 540 runs (avge.20.76) and against Sussex in a rain-ruined match at the Nevell achieved his best allround performance to date. With Graham Clinton (79) he put on 168 for the second-wicket and, 91 not out overnight, thanks to morning rain had to endure a 52 wait for his maiden hundred, 103 (run out). In the only Sussex innings he took 5 for 85, enough to earn him his County cap.

More fortunate than some in terms of first-team selection - 14 first-class matches in 1974, nine in 1975, 16 in 1976 and 20 in 1977, in that period consistency nevertheless eluded him. Apart from his century in those four seasons there were only seven other scores over 50. As a bowler, although occasionally a useful partnership breaker, he was generally under-used and seldom more than third or fourth change

Change came in 1978 with promotion to opener. Although never achieving three figures, there were seven scores between 59 and 85 and he passed the benchmark 1,000 runs – 1,065 (avge.35.50). He shared four century stands with Bob Woolmer as well as six half- century partnerships, three with Woolmer, three with Johnson. 1979 started even better with three centuries by mid-June, two of them not out. In the opening match at Chelmsford he batted for over six hours for 108\* out of 205 for 8, the next highest score 34. Against Sussex at Canterbury his 147\* in a total of 302 for seven declared lasted five and a half hours and at Gloucester as well as a brisker 102 in three and a half hours, he ended the match with 4 for 4 in six overs. By mid-July he had over 800 runs to his credit but from then on he managed only 174 runs in 16 completed innings with a top score of 48.

The pattern was repeated in 1980. In his second game, at Ilford, he scored 98 and partnered Alan Ealham (145) in adding 186 for the third-wicket. In the following match at Bournemouth, he hit 109 and 57\* and in between reached his personal best in limited-overs cricket with 81 v Somerset at St Lawrence. He was out of the side for eight matches and for the remainder of the season his top score was 30. Despite match figures of 9 for 60 including a hat-trick for the Second Eleven against Surrey at Norbury, he was still rarely given a chance to bowl for the first team. On one occasion when he did get to the bowling crease, in a drawn game with Sussex at Hove, he took 2 for 31, dismissing Geoff Arnold with his right-arm, and last man Chris Waller with the only ball he bowled with his left.

In his final season Charles Rowe contributed 21 and 54 in a low-scoring, rain interrupted match with Yorkshire at Dartford but, in the words of the Kent Annual, he ‘dropped out of the side in mid-season.’ In 1982 he joined Glamorgan where he remained for three years, scoring over, 1,000 runs in his first season and gaining his county cap in 1983.

In 1985 he changed direction, commencing a highly successful career in the City with Rowe (no relation) & Pitman (Warburgs) and in equity sales for the Matrix Group. He retired in 2010.

Away from first-class cricket, Charles Rowe played for Band of Brothers, Beckenham, MCC, Yellowhammers and Stragglers of Asia where for many years he served on the committee. From 1992 to 2000 he appeared regularly for Sir JP Getty’s Eleven. He was President of Kent in 2017 and served on the General Committee from 2018.

His other sports have included Rugby, hockey, tennis, squash, soccer (at school) and table tennis. His first wife Susan (*née* Morgan) played tennis for Kent, was a member of the Junior Wightman Cup squad and represented England at over 65 level. His son Jamie played three first-class matches for Durham University Centre of Cricket Excellence and one List A match for Kent Cricket Board. Both he and his sister Lucy played tennis at county and regional level. His second wife is Victoria (*née* Loxton-Edwards).

**David John Sabine (No. 747).**

*Born:* 02.06.1966, Papakura, Auckland, New Zealand.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1988.

Educated: St. Anselm's Roman Catholic Comprehensive School, Canterbury & Canterbury College of Technology.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	0	8	7	4.00	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	60	4	29	0				

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	0							0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	30	0	19	0				3.80

Joining the staff in 1987, David Sabine arrived with impressive credentials. He had played regularly for Kent Under-17s and had captained the side when they toured British Columbia in 1983. In the following year he appeared for Kent Under-25s in the South Eastern Counties Competition and in 1985 played for the NAYC alongside Michael Atherton and led the Eleven (including Nasser Hussain) against MCC Schools at Lord's and at Leamington. Captaining NAYC South against NAYC North at Leamington, he was top scorer with 75. In 1986 he led a NAYC team to Bermuda.

Sabine made his Second Eleven debut in 1984 and by 1986 had begun to establish himself with seven Second Eleven Championship appearances, a top score of 95 against Essex Seconds at Southend and 4 for 50 in the following match against Yorkshire at Harrogate. In each of his three seasons on the staff he exceeded 500 Second Eleven Championship runs although never averaging more than 25. On occasions he bowled economically, especially in limited overs matches.

It was 1989, his final year on the staff, before he reached three figures – 106 v Surrey at Gore Court and a second-wicket partnership of 190 with Mark Dobson (81) - but he hit 14 half-centuries and achieved double figures in 60% of his innings in the competition. Probably his best performance was against Middlesex Seconds in 1988 when he scored 80 in both innings on a turning Canterbury wicket on which Phil Tufnell had match figures of 13 for 128.

When West Indies came to Canterbury in 1988 Kent 'rested' no fewer than seven first team players. Facing an attack of Curtly Ambrose, Ian Bishop, Winston Benjamin and Roger Harper, Sabine could hardly have faced a more difficult introduction to first-class cricket. He bowled inexpensively, but only four Kent batsmen reached double figures and the match finished in two days. Later that year he made his only other first team appearance, against Sussex at Mote Park in the Sunday League and at the end of the 1989 season he was not re-engaged. The Annual Report of the Cricket Sub-Committee referred to slow scoring, but it must be said that, at the time, Kent had on the staff eight other allrounders who bowled medium or fast-medium pace.

He played for one season as a club professional in New Zealand and as recently as 2005 returned to



St Lawrence with Old Kent. During his playing career he had spells of working in the construction industry during the winter and he subsequently went on to a career in project management consultancy. In 1997 he married Alison Jordan in Canterbury.

### **Martin John Saggars. (No.784).**

*Born:* 23. 05.1972, King's Lynn, Norfolk.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1999-2009. County Cap 2001.

Tests. Three for England.

Educated: Springwood High School, King's Lynn & Huddersfield University.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	103	126	37	1034	64	11.61	0	2	23
<b>England</b>	3	3	0	1	1	0.33	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	119	147	43	1165	64	11.20	0	2	27

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18093	683	9131	367	24.88	7-79	15	0
<b>England</b>	493	20	247	7	35.28	2-29	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	20676	777	10513	415	25.33	7-79	18	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	101	54	26	223	21*	7.96	0	0	18
<b>Overall</b>	124	68	34	313	34*	9.20	0	0	23

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4594	72	3447	136	25.34	5-22	2	4.50
<b>Overall</b>	5622	84	4229	166	25.47	5-22	2	4.51

### **Twenty20 Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	1	0	5	5	5.00	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	10	1	0	5	5	5.00	0	0	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	84	0	93	3	31.00	2-14	0	6.64
<b>Overall</b>	186	0	256	6	42.66	2-14	0	8.25

Destined to be one of the most popular cricketers ever to play for Kent, when Martin Saggars came to Canterbury scepticism was rife in the ranks of the faithful. Hurriedly registered from Durham when Kent faced a crop of injuries, his CV included Derbyshire Second Eleven (1991), Essex Second Eleven (1993-1994), Hampshire Second Eleven (1995), Norfolk (1995-1996) and Durham (1996-1998). For

Durham his record was a respectable 46 wickets in all competitions at 25.60 but, with something of a surfeit of seam bowlers, Durham dispensed with his services at the end of 1998.

Saggers' first year on the staff seemed to prove the sceptics right. Afflicted by a stress fracture to his back, he managed only two first team matches and three in the Second Eleven Championship. The fact that he headed Kent's first-class averages with 12 wickets at 16.00 was some consolation to the more optimistic - although seven of his wickets were against Cambridge University.

The first season of the new century saw all doubts scattered to the four winds. With Headley, Thompson and Phillips missing for the entire season and McCague absent for the first half, Saggers found himself leading the attack, this time genuinely top of the averages and now leading wicket taker with 57 first-class wickets at 20.14 plus another 13 in list A matches. In a vital relegation battle with Hampshire at Canterbury in August he took 5 for 47 when Hampshire's first innings folded for 156 and sealed up one end in the second with figures of 30-11-53-3 as the visitors, chasing 314, fell 15 short. Even more gratifying perhaps was 7 for 59 against his former county at Chester-Le-Street. He shared the Kent Player of the Year award with David Masters.

The pattern was repeated in 2001. Again the mainstay of the seam attack, he was Kent's leading wicket taker in both first-class 64 (avge.24.23) and List A 31 (avge.18.35) matches and was rewarded with a County cap as well as being voted Bowler of the Year by Kent members. He bowled consistently well throughout the season but probably his best performance came when Leicestershire were beaten by three wickets at Grace Road – 6 for 92 in the first innings when the Midlanders totalled 425, 3 for 85 in the second. Among three other five wicket returns was 5 for 22 from seven overs against Gloucestershire at Canterbury in the 45-over Norwich Union League.

Although never quite reaching genuine allrounder status, Saggers often contributed usefully with the bat. As night-watchman against Yorkshire at Headingley he made a valuable 30 in 38 overs in a partnership of 66 with Paul Nixon (34) and in the following match, v Glamorgan at Mote Park, he hit 27\* in a last-wicket partnership of 41 with Ben Trott (13) for a third batting point. Two matches later, against Lancashire at Canterbury he reached his personal best, 61\*, sharing a 116 run seventh-wicket partnership of 116 with Nixon (82).

Martin Saggers' career reached its peak in 2002. With 83 (avge.21.51) first-class wickets he was the country's joint leading wicket taker (with Kevin Dean), ninth in the national averages and top of the Kent averages by a margin of 10 runs. Unsurprisingly, he was voted both Player of the Year and Bowler of the Year. Six times he claimed five or more wickets in an innings, once nine and twice eight in a match. His five wicket hauls came in two batches of three successive matches – 5 for 74 v Hampshire, at Southampton, 5 for 82 v Yorkshire, at Canterbury and 6 for 39 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells in May, 5 for 66 v Surrey at Canterbury, 5 for 44 at Leicester and 5 for 42 v Somerset at Canterbury in July/August. By now attracting selectorial interest, many in a position to judge considered Saggers the finest exponent of the outswinger on the county circuit but the nearest he came to an England cap was a place in the squad for the Hong Kong Sixes.

Although three games were missed through injury, the run of success continued in 2003. Once again, he was the County's leading wicket-taker in first-class cricket with 58 wickets (avge.24.84) and had the satisfaction of gaining his first England cap. Obligated to cancel his holiday, he was called in as a late replacement for Freddie Flintoff during England's tour of Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Making his debut against Bangladesh at Chittagong, he took three wickets and brought off a spectacular, back peddling, one-handed catch on the fine leg boundary, the photograph judged worthy of reproduction in *Wisden*.

2004 started well with a wicket with the first ball of the season and, before April was out a new career best 64 v Worcestershire at Canterbury. In June he was picked for the second and third Test Matches against New Zealand, claiming the wicket of Mark Richardson with his first ball in Test cricket on English soil. At the end of June he suffered a knee injury which effectively ended his season. By then he had claimed 33 wickets for the County in all competitions and 15 first-class wickets at 27.33 were

enough to again place him top of the averages. In list A matches he had figures of 4 for 6 from 7.4 overs v Berkshire at Canterbury in the Second Round of the Cheltenham & Gloucester Trophy, 5 for 51 from nine overs v West Indies at Beckenham.

Before the beginning of the 2005 season it was common knowledge that Saggars was considering a move to Warwickshire. He changed his mind, reputedly on learning that Rob Key was the new captain, but, in the event, never approached the form of previous seasons. Although continuing to bowl well and economically for the Second Eleven, he played only nine first-class matches and 20 wickets in all first-class cricket at 42.70 made him the most expensive of all the regular bowlers. His best return for the first team was 5 for 48 against Bangladesh A when he not only captained his side to a three wicket victory but top scored with 44 in Kent' first innings.

Knee and ankle injuries restricted him to only four first-team appearances in 2006 but hard work in the winter and a short but fruitful loan spell with Essex triggered a return to form in 2007. Although to some extent overshadowed by new arrivals Ryan McLaren, Yasir Arafat and Simon Cook, from late July he bowled consistently, regaining not only his regular place in the side but, at the end of the season, his place at the top of the averages with 19 wickets at 24.36.

The final two seasons were relatively low-key. At the beginning of 2008 wickets did not come easily and he lost his place but, restored to the side in August, there was a return to form with 4 for 26 against Durham at Chester-Le-Street and 4 for 26 again in the following game against Lancashire at St Lawrence. Even so, 24 wickets at 36.37 made him much the most expensive of the seam bowlers. An additional disappointment came when, playing for a combined Kent/Northamptonshire Second Eleven against Yorkshire Seconds at Beckenham ,with the visitors 119 for 9 (Saggars 9 for 62), the match was aborted on the second day to make way for Friends Provident Quarter Final with Somerset, switched from Canterbury. Back to opening the bowling in 2009, Saggars had picked up ten wickets in his first three games when he decided to give up his long struggle with recurring knee troubles. At 26.40 each; only Azhar Mahmood was more economical.

During his time with Kent, Saggars played League cricket for Beckenham, Bickley Park, Blackheath, Hartley Country Club and Tunbridge Wells. Now on the first-class umpires list, he teaches PE at Repton, Dubai where he is also head Cricket coach. A frequent visitor to South Africa, he has established a considerable reputation as a wildlife photographer.

### **David Michael Sayer (No.668)**

*Born:* 19.09.1936, Romford, Essex. *Died:* 23.01.2017 Bearsted, Kent

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler

Kent 1955-1976. Cap 1962

Educated Maidstone Grammar School and Oxford University

Parents: Edmund Sayer & Hilda Sayer (nee Salmonds)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	154	173	64	835	39	7.66	0	0	57
<b>Overall</b>	204	237	86	1252	62	8.29	0	1	76

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	24380	967	10587	441	24.00	7-37	11	1
<b>Overall</b>	33842	1345	14397	613	23.48	7-37	19	2

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	8	4	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	4

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	465	10	271	14	19.35	3-24	0	3.49

David Sayer was born into a cricketing family. He and his two brothers had been encouraged by their father and uncle, both of whom played for Romford Cricket Club in the 1920s and 1930s. His father was a bowler, his uncle captained Romford. An uncle by marriage also played club cricket for nearby Gilden Park. When he was young the family moved from Essex to Kent, making their home close to Penenden.

Something of a schoolboy prodigy, his talent was recognised at an early age. He played representative schools cricket at county, regional and national level and club cricket for The Mote and for Bearsted in 1954. He made his first-class debut for Kent in 1955 while still in his school's sixth form, against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells and against Worcestershire at Dover claimed the distinguished wicket of John Langridge as his first and 'Laddie' Outschoorn as his second. He also made four appearances for the Second Eleven. It was another three years before he again appeared at first-class level.

From Maidstone Grammar School he won an Open Exhibition to Brasenose College, Oxford but, before that he was required, as were almost all young men at that time, to serve a two year period of National Service. To some extent this restricted his opportunities to build on that early promise as a cricketer. He had served in his school's Combined Cadet Force, which gained him admission into the Royal Air Force. That was his choice, not least because he had been advised by Squadron Leader Alexander (Alan) Shirreff, a fellow member of Kent's team in Sayer's first match, that opportunities for cricket would be plentiful if he joined the RAF.

His initial RAF Training or 'square bashing' followed by a posting to RAF Gutersloh, previously a German Luftwaffe base, found him working on pay accounts. That was in November 1955. Being on the receiving end of an overseas posting did not offer a standard of cricket to which he had earlier been introduced but he did have the opportunity for experience in the BAOR cricket knock-out championship. He won recognition, was selected for the Second Tactical Air Force representative side for all RAF forces in BAOR and was awarded his command cap. Whilst on leave in 1956 he played two games for the Kent Second Eleven. Following completion of his national service (his discharge papers referred to him as 'an all-round sportsman with a special ability at cricket' he took up his place at Oxford, where he spent three years as a student reading modern history. The opportunity presented itself to build on that 'special ability' identified in his RAF days.

Even at that time his bowling was regarded as fast. The three brothers all showed ability as cricketers but it was David who stood out from his siblings as a promising fast bowler. His brother John describes the frightening experience of facing him on the new concrete and matting surface in the Maidstone Grammar School nets with balls 'buzzing past my ears like hornets'.

When he came on to the first-class scene, and particularly in his university years, he was thought to be one of the fastest, if not the fastest in the country; certainly he was regarded as the fastest bowler to wear spectacles when bowling. Kent does not enjoy a reputation for producing many outstanding fast bowlers and R.L.Arrowsmith described him only as, in his early days, 'the fastest Kent bowler for many years'. Seeking that extra pace in his university days resulted in him dragging and running down the pitch. That forced him to change his technique which reduced his pace. It was also suggested that the change from grass to matting wickets whilst playing in Germany, affected his run-up.

His reintroduction to the first class game in 1958 came at Oxford where he won his Blue in all three seasons. This would offer the opportunity for him to build experience against the leading counties, tourists and representative sides, testing his abilities and exposing his weaknesses.

In his first season he appeared in 14 of the 16 games, bowled more overs than anyone else in the Eleven, took 62 wickets, topped the University averages. and was fifth in the first-class averages. The side's batsmen were inconsistent throughout the season and, were it not for the consistency of their attack; they would have lost more than nine of their sixteen games. Their four most successful bowlers took 183 wickets and more than 25% of the wickets taken fell to Sayer. Against his home county he had a match return of 11 for 91 including a first innings hat-trick (Tony Catt and Colin Page bowled, Fred Ridgway caught). Two weeks earlier against the New Zealand tourists he had taken seven wickets including four in their second innings when they were dismissed for 45 runs, their lowest total of the tour. For the University in his first season, his victims included England players Brian Close, Vic Wilson, Cyril Washbrook and in the Varsity match, Cambridge and future England Captain, Ted Dexter.

During the vacation he maintained his bowling form in seven matches for Kent. His first appearance against Leicestershire at Grace Road was an outstanding success, in which he played a major part in Kent's victory, taking ten wickets, 7 for 37 in the second innings. He played in both games in Canterbury Week. He had little success in the first, against Hampshire, but came back strongly against Derbyshire, a five wicket haul in the first innings, followed by another three in the second, on a wicket favouring seam. Kent used just three bowlers Ridgway, David Halfyard and Sayer.

He missed the next two matches, was without a wicket against Northants and took only one in Dover Week but claimed six at Derby. Heavy rain curtailed the traditional end of season game against the tourists, restricting it to little more than a one innings match but he finished the season at the head of the County's bowling averages, his 27 victims secured at a very creditable 13.70.

In his second season with the University he maintained his position as the main strike bowler and leading wicket taker with 64 wickets (avge.22.96). His batting, with 244 runs (at 15.25) was a vast improvement on the previous year: 33 runs at 3.00. The side's six victories included a convincing win in the Parks by nine wickets against Nottinghamshire (Sayer 8 for 118), and an eight wicket win at Hove where a violent thunderstorm immediately before the Sussex second innings transformed the wicket, Sayer dismissing both openers in the first over, two further wickets reducing them to 44 for 8 and finally all out for 77 (Sayer 4 for 50). Immediately following that game the team moved on to Lord's for the Varsity game, in which Oxford recorded its first victory in eight years, Sayer playing a major part with 5 for 41 and 3 for 74 as well as a second innings tenth-wicket partnership of 40 with Andy Corran (Corran 30, Sayer 17\*).

Kent suffered badly through injuries during 1959, Sayer one of the victims. Immediately following the victory over Cambridge he was selected for the game against Sussex at Hastings in which he took two wickets in the drawn game. The following two matches were at his home ground the Mote where he took three somewhat expensive wickets but at some time during the first match, against Worcestershire, he sustained an injury which evidently was at first thought not serious. He was picked for the second game of the Week against Leicestershire but bowled just four overs. Commenting on the situation the Report of the Committee in the 1960 Annual, states, *'Another severe handicap was the injury to D. Sayer in his second game for the County which proved so troublesome that he was unable to play anymore and so missed a possible chance of being selected for the West Indies.'* His performances up to that time had clearly caught the eye of the selectors.

1960, David Sayer's final season at University was the most disappointing of the three. Finals year possibly had much to do with it. Next to bottom spot in the bowling averages with 20 wickets from his nine games would have been a concern to someone who was thinking of a career in cricket. Perhaps his injury also contributed. However by mid-May he was undoubtedly fit for the game against Lancashire in which he bowled 32 overs and might well have resulted in victory had there not been a complete last

day wash out. The University had declared on 419 for 8, having dismissed Lancashire for 103 and reduced them to 71 for 4 at the end of day two, Sayer having contributed 2 -49 & 3 - 22. After one wicket against Middlesex he missed the next three games before returning against Hampshire and Sussex. which brought another five. In his final Varsity match he produced possibly his best performance of the season so far, bowling 54 overs and taking four wickets at little more than 2 runs an over.

After a week away from cricket, he resumed his Kent career and was again selected for a badly rain-affected Maidstone Week against Gloucestershire and Somerset with two draws and a total of only three wickets. His next appearances were in Canterbury Week, where he took 4 for 30 & 2 for 25 in Arthur Phebey's benefit match against Hampshire which ended in a draw, and a 190 run victory against Derbyshire where he claimed two inexpensive wickets.

In the following week Sayer took 6 for 64 in the first innings at Old Trafford and against the South Africans he bowled economically in both innings taking 2 for 32 & 1 for 17 including both openers. At Trent Bridge the Nottinghamshire batsmen took something of a liking to Sayer's bowling in both innings, scoring 153 off him at almost four runs an over. However, Kent won an exciting game by 2 wickets.

Compared with his previous two seasons, it had not been a happy time for Sayer. For Kent he was fourth in the averages with 39 wickets at 22.35 from 12 matches. Nevertheless, his potential had been recognised by the selectors who named him in the MCC party for the tour of New Zealand.

Sayer's batting was as expected for a number ten or eleven batsman in those days and throughout his career. His highest score came early on, 62 for the University in his second year, against Nottinghamshire. In those days little was expected of lower order batsmen but had there been greater emphasis on his batting he may well have grown into an effective allrounder. In those three seasons he scored 361 runs (ave.10.93) for Oxford, representing 28.83% of his career total runs.

For Sayer, the MCC tour of New Zealand was not a success. There were plenty of opportunities for him to find form with the ball, playing in 16 of the 21 matches including seven of the ten designated first class. In the first-class games he took only 11 wickets at an average of 33.00 which placed him bottom of the six bowlers used. In all 16 games he took 25 wickets at 20.64 but was next to bottom. As for his batting, in all first-class matches he scored only 25 runs in 16 innings of which an undefeated 12 was his best.

Things did not go too well for Sayer in 1961, what was to be his first full season of Championship cricket. In a dry summer, the Report of the Committee congratulated the ground staff on producing fast and hard wickets but the downside was that of the 30 matches played only eight times were the opposition dismissed twice. Halfyard was the only one to exceed 100 wickets, Sayer, who played 17 games, took 47 at the relatively high cost of 28.00. Of the seven bowlers used regularly, not one had an average below 25.

He was in and out of the side and was on the winning side four times. Looking through his bowling record for the season one is struck by the number of occasions when he was used far less in the second innings than the first. Only twice did he take five wickets in an innings and on both occasions it was in the first innings. In less than 25% of his games did he open the bowling and there were three occasions when he did not bowl at all in the second innings. Of his 44 wickets, only 11 were second innings dismissals.

Much was expected of him in 1962 but, despite winning his cap, it was a disappointing season and he was not alone. Alan Brown missed nine games due to injury whilst Halfyard missed the final six due to a serious car accident. As in the previous year Sayer was inconsistent, his 56 wickets costing 31.57 apiece, The Committee expressed its regret that he had not fulfilled his earlier promise that he would gain representative honours. He was given an extended run in the early weeks, playing in the first ten

matches and opening the bowling in eight of them but with variable success. In that period, only twice did he take four wickets in an innings and of those early games Kent had just one victory. Left out of eight of the remaining 20 matches, he played in only one of the Tunbridge Wells games and missed Maidstone and Canterbury Weeks. His performances continued to fluctuate until Trent Bridge where his figures were 4 for 61 & 3 for 25, helping Kent to a comfortable 184 run victory.

Now having the extra confidence and security of a capped player, it might have been expected that Sayer would regain his early form in 1963 and the promise that accompanied it. Yet this was probably the most disappointing season of his career. In one of the wettest of summers he played just nine first-class games. The emergence of promising young talent and Brown's return to full fitness, meant him struggling to win a regular place after taking one wicket in the first two Championship games.

He then missed two games but returned for the Middlesex match at Lord's in which he bowled only 15 overs in the match, taking one wicket. He played against Pakistan Eaglets but did not appear again in the Championship until mid-August when he played against Essex at Leyton and Derbyshire at Folkestone. Both games were drawn but he took six wickets against Essex and four against Derbyshire. However, he played in 14 Second Eleven Championship games during this period, a number of which were badly affected by the weather, taking 25 wickets. He returned for the two final Championship games and that against the West Indians. In the three of them he bowled 39 overs and took four wickets.

David Sayer returned to something close to his best form in 1964. Although Derek Underwood, in only his second season and Alan Dixon, both exceeded 100 wickets, Sayer topped the bowling averages with 77 wickets at 21.88. The Annual Report refers to him as having achieved 'some extraordinarily good performances'. These included a hat-trick against Glamorgan during the Maidstone Week, bowling David Evans and Ossie Wheatley with the last two balls of one over and having Jeff Jones caught by Leary from the first ball of the next. He finished with figures of 6 for 55 and had the rare distinction of recording hat-tricks both for and against his County, having achieved the first when playing for the University against Kent in 1958.

On five occasions he achieved five or more wickets in an innings. In his first game he had match figures of 5 for 75 in 37 overs against Hampshire followed by a second innings 7 for 54 in only his second game of the season against Derbyshire at Chesterfield, his best return of the season. A further six against Worcestershire followed but, along with his attack colleagues, he was unable to avoid a heavy defeat by Lancashire at Old Trafford in the second season of the Gillette Cup. He narrowly missed a ten wicket haul against Leicestershire at Folkestone (9 for 131 with a first innings 7 for 77) and followed by another seven (6 for 43 in the first innings) in the victory over Sussex at Hastings.

There was pressure for places in the Kent new ball attack in 1965 but despite his performance in the previous year, after three wickets against the University at Oxford and three against Northants at Gravesend he did not appear again for the First Eleven until the beginning of July. It would seem that he played little meaningful cricket until mid-June and what he did was eight matches with the Second Eleven. The Annual Report for 1965 had acknowledged that the return of Brown following his successful cartilage operation that side-lined him for the previous year, had presented a not unwelcome problem of which to choose between John Dye and Sayer to provide a balanced attack. Dixon had proved a very effective seam bowler and, with Brown, regularly opened the attack. Of the two, Sayer and Dye, the latter was more often the selectors' choice.

Nevertheless, Sayer topped the averages with 42 wickets at 17.76 from his eleven matches. He got his recall for the first of the Canterbury Week games, against Hampshire when he took 2 for 23 & 1 for 5 but then missed the next three. He returned for the visit to Edgbaston where he played a major part in the victory with 5 for 70 & 2 for 35 and was retained for the next two games at Dover, with victory over Gloucestershire, in which he took 4 for 26 & 4 for 44, his best match return of the season. In the drawn game with Nottinghamshire, he took 4 for 41 in their single innings, missed the win over Essex at Leyton but returned for the two final games of the season at Old Trafford and Leicester.

David Sayer played in 24 of Kent's 28 Championship games in 1966, his busiest season for the County. His 69 first-class wickets was his second best for Kent but he was placed fourth in the bowling averages, below Underwood, Dixon and Norman Graham. In a frustratingly wet summer, the damp pitches were very much to the liking of Underwood and Dixon and there were games in which, particularly in the second innings, Sayer and his new ball partner hardly took a look at the ball. There were no five wickets in an innings through the whole season for Sayer, but he bowled consistently and had a number of impressive match returns of which the best was his 8 for 102 against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells. The 633 overs he bowled was the most of the four fast bowlers. He also recorded his highest score for Kent, 39 in the first innings against Middlesex at Gravesend.

1967 saw the introduction of John Shepherd (24 matches) and Graham (29 matches) into the team as front line bowlers. Graham took 104 wickets and Shepherd 54. The former had impressed in the final games of the previous season whilst Shepherd, who had completed his qualification period, performed outstandingly with bat and ball in the Second Eleven. Both were seven years younger than Sayer who by this stage had passed thirty. It was inevitable that this would affect his chances of a regular place in the side and that is what happened.

However, he and Brown shared the opening bowling partnership with Graham in most of the Championship matches. It was an outstanding season for the County with runners-up spot in the Championship and winning the Gillette Cup, Kent's first trophy success for 54 years. After missing the first two, he played in six successive early games starting with the match against Yorkshire at Bradford on 6th May. Heavy rain prevented play on day one and on day two anything after lunch, prior to which Yorkshire lost three wickets. When play resumed on the final day the hosts were dismissed for 40 (Graham 6 for 14, Sayer 3 for 14). Sayer took four second innings wickets in favourable conditions at Taunton but in the two matches at Gravesend, with yet further weather interference, it was mainly the spinners who bowled.

There was little impact from Sayer in the next two games, three wickets at Leicester where Kent were defeated and one in the draw against Middlesex at Lord's. Despite that, he missed Blackheath and then returned for the Tunbridge Wells week when he took six wickets in the 208 run victory over Sussex and two against Worcestershire which was won by 202 runs.

There were a further four games in succession for Sayer, at Northampton, and The Oval, followed by back-to-back fixtures against Lancashire at Folkestone and Southport. There were wins at The Oval and Southport, the others drawn, Sayer taking nine wickets in the two victories but making no impact in the other two. He played in just three of the remaining first-class games, the first in Canterbury Week against Leicestershire with just a single first innings wicket, a similar return against Derbyshire at Burton-on-Trent and no wicket from his two overs against Glamorgan at Gillingham. His only other first-class fixture was against the Indians in which he took two first innings wickets, the second of which was the Nawab of Pataudi, a fellow member of the Oxford University team in 1960. He played in three Gillette Cup games but was not chosen for the Lord's Final. Against Essex at Brentwood his one wicket in eleven overs cost 58 runs, against Surrey, the game in which Dixon took 7 for 15 in 12 overs, he took 2 for 24 in 6.4 overs and in the semi-final 2 for 45 in 12 overs. In 16 first-class games he took 36 wickets at 21.30. His batting average of 12.36 was his best since 1959.

With the exception of one first-class game in 1976, when injuries to the opening bowlers caused a recall, 1968 proved to be David Sayers' final season. He appeared in nine matches, taking 25 wickets at 23.60. Up to the end of June the new ball partnership was mainly Graham and Dye, reverting to Graham and Brown until mid-July when Sayer got his first game of the season, against Essex at the Mote. He took five wickets in the following week in the drawn match against Sussex at Hastings and played an important role in the next match at Weston-super-Mare with 4 for 74 & 3 for 35 in Kent's victory by 70 runs. He took two wickets in the victory over Warwickshire in the first game of Canterbury Week, and one in Yorkshire's only innings in the drawn game that followed. Two wickets followed in the defeat against Nottinghamshire at Dover, dominated by the allround genius of Gary Sobers and claimed



four against Middlesex at Lord's. He was wicketless in the win against Northamptonshire at Folkestone in what proved to be his penultimate first-class game for the County.

Brown played one further season and was a part of the side that won Kent's Championship in 1970, the first in 57 years. In recognition of their bowling partnership, (they played together in 72 first-class matches in their twelve years with the Club) they were granted a joint Testimonial, the only one in the Club's history. In the 1971 Club Annual, Leslie Ames writing as their Manager for virtually the whole of their playing careers, paid tribute to their loyalty, their respect for each other's ability and appreciation of a situation in which they often found themselves competing for the same position.

Near the end of the 1976 season Kent were plagued by injury and for their penultimate match of the season, at Grace Road, Sayer, who of course was still playing for the Mote, was called back. Opening the bowling with Shepherd, his figures were 17 – 1- 63 -1, and 8 – 1 - 26 - 0, bowling John Steele for two. He scored two and nine.

He was Kent's representative at the meeting in November 1967 at which the PCA, then the Cricketers' Association, was formed. His cricket did not end with his retirement from the first-class game. His local, Maidstone Club, The Mote, welcomed his experience and for more than ten years in the 1970s he was a popular and successful captain, helping it to become one of the best club sides in the country and Kent's outstanding club side. In 1973 they reached the final of the National Club Knock-Out competition.

He retired at the end of the 1968 season and established his own insurance business.

*Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

Lambert, Ian. *Slayer. The story of a fast bowler*. (The author, 2018).

*David Robertson.*

### **Darren Anthony Scott. (No.782.)**

*Born:* 26. 08.1972, Canterbury.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1998-2000.

Educated: Geoffrey Chaucer School, Canterbury & Christ Church University, Canterbury.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	8	10	8	46	17*	23.00	0	0	3

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1202	50	613	13	47.15	4-151		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	1	0	27	27	27.00	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	5	2	0	34	27	17.00	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	138	0	118	5	23.60	3-21	0	5.13
<b>Overall</b>	171	0	158	6	26.33	3-21	0	5.54

Darren Scott played four games for Kent Second Eleven in 1995 and on his second appearance took 4 for 55 and 4 for 80 against Gloucestershire Seconds at Gloucester. Joining the staff in 1996 at the rather advanced age of 23, he began shakily with only four wickets in his first seven Second Eleven Championship appearances at a cost of 503 runs but redeemed himself with 5 for 23 and 4 for 27 against Glamorgan at Gore Court. In his second full season he not only took 26 wickets at a respectable 26.50 but batted usefully on occasions with a top score of 68 v Hampshire Seconds at Bournemouth in a tenth-wicket partnership of 131 with David Masters (53).

On his first-class debut, against Oxford University at St Lawrence in 1998, he failed to take a wicket but scored 17\* in an unfinished ninth-wicket partnership of 57 with Julian Thompson (65\*). His first appearance was however marred by having to leave at the end of the second day to play for the England & Wales Cricket Board in the Triple Crown Tournament in Glasgow. Of his subsequent first-class matches, only three were in the County Championship, all very late in the season. The others were against Cambridge University and New Zealand in 1999, Zimbabwe in 2000. Against New Zealand his figures were 42-10-151-4, the wickets Nathan Astle, Roger Twose, Chris Cairns and Dan Vettori.

In April 1999 he had the disconcerting experience of making his debut in his first List A match, at Southampton in the CGU League Division One, but neither batting nor bowling even though Hampshire scored the 130 runs they required for victory in 28 overs. He played five List A matches in all but did not get to the wicket until September 2000. His best bowling was 3 for 21 v Worcestershire at Canterbury in 2000.

Possibly Scott's best performances for Kent first team were in the 45 over Norwich Union National League in 2000. Brought into the side as replacement for the injured Min Patel, he clinched Kent's win against Worcestershire in the match referred to in the previous paragraph, at Northampton, where Kent lost by five runs, he took two wickets and scored 27 in a valuable ninth-wicket partnership of 47 with Rahul David (68). Scott decided to retire at the end of the season and opted for a career in Physical Education.

He played one more List A game in 2002, for the Kent Cricket Board against Hampshire at Folkestone. His club cricket was for Chestfield, St Lawrence and Lordswood.

### **Peter Anthony Shenton. (No.685.)**

*Born:* 05. 05.1936, Redcar, Yorkshire. *Died:* 13. 01.1996, Middlesbrough, Teeside.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, off spin bowler.

Kent 1960.

Parents: George Anthony Shenton & Mary Elizabeth Shenton (*née* Kirk).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7	6	3	29	10*	9.66	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	8	8	3	68	33	13.60	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1036	55	402	16	25.12	5-68	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	1138	57	442	17	26.00	5-68	1	0

One of the comparatively few Kent cricketers born in Yorkshire, Peter Shenton was an accurate off-spinner and occasionally useful late-order batsman who made his debut for Northamptonshire Second Eleven in a non-Championship match against Essex at Brightlingsea in 1957. In May the following year he scored six and 33 and claimed one wicket for 40 runs in his one and only first team game, against Glamorgan at Northampton. Between 1958 and 1959 he made 21 Second Eleven and Minor Counties Championship appearances for the Midland county but, although his 27 wickets in Minor Counties and Second Eleven Championship matches cost only 21.51, Northamptonshire did not re-engage him for 1960. Possibly he was considered insufficiently penetrative. Only once did he take more than three wickets in an innings – 5 for 22 v Warwickshire Seconds at Coventry in 1958.

On joining Kent in 1960, Shenton made his Second Eleven debut against Middlesex at Winchmore Hill and his first-class debut less than a month later, against Cambridge University at Fenner's. Although he failed to take a wicket, on his Championship debut ten days later, against Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells, he took 2 for 12 in 29 balls in the second innings, as Worcestershire collapsed to an historic defeat in a single day. The damage had been done by the pace bowlers David Halfyard and Alan Brown who had bowled unchanged through the first innings and would have done so through the second had not Colin Cowdrey been anxious to give the newcomer a bowl.

He made a further five first team appearances and, following 5 for 68 v Somerset at Mote Park and 3 for 78 & 2 for 36 v Middlesex at Rectory Field, might well have expected further opportunities but he was not called on again for first team service and left at the end of the 1961 season.

For the Second Eleven he was notably economical, in 1960 twelve wickets at 17.41, including 8 for 39 v Worcestershire Seconds at Mote Park and in 1961 32 wickets at 21.00 with three more five wickets returns, notably on his final appearance, 6 for 64 v Middlesex at Ealing. He also scored 225 runs (ave.32.28) and hit three half-centuries in his last season including 50\* and 75\* v Sussex at Hove. No reason was given for his departure but some among the Kentish faithful thought him a bit unlucky.

After leaving Kent he played a few games for Huntingdonshire but *Wisden* in his obituary summed up the remainder of Shenton's professional career as 'successful and nomadic - with various Yorkshire clubs'. These included Saltburn, Darlington Railways Athletic and his native Redcar. The son of a 'major fish frier' according to his birth certificate, in 1958 he married Joan Walker in Cleveland.

### **John Neil Shepherd (No.701).**

*Born:* 09. 11.1943, Bellplaine, St. Andrew, Barbados.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent. 1966-1981.

Kent Cap 1967, Second Eleven Cap 1965, Gloucestershire Cap 1983.

Tests. Five for West Indies.

Kent President 2011.

*Wisden* Cricketer of the Year 1979.

Educated: Alleyn's School, Barbados.

Parents: Ollie Vernon Shepherd & Kathleen Shepherd (*née* Doughlin).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	303	431	74	9401	170	26.33	8	49	212
<b>West Indies</b>	5	8	0	77	32	9.62	0	0	4
<b>Overall</b>	423	613	105	13359	170	26.34	10	72	292

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	52881	2380	22106	832	26.56	8-83	45	2

<b>West Indies</b>	1445	70	479	19	25.21	5-104	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	75327	3330	32068	1157	27.71	8-40	54	2

### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	250	206	43	3555	101	21.80	1	12	74
<b>Overall</b>	326	266	60	4337	101	21.05	1	13	86

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	11734	237	6780	332	20.42	4-17	0	3.46
<b>Overall</b>	15480	292	9429	436	21.62	6-52	1	3.65

Recalled by legions of the Kentish faithful as ‘Shep’ but known to teammates for no remembered reason as ‘Walter’, throughout John Shepherd’s career with Kent, the County was usually well-stocked – even sometimes a little over-stocked -with allrounders but his career figures speak for themselves and Leslie Ames, one of the shrewdest of all judges, considered him Kent’s best allrounder since the 1939/1945 war and, with the exception of Frank Woolley, the best since the First World War. It is not difficult to see why.

As a bowler, once he had changed from fast medium to English style medium pace, albeit with an effective faster ball, he became a captain’s dream. He could swing the ball both ways, especially in overcast conditions, but once he had adapted to English wickets his great strength was in moving the ball off the seam, the epitome of the very best of the English medium pace bowler. In the vernacular of the time, he was a ‘skidder onner’, with a rare gift of gaining movement even on the most placid of surfaces. He had a talent for breaking stubborn partnerships and of picking up wickets when the batsmen seemed to be getting the upper hand. Above all he was consistent and reliable, capable of shutting up one end and marathon bowling spells. Quite quickly he became Kent’s first choice stock bowler. Only Derek Underwood delivered more overs in the post-war era.

With the bat, Shepherd passed his thousand first-class runs twice, once with Kent, once with Gloucestershire, and never quite produced the volume of runs his ability seemed to warrant or some captains and committee men seemed to expect. On the other hand, one of his admirers, the sadly missed Alan Gibson, wrote of him ‘When an innings is stuck, Shepherd is the man to have on your side’, ‘the ideal middle-order batsman to use his strength and eye to take the attack to the bowlers’. What however, with the need for batting points and difficulty in fitting so many allrounders into the middle order, he frequently batted at number seven or below and rarely had time to play himself in or build an innings. Of his 49 first-class half-centuries for Kent, he was never dismissed in the 90s but four times exceeded 80.

As a fielder, he was one of the most versatile, a safe catcher anywhere with one of the best throwing arms on the county circuit.

The son of a policeman, John Shepherd had impressed in school cricket, originally as a wicketkeeper/batsman, and in 1961 toured Jamaica with Barbados Schoolboys managed by his boyhood hero Everton Weekes, alongside another destined for Test and county cricket, Keith Boyce, at the time a leg spinner. In search of a higher standard of cricket, the two moved to the Magpie Club and in February 1965 were chosen for Barbados B against International Cavaliers, a team managed by Ames and captained by Trevor Bailey. The match, recognised as a first-class fixture, had a strong Kentish flavour including Colin Cowdrey, Alan Knott, Godfrey Evans and Peter Richardson as well as Jim Laker and home-grown Roy Marshall.

Shepherd scored 22 (caught Cowdrey bowled Laker) and 33 and took two wickets but the Kentish party were primarily interested in Boyce who, now bowling distinctly quick, had taken a couple of wickets and scored 55 with two sixes. Bailey had however got there first and it was Weekes who persuaded Ames and Cowdrey that Shepherd was possibly something special and worth signing, helped by a £500 donation from future Kent President and committee member E.C. Wharton-Tigar MBE.

Abandoning his plan to enrol at Erdiston Teacher Training College, in 1965 the young Shepherd arrived at Canterbury in a miserably cold April and according to his own account, would have gone straight back to Barbados if he could have remembered his way to Heathrow. Apart from his trip to Jamaica with Barbados Schoolboys in 1961, this was first time abroad and his first home was a flat in Castle Street in the middle of Canterbury town centre. His debut in Kent colours was on 13th May, against Somerset Seconds at Sittingbourne. Batting number four, he scored 56 and 15 and match figures of five for 72. He finished the season second highest Second Eleven run-scorer with 735, six half-centuries and a top score of 79 v Essex Seconds at Orsett. The latter included his Barbados teammate and friend Boyce. Bowling full fast medium at this stage, Shepherd's 32 wickets included 6 for 73 v Middlesex Seconds at Ealing and was rewarded with his Second Eleven Cap.

Under the then current legislation, Shepherd needed two years to qualify and he spent the next two winters working as an orderly at Kent & Canterbury Hospital, adjacent to the St. Lawrence ground, while at the same time learning to bowl on English wickets under the guidance of Second Eleven captain, Colin Page, who became something of a father-figure.

In 1966, his second season, he again began with Somerset Seconds, this time at Dartford, starting with 5 for 36, all first-team cricketers, and Somerset skittled for 65. He followed with a brisk 40 and 4 for 62 in the second innings. By the end of the season he was leading Second Eleven run scorer with 873 runs (avge.31.17), seven half-centuries with a top score of 96\* v Gloucestershire Seconds at Broadstairs and second highest wicket-taker with 53. By now Page had persuaded him to cut his pace and was rapidly developing into an English style medium pace bowler while still remaining uniquely Caribbean with a bat in his hands.

At Canterbury on June 25<sup>th</sup> 1966 he made his first-class debut for Kent, against Oxford University, scoring 17 and taking five wickets. It was not a particularly vintage year for Oxford cricket but he claimed the wickets of Peter Gibbs who went on to play 145 matches for Derbyshire and Giles Ridley who played one match for Kent. He also played eight one-day Sunday charity matches for International Cavaliers against counties and teams such as the Duke of Norfolk's Eleven, playing under various captains including Denis Compton and Ted Dexter and alongside names such as Godfrey Evans, Jim Laker, Doug Wright, Colin Milburn, Seymour Nurse and Mushtaq Mohammad.

In his end of season report in the Kent Annual, Page named him an 'outstanding cricketer' and, apart from his talent with bat and ball, considered there were 'few, if any, better all round fielders in first-class cricket today'.

In 1967, a year in which Kent finished runners-up and won the Gillette Cup, Shepherd made his debut in first-class County cricket at Trent Bridge under distinctly unfriendly conditions on a pitch affected not just by rain but a snowstorm. With only Cowdrey (26) and Leary (36) of the other Kent batsmen reaching 20 he scored 55 and immediately became a first team fixture. He would remain so in the Kent Eleven for the best part of a decade and a half.

Despite widespread complaints from visiting teams, umpires and sections of the press about Kentish pitches – or most of them – and although still pretty much a novice in English conditions, Shepherd only narrowly missed his thousand runs – 951 (avge.27.17). Bowling over 500 overs, he might well have taken more than his 54 wickets but on many sub-standard pitches the lion's share of the bowling tended to go to Norman Graham, Derek Underwood and Alan Dixon; Shepherd tended to be called in on less bowler-friendly surfaces such as Canterbury, Mote Park and Folkestone. In no fewer than ten

completed innings, he fielded without being asked to bowl. Only Colin Cowdrey held more than his 37 catches.

His seven half-centuries included two against touring teams at Canterbury, 70\* against the Indians in an unfinished seventh-wicket partnership of 172\* in 140 minutes with Dixon (101\*) and 73\* (1 six, 9 fours) against Pakistan in another seventh-wicket partnership of 142 in 86 minutes with Cowdrey (100\*). His four 'five fors' included his best bowling figures to date, 7 for 85 from 45 overs against Middlesex at Blackheath, as well as 6 for 71 at Burton and 5 for 34 & 4 for 51 against Warwickshire at Dover.

In the Gillette Cup he scored 77 in the Semi-Final and added 135 for the second-wicket with Luckhurst (78), hit a rapid 30 in the Final but up to that point had failed to take a wicket. In the Final he strained a muscle while fielding but, cutting his pace to slow medium, he delivered a containing spell of 12-27-2, the last eight overs costing only ten runs.

At the end of the season, he returned to Barbados and played one first-class match, for Barbados against the MCC tourists. Opening the batting, he twice failed to reach double figures and conceded 87 runs from 27 wicketless overs as the visitors compiled 578 for 5 (Boycott 243). In a two-day match, for Barbados Colts v MCC, he suffered a fractured cheekbone mishooking David Brown and played no further serious cricket till he returned to England. While home in Barbados, he worked as a clerk in the Civil Court in Bridgetown and in the course of his duties met, and subsequently married, his first wife, Melanise 'Terry' Forde.

Back in Canterbury in 1968, Kent were again runners-up and he came as close to the magic 'double as he ever would, 1,157 runs (age.29.66) and 96 wickets (avge.18.72). Only an injury at Bradford in July, which cost him three matches, including Maidstone Week, deprived him.

He hit three centuries and seven half-centuries. His maiden hundred, 106\* at Southampton, came in two hours 20 minutes in a sixth-wicket partnership of 133 with Leary (43) in an otherwise rather featureless draw. The next two were more lively affairs.

On a late-August Lord's pitch, described by *Wisden* as lively, green with unpredictable bounce, neither side reached 120 in their first innings and Luckhurst and Asif both suffered broken bones. In the second innings Kent were 18 for 2 when Luckhurst departed with a broken finger. At that stage Shepherd joined Cowdrey and together they added 189 of which Shepherd contributed 103 in two hours 19 minutes. On the following day, at Folkestone against Northants, Shepherd played the innings of his life, 170 in two hours 55 minutes with 5 sixes and 24 fours, including 164 in 105 minutes for the sixth-wicket with Ealham (68). In the light of later experience of being shuffled up and down the order, it is interesting that his first hundred was at number six and the remaining two at five.

Against the Australians, again batting at five, he hit 84 with 18 fours and, against the Rest of the World at Canterbury, promoted to four, he struck 56 with ten fours against an attack including Wes Hall, Peter Pollock and Eddie Barlow. As well as 4 for 73 & 5 for 63 at Weston-super-Mare and 6 for 60 in the next match against Warwickshire in Canterbury Week, in six of his eight 'five fors' the cost came at fewer than 10 runs apiece. In contrast with the previous year, he was not only leading wicket-taker, he bowled more overs than anyone else, 752.3.

In the winter he played four matches for Barbados, including a top score of 73 v Jamaica at Bridgetown. For the 1969 English season he was chosen for the West Indies tour, playing in all of the three Tests. Although 32, scored in the second Test, was his top score, he headed the Test bowling averages with 12 wickets at 22.16 and an impressive bag of Test wickets including, Geoffrey Boycott (twice), Basil D'Oliveira (twice), John Edrich, John Hampshire, Ray Illingworth and Alan Knott. After bowling 58.5 overs for 5 for 104 in the first innings of his Test debut at Old Trafford, in the second Test at Lord's, when Sobers had to leave the field due to a strain, Shepherd was called on to bowl 43 overs for his 3 for 74 and, in the process suffered a severe strain to the base of the spine.

Although he bowled another twelve overs in the second innings and 24 in the third Test at Headingley, he had to play strapped up and took little further part in the tour. He managed to play four matches for Kent at the end of the season but did little. In his account of the tour in *Wisden*, Norman Preston commented 'If Shepherd had been used in reasonable spells his value to the touring team as a key bowler of the English seam pattern must have been greater'. The back troubles which arose at intervals throughout the rest of his career were attributed by several other critics to his being over-bowled that year.

In 1970 Shepherd played a crucial role in Kent first Championship trophy since 1913, bowling 890.5 overs, 158 more than anyone else, and finishing Kent's leading wicket-taker with 86 (avge.26.97), plus another 25 in limited-overs cricket. Capable of assuming the role of stock bowler when necessary, his dual role was typified by bowling almost all day against Yorkshire at Sheffield – 52-10-123-5 - and in the next fixture at Hove 25.3-11-45-5. At Leicester he took 6 for 89, including 3 for 4 in his first over; and 6 for 33 v Middlesex on a slow, soggy pitch in Canterbury Week.

Although his output of runs fell by over four hundred compared with 1968, in roughly half his innings he came in at seven or eight and, what with the need for batting points, he was generally in a hurry and rarely had time to build an innings. At Portsmouth, he struck 105 from 128 balls with 1 six and 15 fours, 52 in an hour v Sussex and a marginally quicker 60 v Essex both at the Nevill. He also held 23 catches.

Back to the Caribbean, he played two Test matches against India, his last as it proved, picking up seven wickets in all, five for 123 in the fifth at Port of Spain. He also took 4 for 40 for Barbados against the tourists as well as playing three Shell Shield matches with best figures of 68\* and 2 for 42 & 3 for 26 at Port of Spain.

It was a disappointing ending to his Test career but, with admittedly fairly limited opportunities, he probably did not score enough runs in the Caribbean and, although he quickly developed into one of the best medium pace bowlers of his generation, tailor-made for English pitches, in West Indies, rightly or wrongly, the people who made the decisions were looking for pace and quite soon found rather more than could fit into one Test team. By the end of the 1973/1974 winter he had, in any case, become *persona non grata*, at least at that stage in West Indian eyes, by playing in South Africa.

With Underwood and Woolmer frequently on England duties, from around 1972 onwards it was perhaps inevitable that Shepherd, now purely a county cricketer, would become increasingly a bowling allrounder. He sent down more overs for Kent than anyone else in every year from 1972 to 1975 and again in 1977. Including limited-overs matches, he exceeded 1,000 overs in 1970, 900 in 1973 and twice more with Gloucestershire.

In the same period he was leading first-class wicket-taker for Kent in 1973, 92 at 22.32 (116 in all competitions) and 1977, 87, at 19.93, exactly 100 with the addition of limited overs. In all competitions he passed 50 wickets in every season except his last.

As well as his gift for exploiting whatever the pitch had to offer, captains could always rely on Shepherd to bowl long spells where necessary. In 32 Kent matches he delivered 50 or more overs in a match, six times 60 or more, three times over 70.

Possibly the most memorable was against Sussex at Mote Park in 1975 when he bowled unchanged throughout the first innings and all but one over to change ends in the second, for figures of 32.5-6-93-8 & 29-11-54-7. In addition, batting number seven, he scored 52 with eight fours and put on 122 for the sixth-wicket with David Nicholls (68). On the intervening Sunday he bowled another eight overs against Worcestershire in the 40-over game at Canterbury. On a green wicket at Folkestone in 1973, against Leicestershire he claimed 5 for 80 from 35 overs and 5 for 81 from 26 and in 1977, against Lancashire on a slow pitch of variable bounce at Tunbridge Wells, he took 8 for 83 from 37 overs, including the first seven to fall, the first five for just 27 runs in 13 overs.

Although never repeating his run-getting in 1967 and 1968, he twice exceeded 800, 803 in 1973 and 895 (ave.38.91) with eight half-centuries in 1976 as well as another 460 runs in the limited-overs competitions in List A matches. Adding in limited-overs cricket, only in 1972 and 1981 did he fail to reach 500 runs. He registered four more centuries, 116 v Middlesex at Canterbury in 1975, 101 in 165 minutes v Surrey at Tunbridge Wells and 100\* at Worcester in 1978 and 100 v Surrey at Maidstone in 1980.

As the 1970s progressed, Kent became rather over stocked with people with batting pretensions and the County's talented group of allrounders, including wicketkeepers, could find themselves two or three places below their rightful positions, Shepherd suffering more than most. Two of his centuries were scored at number five, four at six and two at seven but between 1972 and 1981 he found himself placed between seven and nine in well over half his innings, six times at ten, once at eleven. Naturally his career figures suffered accordingly. 14 of his half-centuries were not out, nine of them when batting at seven or eight.

With his all-round talent, not least his lethal throwing arm, Shepherd was an important component of Kent's limited-overs cricket and in 1978 topped the Kent bowling averages in all List A competitions. Following his performance in the 1967 Gillette Cup win, when Kent won the Cup for the second time in 1974, apart from a typically miserly 3 for 30 from 12 overs in the Semi Final with Somerset, his contribution was fairly low key but four times in the competition's history he took four in an innings and in 1977 scored his only List A hundred, 101 v Middlesex at Canterbury, when he hit 2 sixes, 9 fours, shared an 89 runs sixth-wicket partnership with Asif (59) and took 15 runs off the last over to bring up his hundred.

In the 40-over John Player League, Shepherd contributed 2,428 runs, 63 sixes, 207 wickets and 46 catches. Among his nine half-centuries was 94 at Southampton in 1978 with 5 sixes & 6 fours. With Chris Cowdrey, 126 runs were scored in 19 overs. Nine times he claimed four in an innings including 4 for 17 v Middlesex at Lord's in 1978, 4 for 18 at Portsmouth in 1972, one of the years in which Kent won the League and 4 for 20 v Somerset at Canterbury in 1971.

In the Benson & Hedges Cup (55 overs), Shepherd was member of the Cup winning team three times and once runners up. 76 wickets left him third to Underwood and Woolmer in wickets taken and in overs bowled. When Kent won the competition in 1973, his 3 for 21 took care of the Essex middle order when it had looked like giving trouble in the Semi-Final at Canterbury and he kept things under control when Kent won in 1978 with 3 for 24 from ten overs v Essex at Dartford, 2 for 16 in 9.2 overs at Taunton and 4 for 25 from 11 overs v Derbyshire in the Final at Lord's.

When Kent beat Middlesex by two runs at Lord's in 1975, Shepherd had come to the wicket at 9 for 3 and the score was still only 53 for 8 when Underwood joined him. Together they added 81 when Shepherd was caught for 96 (4 sixes). Underwood, 11\*, was the only other batsman to reach double figures. When Middlesex batted, Shepherd's figures were 11-3-21-3 and, unsurprisingly, he received the Gold Award, as he did at Dartford in 1978 (see above). He also picked up a niggardly 4 for 15 from 8.5 overs when Yorkshire were beaten in the final of the short-lived Fenner Trophy at Scarborough in 1973.

Probably disappointed at being ignored by West Indies since the 1970/1971 series with India and especially perhaps his non-selection for the 1973 series in England when many good judges considered him an obvious choice, in 1973/74 Shepherd joined Derek Robins' tour of South Africa, a team captained by Close and including Younis Ahmed of Pakistan. In the words of *Wisden* both Shepherd and Younis were 'sanctioned by the South African Government' and 'were accepted and acclaimed wherever they went'. Historic in more ways than one, the programme included a 'South African Eleven' at Soweto and there would have been a second at Brighton township, Port Elizabeth, had not weather intervened.



Apart from 4 for 54 at Newlands in the second of the four 'Mini-Tests against South African Invitation Elevens and 3 for 21 v Eastern Province at Port Elizabeth, Shepherd was the most expensive of the regular bowlers and although there were three useful 30s, there was just one half century, 53 at the Wanderers in the fourth 'Mini Test'.

In the following year he again returned to South Africa, first on a short tour with International Wanderers, then a second with Derrick Robins, captained in both cases by Close. Without doing anything to set the Tugela on fire, he hit three not out half-centuries with a top score of 71\* against Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) together with 23 wickets including 4 for 37 in the Rhodesia match.

Although obviously politically incorrect, but attempting something in his own way for inter-racial cricket, Shepherd was back in South Africa again in 1975/1976, playing three matches for Rhodesia in the Currie Cup in which he hit two half-centuries, and half a dozen games for International Wanderers for whom he collected 22 wickets at an economical 21.40, playing under the captaincy of, first Glenn Turner, then Greg Chappell and playing alongside the likes of Dennis Lillee, Ian Chappell, Max Walker, Bob Taylor, John Snow and Phil Edmonds as well as teammates Denness and Underwood. In the process, he three times claimed the wicket of Barry Richards.

In the 1976/1977 and 1977/1978 Australian seasons he played for Footscray in the Victoria Premier League.

In 1980, Shepherd's last century for Kent was one of his best, against Surrey at Mote Park, from 118 balls with 2 sixes and 9 fours. He exceeded over 500 runs and 50 wickets in all competitions for Kent that year but in 1981, to followers of Kent cricket who kept their eyes open and ears to the ground, the committee's decision to dispense with his services was no great surprise, although to the man most involved it came as a shock in the middle of a Championship match at Derby. For one reason or another he did not play in 15 of the County's first team matches, scoring a modest 310 first-class runs with two half-centuries and a top score of 59\*. His 28 wickets cost more than 40 each. In List A matches he failed to reach 200 runs or 20 wickets, the latter admittedly at a fairly economical 23.21.

So, not for the first or last time, there was an acrimonious end to a Kent player's career. The departure was not handled with much tact and there was a considerable amount of ill-feeling in sections of the membership. There had been few, if any, more popular Kent cricketers, regarded by most as a Kent cricketer first and foremost rather than as an overseas player. Supporters did not feel any better when he joined Gloucestershire and, after a quiet start, had three successful seasons.

Between 1982 and 1984, Shepherd totalled 2,500 first-class runs for Gloucestershire with two centuries and 15 half centuries, including scores of 95\*, 98\* and 93, as well as 202 wickets. In 1983 he scored 1,025 runs, his highest since 1968, averaging 36.60, only once bettered in his career. He claimed 63 wickets in 1982, 67 in 1983 and 72 in 1984.

Cricket being the exasperating game it often is, one of his two hundreds would inevitably be against Kent. At Bristol in 1983 he played a characteristic knock of 112, putting on 221 for the fourth-wicket with Paul Romaines. He was awarded his cap during the lunch interval and in the second innings came close to a Gloucestershire victory with 4 for 42. In 1984, on his sole visit to Canterbury while with the visitors, won by four wickets, his figures 4 for 39 & 5 for 30, the latter including the wickets of Tavaré, Ellison and Knott in four balls.

Shepherd became Gloucestershire's Senior Coach in 1984 and captained the Seconds from 1985 until 1989, usually bowling third or fourth change and generally batting in the lower order. In 1986 he participated in two slightly unusual century partnerships. Batting number six against Worcestershire Seconds at Haden Hill he struck a rapid 94 and shared a 126 run sixth-wicket partnership with wicketkeeper Andy Brassington (51). Four games later, against Derbyshire at Bristol, batting three places lower, he was caught by Devon Malcolm, again for 94 and again having shared a stand with the same partner, this time 121 for the eighth-wicket (Brassington (39\*)).

John Shepherd's first wife, and mother of his son and two daughters, died in 1989. After leaving Gloucestershire in 1989 he became coach at Eastbourne College and in 1992 met his second wife Sue. in Brighton while working for the College. His falling out with Kent was short-lived, as has been in the case of most ex-players who have had disagreements with the County. Returning to Kent he was appointed President of Kent in 2011, served on the Club's General Committee from 2013 to 2018 and is a regular at St. Lawrence.

Batsmen dismissed by Shepherd most frequently in first-class matches include a rather larger than usual number of distinguished names - 12: C.T Radley, B.A.Richards. 10: J.M.Brearley. 9: *J.Birkenshaw*, T.E.Jesty, *A.Jones*, 8: R.O.Butcher, C.G.Greenidge, M.J.Smith (Middx), J.F.Steele, R.W.Tolchard, *D.R.Turner* (Hants). Left-handers are shown in italics. Among other notables are 7: G.Boycott, B.F.Davison, *J.H.Edrich*, K.WR..Fletcher, G.A.Greenidge, *D.Lloyd*. He accounted for both Barry Richards (46) and Gordon Greenidge (76) in the first innings at Canterbury in 1971 and again, Richards (38) and Greenidge (3), in the first innings at Southampton in the following year.

Canterbury is the only ground at which he claimed 100 wickets, 140 (avge.23.94), eight times five in an innings. A little surprisingly, Blackheath was the only Kent ground on which the wickets came at a lower cost, 18 at 21.38. He passed the 50 mark at Bristol (70), Folkestone (65), Maidstone (86) and Tunbridge Wells (58), Notable among outgrounds is Bradford, 20 at 20.17.

Successful bowlers include 8: Intikhab Alam, 7: R.E.East, P.I.Pocock, 6: N.Gifford, K.Higgs, J.A.Snow.

#### *Further reading:*

Briggs, Paddy. *John Shepherd. The Loyal Cavalier*. ACS Publications, 2009.

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010.

#### **Alexander Campbell Shirreff. (No.639.).**

*Born:* 12. 02.1919, Ealing, London. *Died:* 16. 12. 2006, West Wickham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent.1950-1956. Cap 1952.

Educated: Dulwich College & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: James Arthur Shirreff & Eleanor Alice Shirreff (*née* Longden).

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	46	78	8	1503	87*	21.47	0	7	37
<b>Overall</b>	119	203	24	3887	115*	21.71	1	20	88

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7727	293	3697	121	30.55	8-111	3	0
<b>Overall</b>	19656	699	9575	304	31.49	8-111	11	0

A good 'bits and pieces' cricketer whose true worth is not perhaps fully reflected in his career figures, Alan (as he was known) Shirreff made his career in the RAF which necessarily restricted his opportunities at county level but, unusually in his era, he played first-class cricket for three counties and Second Eleven cricket for a fourth. Although no stylist, Shirreff was a gritty batsman, good in a crisis and an accurate bowler, capable of swinging the ball both ways. Effective with the new ball, although he opened the bowling in fewer than half his first-class matches, over 20% of his wickets were opening batsman, of whom 60% were dismissed for below 20.

These latter included Len Hutton, twice dismissed for six, Arthur Morris, Jack Robertson and Arthur Milton. To the Kent professionals he was known as 'Widey' due to his tendency to bowl wide of the wicket although, judging by the published scores, he does not often seem to have been called by umpires. Nothing if not versatile, for Kent he batted in every position except ten and 11.

The son of an Electrical Engineer, at Dulwich College Alan Shirreff headed the bowling averages from 1936 to 1938 and the batting in 1937 when he also led the side. *Wisden* judged his captaincy to have been 'inspired' and to have 'fostered a remarkable team spirit'. He was chosen for Young Amateurs v Young Professionals at Lord's in 1936 and for Public Schools v The Army and for the Rest v Lord's Schools in 1937 and 1938.

Going up to Cambridge in 1939, he was chosen for the opening fixture v Northants before the Freshman's Trial and four wickets and 47 set him on course for his Blue. He ended the season with 32 wickets (avge.34.18) and 219 runs (avge.13.60) including a maiden half century, 51\* v Surrey at The Oval. Against Oxford he was the most successful bowler with 5 for 64 in the first innings, his wickets coming in a spell of 5 for 18 from 38 balls. In August he made half a dozen appearances for Surrey Second Eleven taking 4 for 49 against Gloucestershire Seconds.

Joining the RAF in January 1941, he was commissioned in the same year and completed a full tour of operations with 19 Squadron flying Mustangs on long-range escort missions with Beaufighters and Mosquitoes, mainly on anti-shipping strikes off the coast of Norway. On one mission, together with one of the versatile Mosquitoes he was escorting, he shot down a Leo 451. This was a French-built aircraft, a rather advanced medium bomber for its time when it served with the French in 1940 and subsequently used by the Luftwaffe as a personnel and fuel transport. He was subsequently posted as an instructor at an operational training unit and at the end of the war took a permanent commission.

In 1946 he made his debut for Combined Services, against Oxford University and in the same year captained the RAF against Worcestershire at New Road in their inaugural first-class fixture. For Combined Services between 1946 and 1957 Shirreff scored 1,492 runs (avge.24.45), took 126 wickets (avge.27.60) and hit his only first-class hundred, 115\* v Essex at Chelmsford in 1950 when he shared an unfinished opening partnership of 238 with Stanley Smith (101\*) later of Lancashire. Possibly his best innings for Combined Services was 91 v Surrey at The Oval in 1946 when, with Corporal Bernie Constable (107), 196 were added for the seventh-wicket.

Captain of the RAF from 1946 to 1957, and of Combined Services from 1946 to 1949, 1951 to 1952 and 1956 to 1957, leadership was possibly Shirreff's greatest contribution to Armed Forces cricket. Not the least of his virtues was his handling of the numerous young professional cricketers called up for National Service. Many such, their careers interrupted at a vital stage in their development, had cause to be grateful for his guidance and sensitive approach. Freddie Trueman, not much given to praising Public School/Oxbridge amateurs, was a great admirer. When Aircraftman Trueman virtually refused to carry on after bowling 14 overs for Combined Services v the Australians at Kingston in 1953, the fact that Shirreff, though playing, was not captain was reputedly his chief grievance. That the Australians finished 592 for 4 (K.R. Miller 262\*, J.H. de Courcy 204) and that he had conceded 95 runs may, of course, have been a contributory factor.

Following a dozen appearances for Hampshire in 1946-1947, Shirreff took 2 for 66 and 3 for 47 on his debut for Kent at Bristol in 1950. Having watched Les Ames score a hundred in each innings, in the next fixture at Northampton he had the misfortune to run the great man out for 60 through refusing what he considered an impossible run. Although partially redeeming himself with a determined 34\*, some of the senior pros had warned him to expect a tongue lashing on returning to the pavilion. Instead, his nervous apology was met with 'If you had responded to that crazy call, I wouldn't have thought much of your cricket judgment.'

Shirreff's first season with Kent ended with 22 wickets (avge.26.50) and for the next five years he played whenever service duties allowed. His best season was 1955 when in 11 matches he scored 519

runs (avge.27.31) with four half-centuries and claimed 26 wickets (avge.33.23). Among his best performances were 8 for 111 from 35 overs (twelve more than David Halfyard) at Leicester in 1956, 6 for 55 at Beckenham in 1954, when he bowled unchanged with Ray Dovey to dismiss Gloucestershire for 110, and 5 for 36 v Middlesex at Lord's in 1952 when he picked up the first three wickets (Syd Brown, Bill Edrich & Alec Thompson) without conceding a run. He went on to open the batting and score 40 (top score) in a total of 120. In that year his scores included 42\* & 59 v at Headingley where he shared a 150 run fourth-wicket second innings partnership with Fagg (143), 75 against Bedser, Laker, Lock & co at The Oval and 87\* v Middlesex at Dover.

On retiring from the RAF in 1958 with the rank of Squadron Leader, Alan Shirreff joined Somerset on a five-year contract as Assistant Secretary at £900 a year. He played two first-class and three Second Eleven matches but the original intention had been that he would take over as captain. The committee subsequently performed a *volte-face* and re-appointed the reigning captain Maurice Tremlett. Instead they sacked the coach Bill Andrews and asked Shirreff to take his place. It did not work.

When appearing for the first team it was clear his captain did not want Shirreff. Relegated to number eight, he was not asked to bowl even though Somerset used six, and on one occasion, seven bowlers. At least once he was asked to field third-man at both ends. In turn, Shirreff was critical of the captain's approach, and particularly his lack of interest in the young players. After a heated row with the Secretary he left. Although Shirreff had been, albeit indirectly, responsible for his loss of the position of coach, Bill Andrews in his *The Hand That Bowled Bradman*, wrote 'I have never known anyone treated so badly'.

Alan Shirreff went on to a highly successful business career with Schweppes. He played a great deal of club cricket, mainly with Dulwich where he was captain in 1947. Other clubs included Buccaneers, Forty Club, Old Alleynians and Public School Wanderers.

### **Edward Thomas Smith. (No.775.)**

*Born:* 19. 07. 1977, Pembury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1996-2004 . Cap 2001.

Tests: Three for England.

Educated: Tonbridge School & Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Parents: Jonathan Smith. (Mother's maiden name Scarborough)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	111	192	11	7221	213	39.89	19	27	40
<b>England</b>	3	5	0	87	64	17.40	0	1	5
<b>Overall</b>	191	325	19	12789	213	41.79	34	54	85

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	72	1	59	0				
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	108	2	119	1	119.00	1-60		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	71	68	5	1962	122	31.14	2	14	8
<b>Overall</b>	134	131	9	3798	122	31.13	2	26	29

## Bowling

Did not bowl

## Twenty20 Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	2	2	0	65	56	32.50	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	25	25	0	573	85	22.92	0	3	6

## Bowling

Did not bowl

From boyhood, Ed Smith's ambition was to play for Kent and from the time he came down from Cambridge he held his place as a first team regular for six seasons. Nevertheless, as a cricketer he was something of an enigma. Despite a career average only fractionally below 40, only for a few seasons did he truly live up to what most were agreed was his very considerable potential. For much of the time the consistency necessary at the top level eluded him.

At Tonbridge, where his novelist father taught history, Smith averaged 90 in 1994, taking part in five century opening partnerships with Chris Walsh (*q.v.*). As a pair they averaged 92.30 for the season. In the following year he missed his thousand runs by only 16 and in his first taste of representative cricket top scored with 86 for Kent against Durham in the final of the NAYC Under-19 Tournament at Oxford.

Going up to Cambridge in 1996 he scored over 500 runs, averaged over 50 and was awarded his Blue. In hitting the first of his two centuries, 101 against Glamorgan at Fenner's, he became, at 18 years 274 days, the youngest batsman ever to score a century for Cambridge and the first Cambridge batsman to register a hundred on debut since Michael Bushby in 1953. He passed 50 in every one of his six first-class matches for the University.

In July he made his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven followed shortly by his Championship debut at Derby where, opening the batting against an attack including Devon Malcolm and Phil de Freitas, he scored 31 and 26. In August he played in three Under 19 'Test Matches' against New Zealand. In 1997, his second year at Cambridge, as well as a second Blue, Smith achieved what may well be a unique triple. A first in his second-year history examination, first in the University batting averages (683 runs avge.68.30) and top of the national averages at the end of the University season. His personal highlight was 190 in seven hours against Leicestershire; the next highest score was 30.

Although runs were harder to come by for Kent, he hit a maiden hundred, 102 from 162 balls v Hampshire at Portsmouth, and put on 170 for the first-wicket with David Fulton (75). In 1998, his final year at Cambridge, his cricket was restricted to three rain-ruined early season matches after which he opted to concentrate on study and was rewarded with double first-class honours.

Despite being free to concentrate on his cricket, Ed Smith's form in county cricket fluctuated. Following a moderate half season in 1998, he almost reached 1,000 runs in his first full season in 1999 – 931 at 40.48 and second in the averages – but in 2000 he failed to reach 500. There was one superb century, 175 from 300 balls at Chester-le-Street (his first in the Championship for three years), but in nine of his 18 visits to the wicket he failed to reach double figures.

Reputedly boosted by the departure of John Wright and arrival of John Inverarity as part-time coach, Smith exceeded the landmark 1,000 runs in each of his final four seasons – 2001 to 2004 - reaching his peak in 2003 when he scored 1,534 first-class runs (avge.52.89) with seven centuries including two double hundreds and four hundreds in successive innings – 149 & 113 v Nottinghamshire at Mote Park, 203 v Lancashire at Blackpool, 108 v Essex at Canterbury.

Though this sequence had been immediately preceded by 0, 0, 135, 0, it was enough to gain him selection for England against South Africa in the third Test at Trent Bridge where he scored 64 and shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 104 with Hussain (116) on a pitch ‘already showing early signs of treachery’ according to *Wisden*. He held on to his place for the remainder of the series but his remaining scores were 0, 0, 7 and 16 and he was not picked again. The press pundits claimed to have detected a weakness outside off-stump and over-reliance on the front foot although it is not clear how such elementary faults could have gone undetected on the county circuit. In the winter Smith toured India and Malaysia with England A under the captaincy of county colleague James Tredwell, appearing in two first-class matches and three List A games against India A in the last of which, at Chennai, he was top scorer with 76.

In 2004 in his final season with Kent, Smith scored over 2,000 runs in all cricket, averaging 49.11 in first-class matches and heading the List A averages with 780 runs (avge.48.75). He hit four first-class hundreds and one hundred and seven half-centuries in limited-overs cricket but, although described in *Wisden* as ‘the stylish and consistent Smith’ the familiar pattern persisted to the end. 12 times he was dismissed for single figures in first-class matches and in his final half-dozen county games his scores ran – 166, 93, 95, three successive ducks including a pair, 35\*, 70, 156, 189.

Kent finished second but for many – probably including Ed Smith - in retrospect the season was marred by the events at Worcester in June, one of the most bizarre episodes in the long history of Kent CCC. With David Fulton suffering a hand injury, Smith led the side as the appointed vice-captain in four-day matches. As the home side built up a score of 453 it became apparent that senior players, led by Andrew Symonds and to a reputedly lesser extent by Robert Key, were reluctant to accept Smith’s authority and were not supporting him. A state of near mutiny existed on the field. An ill-considered attempt by Fulton to smooth things over by going on as twelfth man and virtually taking over as captain, was stopped by the umpires as being in contravention of the Laws. This only served to diminish Smith’s authority.

The timely arrival of Cricket Chairman Mike Denness and some straight talking at least allowed the match to reach its conclusion – a shaky draw with Kent’s last pair holding out for 33 deliveries – but the poison had entered the system. The position was exacerbated by the Club allowing Symonds to take over the 20/20 captaincy. One of his first acts was to drop Smith who was having his best-ever limited-over season and had hit half-centuries in his last two matches.

By the time the Club bestirred itself and got around to considering disciplinary measures, Symonds was out of the country and Key, who apologised, was playing for England –in effect the ‘mutineers’ received the proverbial slap on the wrist with a wet lettuce. Unable to agree the wording of a press release issued by the Club, and disgusted by the way Smith had been treated, Denness resigned. Apart from Smith himself and some of the younger players, he was about the only one to emerge from the sorry affair with any credit.

At the end of the season Smith left to join Middlesex, citing as his reason ‘diminished trust in the leadership of the club’. Not, many might think, unreasonable in the circumstances. His friend, the highly promising Alex Loudon departed at the same time. Capped in his first year, in his four seasons at Lord’s Smith scored over 4,000 runs and hit twelve hundreds although still tending to inconsistency. Captaining the side in 2007, he was not without his critics, but Middlesex finished second in the Championship and gained promotion from the Second Division in the Pro 40 competition. In his second year of captaincy he suffered a broken ankle in mid-June and decided to retire.

Ed Smith subsequently established a considerable reputation as author, journalist, columnist, critic and broadcaster but some of these activities were curtailed from 2018 to April 2021 when he was National Selector. Once again, inevitably he had had his critics while in office.

He had commenced his writing career while still a player and his first two books, *Playing Hard Ball* and *On and Off the Field* were published while he was still with Kent, the second of his two literary

efforts causing friction with some teammates. Since then he has followed with *What Sport Tells Us about Life* (2009) and *Luck. What It Means and Why It Matters*. (2012). He has written for numerous journals including *The Times*, *Sunday Telegraph*, and the *New Statesman* as well as for *Wisden* and, until his elevation to National Selector, was a knowledgeable and highly articulate member of the *Test Match Special* team. He played club cricket for Band of Brothers, Hurlingham, Old Tonbridgeans and Sevenoaks Vine.

*Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

Smith, E.T. *Playing hard ball*. (Little, Brown, 2002).  
*On and off the field* (Viking, 2004).  
*What sport tells us about life*. (Penguin, 2009).  
*Luck what it means and why it matters*. (Bloomsbury, 2012).

**Geoffrey Smith. (No.650.)**

*Born:* 30. 11. 1925, Huddersfield, Yorkshire. *Died:* 8. 11. 2016, Heathfield. East Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent: 1951-1958. Cap 1953. Second Eleven Cap. 1951.

Educated: Christ's Hospital.

**First Class Career Record**

**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	42	71	12	728	60	12.33	0	2	29

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	9079	439	3766	165	22.82	8-110	10	0

Able to swing the ball both ways and bowl a tight line and length, Geoff Smith might well have made a greater impact in the game had he not made his career in mechanical services engineering with the Haden Group. Even so, by giving up virtually all his holidays, he made an important contribution to Kent at a difficult time in the Club's history, not least by taking some of the load from the shoulders of the over-burdened Fred Ridgway. Playing in a period when Kent did not suffer with an excess of talent, he has not perhaps received quite the recognition he deserved.

An outstanding schoolboy cricketer, in 1942, his first season in his school eleven, he headed the bowling averages with 26 wickets at 6.30 each and attracted wider attention by the damage he inflicted on Dulwich College (with Trevor Bailey and Tony Mallett) – 7 for 15 as Dulwich were dismissed for 57 and an innings of 31 when only two other batsman reached double figures. In his second season he posted a maiden century and in 1944 captained the Eleven and led both batting and bowling averages, finishing his season with 40 wickets at 7.07 including 8 for 29 against Tonbridge. He was picked for the Rest v Lord's Schools at Lord's but his captain, Donald Carr, did not give him the ball in the first innings and only brought him on as fifth change in the second when he took 3 for 26. Spotted by Surrey Colts, he headed their bowling averages with 19 wickets at 8.10 each.

In 1945 Smith played two one-day games for Surrey but lost the next two seasons to National Service. On his return in 1948 he made the first of 14 appearances for Surrey Seconds in the Minor Counties Championship. He led the bowling averages in 1948 – 36 wickets (avge.13.86) - and again in 1949 - 17 (avge.16.41) – but did not manage to break into the first team, then beginning to evolve into the great side of the 1950s. In 1949, while playing club cricket for Old Blues, he took 5 for 36 against the Royal Navy in the first of his six appearances for the Club Cricket Conference. These included matches against the New Zealand tourists in 1949 and the West Indians in 1950.

Now living and working in Kent, against the Club & Ground he took 8 for 45 for Ashford in 1950 and next year scored 95 and took 3 for 62 for St. Lawrence. A month later he made his first team debut, scoring 57 and bowling eight wicketless overs against Minor Counties. In three matches for Kent seconds he took 5 for 52 v Sussex at Broadstairs, 4 for 28 & 4 for 36 v Wiltshire at Aylesford and ended top of the averages with 15 wickets at an economical 9.60 each.

Next season he made four first-class appearances and marked his Championship debut with 5 for 64 against Glamorgan at Gravesend while in his two Second Eleven games he took 5 for 63 & 5 for 77 v Wiltshire as well as 72\* at Marlborough and 8 for 77 v Buckinghamshire at High Wycombe, putting him top of both batting and bowling averages and earning him his Second Eleven cap.

With 31 wickets at 17.29 each in six Kent matches in 1953, Smith established himself as an automatic choice for the first eleven whenever his holiday arrangements permitted. Rewarded with his County Cap, he was top of the bowling averages, his best efforts 6 for 63 & 3 for 85 v Sussex at Hastings and 5 for 37 & 3 for 57 v Middlesex in Canterbury Week.

Although he played more often in the next two seasons, eight matches and 23 wickets in 1954, ten matches and 31 wickets in 1955, this proved to be statistically his best season until his last. In 1956, although he played only two first-class matches, when Kent won the Minor Counties Championship, he contributed 42 wickets (ave.10.78) in his seven games. Against Buckinghamshire at Chesham he had figures of 7 for 24 and 4 for 14 and against Northumberland in the Challenge Match to clinch the title at St Lawrence 3 for 47 & 5 for 27. He also achieved his personal highest score in Kent matches, 98 v Essex Seconds at Gravesend.

In 1957 he so arranged his holidays that he was able to play ten first-class matches and 57 wickets at 16.19 again placed him top of the averages. Five times he took five in an innings, 6 for 60 v Warwickshire at Dartford, 8 for 110 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 5 for 53 and 5 for 38 in a good Week at Canterbury and 6 for 53 at Clacton. He played only one first-class match in 1958, v Surrey at Blackheath, but had match figures of 7 for 71 against Hampshire Seconds at Dartford.

He had for some time been troubled by an irregular heartbeat which, on occasions, could cause him to collapse in mid over. This must have puzzled spectators but, after a few minutes rest, he would get up and complete the over as if nothing unusual had happened. However, the heart condition became more troublesome, and 1958 proved to be his last season.

Largely because work restricted his availability, all of Smith's cricket was on grounds in Southern England and predominantly in Kent. Of his 42 matches only nine were on away grounds – three each at Hastings and Southampton, two at Lord's and one at Clacton-on Sea. Even for the Second Eleven he did not travel further West than Bristol, East than Lakenham and North than High Wycombe. Geoff Smith played a great deal of club cricket including Ashford, Bromley, Old Blues, St Lawrence and Streatham.

Outside cricket, he became his company's Overseas Managing Director and was involved in numerous prestigious projects including Sydney Opera House. His other sports included Rugby Football – he represented Kent in 1952/53- squash and badminton.

**John George Spanswick. (No.667.)**

*Born:* 30. 09. 1933, Folkestone. *Died:* 15. 10. 2016, Darlington, County Durham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent: 1955-1956. Second Eleven Cap 1955.

Second Eleven Cap. 1955.

Educated: Morehall School, Folkestone.

Parents: Alfred Spanswick & Elsie Spanswick (*née* Allen.)



## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	16	22	1	135	24	6.42	0	0	7

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2092	55	1175	36	32.63	4-64		

The son of a garage owner in Cheriton, John Spanswick was evacuated to Wales on the outbreak of war at the age of six together with his brother (12) and sister (nine). The two boys were billeted on a farm near Abergavenny – which meant a three mile walk to the village school – while their sister was deposited 20 miles away near Merthyr Tydfil. Meanwhile, because of petrol rationing, his father gave up the garage and moved with his wife and two eldest daughters to Chelmsford where both parents worked for the Marconi company, father making radio cabinets for submarines and mother radio valves for Wellington bombers.

After the war John Spanswick finished his education in Folkestone and played Association Football for Folkestone Schoolboys, Kent Schools, FA Youth of Kent and the Kent National Association of Boys' Clubs but it was not until aged 14 that he became interested in cricket. He began playing for a local youth club and after a few games for the Folkestone Club was invited by Kent for a trial. He joined the staff in 1951, arriving at the same time as Alan Dixon, Leon Hellmuth and Freddie Lucas (*q.v.*).

In his first season Spanswick made two Second Eleven appearances, against Hampshire at Basingstoke and Devonshire at Hesketh Park. For the Club & Ground he took 19 wickets at an economical 17.10, including 4 for 25 against his hometown Folkestone but, as was the case with most cricketers of the period – including Messrs Dixon, Hellmuth & Lucas- at this stage his career was blighted by National Service. Posted to the First Battalion Queen's Own Royal West Kent Regiment, after 17 months training, he was sent to Malaya where the Army was engaged dealing with the communist inspired emergency. Between active service based at Kula Kubu Maru, Private Spanswick was invited to play for Selangor State at Kuala Lumpur which brought him selection for the annual 'Test Match' between North & South. He also played for the Army of Malaya v the Army of Singapore. Serving with him in the Royal West Kent and also chosen for the representative matches was Stuart Watson, son of George Watson (*q.v.*)

Back in England in 1954, Spanswick took three fairly expensive wickets in his two Second Eleven matches but again did well for Club & Ground, heading the averages with 18 wickets at 6.72. Against Catford (including Leslie Todd (*q.v.*)) on their small Penerley Road ground he had an analysis 8-6-7-7. However, a knee injury sustained playing football prior to the start of the season necessitated a cartilage operation in July. This would ultimately end his career. While he could still bowl his main wicket-taking ball, the outswinger, the run-up was never the same and in the delivery stride his left foot came down about a foot to the left of where it should have been.

Despite the changes in his action, 1955 began promisingly in his second match with 5 for 61 v Surrey Seconds at The Oval and 4 for 50 v Essex Seconds at Dartford, enough to earn a Second Eleven Cap and a place in the first team as replacement for the injured Fred Ridgway. He began well, taking 2 for 21 v Middlesex at Lord's, 3 for 38 v Somerset at Yeovil, 3 for 23 v Northants at Tunbridge Wells when the visitors were bowled out for 60 to give Kent, on the last morning still needing 51 to avoid an innings defeat with four wickets down, the most improbable of victories. At the end of the season his 15 matches had brought him 31 wickets at 34.35 from 318.4 overs which included 4 for 64 against Lancashire at Mote Park.

Although fairly expensive by the standards of the time, his tally included some notable scalps – Denis Compton, Cyril Washbrook, Jack Robertson, Dennis Brookes, Frank Lowson and Raman Subba Row.

In 1956, with Ridgway fit again and the arrival of David Halfyard, Spanswick played only one first-class match, against Cambridge University at Fenner's but for the Second Eleven he was second highest wicket taker with 50 at 19.66. He also batted usefully on occasions with half-centuries against Somerset at Bath and Surrey at The Oval. However, it did not impress in the right places and at the end of the season he was not re-engaged. He continued to take wickets for Folkestone. In 1956 the history states that 'Few clubs could cope with him' and in 1957 his 50 wickets cost 9.82 each.

On leaving Kent, John Spanswick accepted an offer from Whitbread's and spent 11 years at their Mackeson's Brewery in Hythe. He subsequently worked for the company in Sheffield, Nottingham, County Durham and Leeds before retiring after 34 years' service. For seven further years he worked in industrial education before finally retiring, settling in Darlington and concentrating on golf.

In 1958 he married Jill Russell in Folkestone and in 1988 Joyce Martin in Darlington.

### **Guy Dennis Spelman. (No.721.)**

*Born:* 18. 10. 1958, Westminster.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent: 1978-1982.

Second Eleven Cap. 1978.

Educated: Sevenoaks School & Nottingham University.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	7	7	1	9	4	1.50	0	0	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	727	31	357	10	35.70	2-27		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	2	1	2	2*	2.00	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	245	1	194	7	27.71	3-30	0	4.75

Described in the Kent Annual as an 'outstanding schoolboy', Guy Spelman captained Sevenoaks School in 1976 and 1977, the last of his four years in the Eleven. In 1975 he appeared for NAYC v MCC and NAYC South v NAYC North and two years later made his first appearance for Kent Second Eleven, against Middlesex Seconds at Teddington.

He joined the staff in the following year and made the first of his three first team appearances in the 40-over John Player League against Yorkshire at Canterbury. In his second he took 3 for 39 against Derbyshire at Maidstone. In a dozen Second Eleven matches he took 3 for 41 & 4 for 39 v Middlesex Seconds at Beckenham, 4 for 59 v Hampshire at Dover, finishing with 30 wickets at 23.87, a Second Eleven Cap and high hopes for the future. He was by now firmly established with Sevenoaks Vine and

represented the Kent League against the Essex League in the Final of the Club Cricket Conference Inter-League competition.

In 1979, although occupied with his studies at Nottingham University, Spelman excelled, heading the Second Eleven bowling averages with 31 wickets (avge.14.68). Against Middlesex at Roehampton he took 5 for 43 & 3 for 19 followed by 5 for 45 & 2 for 23 v Hampshire at Canterbury, and 8 for 56 at Chigwell. He was perhaps more than a little unlucky not to have been given first team opportunities in the latter half of the season.

Before the start of the 1980 season the Kent Annual was more than usually enthusiastic about Spelman, referring to 'a tremendous amount of ability' and forecasting that he 'could quite soon be appearing in the senior side'. Although he was still at university, the forecast proved correct. He made six appearances in the County Championship and another three in the John Player League. His seven first-class wickets cost 41 runs each and, apart from 3 for 30 against Northamptonshire at Luton in the 40-over competition and 2 for 27 from 24 overs on his first-class debut against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, he did nothing remarkable but the future still looked promising. However already there were signs of the back trouble which would shortly end his career.

Although losing much of the 1981 season to injury, he claimed 19 wickets in half a dozen Second Eleven matches including 7 for 55 v Lancashire Seconds at Old Trafford but there were no more first team appearances until the following season when he bowled 23 overs for three wickets in the opening fixture of the season at Oxford. In five Second Eleven matches that year he was inexpensive with 16 wickets at 26.00 but his back problems were worsening and at the end of the season he decided to give up.

In announcing Spelman's departure the Annual Report in the 1983 Kent Annual was unusually forthcoming. Instead of the familiar bare announcement that a player had 'not been re-engaged' or words to that effect, the report stated that 'both to our own and his regret he had decided to call it a day. We foresee a great career for him in his new job with Barclays Bank International'.

Guy Spelman did indeed go on to a highly successful career in business with multi-national companies but in the field of technology rather than banking. Among the offices he holds or has held are CEO, Toumaz Holdings Ltd., Managing Director, Reuter Account for BT Services, Vice President IBM Global Systems and Director of Pelagon Ltd, Accredited Technology, and Nano-Science Inc. He was also a Director of Play Cricket.com and Play Sport New Media Ltd. He currently lives in Geneva.

As well as Sevenoaks Vine, Guy Spelman played club cricket for MCC, Hayes and for Sir JP Getty's Eleven. It seems his back problems were eventually cured. According to a piece on the GCI website, Spelman located a specialist in the USA and, following an operation, he was able to play cricket again, bowling medium-pace. Reluctant at first to return to old cricketing haunts, he played for an (unnamed) Surrey club under the name 'John Smith' until an opponent recognised him. This resulted in the club's suspension from their League. He subsequently resumed playing under his own name and continued with Sevenoaks Vine until 2002.

He is the brother-in-law of Caroline Spelman MP, Secretary of State for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs from May 2010 to September 2012.

### **Duncan John Spencer. (No.764.)**

*Born* :05. 04.1972, Nelson, Lancashire.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler.

Kent 1993-1994.

Second Eleven Cap. 1994.

Educated: Gosnell's High School, Western Australia, Kent Street Senior School, Perth, Western Australia.

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	8	1	125	75	17.85	0	1	2
<b>Overall</b>	16	18	2	233	75	14.56	0	1	10

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	767	20	507	14	36.21	4-31		
<b>Overall</b>	2094	44	1412	36	39.22	4-31		

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10	6	2	60	17*	15.00	0	0	2
<b>Overall</b>	20	11	3	79	17*	9.87	0	0	5

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	388	4	268	8	33.50	2-16	0	4.14
<b>Overall</b>	843	4	680	23	29.56	4-35	0	4.83

Short for a fast bowler, 5ft 8in, and not heavily built, Duncan Spencer at times looked to be the fastest, if not the most accurate, Kent bowler of the post-war era. Born in England, he was taken to Australia at the age of five and brought up in Western Australia where he worked as a warehouseman. He had played for Western Australia at Under-19 level in 1989-1990 under Kent coach Daryl Foster and immediately before coming to England in 1993 had played two matches (not first-class) for the Western Australia first team against England A. On his debut he took three wickets and had a heated verbal exchange with England wicketkeeper Jack Russell – subsequently smoothed over with a drink at the bar. Already however the suspect spine destined to plague him throughout his short career, was troubling him and he had undergone an operation to underpin it with steel screws.

After a relatively uneventful start for the Second Eleven in 1993, a friendly with Hertfordshire and a one-day Bain Clarkson Trophy match with Middlesex Seconds at Lord's, he made his first team debut in the 50-over AXA Equity & Law League, the first of five appearances in the competition that season which brought four wickets. In the last of the five, against Glamorgan at Canterbury, in the final game of the season with the title depending on the result, although Matthew Maynard was his only wicket, he bowled at great pace and many were surprised and impressed, nobody more so than Sir Vivian Richards. Naming him as one of the fastest he had ever faced, at times he was in all sorts of difficulties, splitting one of his batting gloves and inducing a simple return catch, unfortunately off a no-ball. Battling his way through his troubles, Richards scored 46\*, Glamorgan won the match and with it the title.

He also played two first class matches, his debut match against Essex at Mote Park when he failed to take a wicket and against Zimbabwe where he bowled very fast, took 4 for 46 and hit 75, sharing a 166 run sixth-wicket partnership of 166 with Steve Marsh (111).

For the Second Eleven, competing in what was now known as the Rapid Cricket Line Championship, Spencer scored 451 runs (avge.41.00) with five half-centuries and a top score of 95 together with 25 wickets (avge.31.20) in eleven matches. He also bowled 38 no-balls and 19 wides. In the winter he picked up 24 wickets (avge.38.16) in eight Sheffield Shield and four List A matches for Western Australia.

In 1994 the recurring back problems ended his season in mid-June. By then he had claimed ten wickets (avge.34.70) in four Championship matches with a best of 4 for 31 v Leicestershire at Grace Road and another five in List A matches. He played only three Second Eleven matches but a match-winning 7 for 47 v Somerset at Taunton and 80 against Surrey Seconds at Mote Park was enough to win a Second Eleven cap.

Because of his fitness record Kent did not renew Spencer's contract in 1995 and he was unable to continue his career with Western Australia. On his mother's recommendation however he began treatment from a chiropractor near his home in Perth and as a result was able to resume club cricket. In 1996 he tried to revive his career with Kent and played in seven Second Eleven Championship matches but claimed only three wickets and in July he again broke down but not before he had given further proof of his batting talent, finishing second in the averages with 411 runs (avge.58.71). He hit four half-centuries including 89 v Worcestershire at Ombersley, 87\* at Hove and 71\* v Northants at Ashford. In a Club & Ground game against Kent Police at Gillingham he hit 129 out of 175 from 68 balls with 5 sixes, four off successive balls.

This was still not the end of the Duncan Spencer saga. In 2001 he began taking wickets for Western Australia in List A matches but, although he claimed to have been unaware that its use was illegal, he found himself banned for 18 months for the use of nandrolone. Still not prepared to give in, in April/May 2006 he appeared in two first-class and three Second Eleven matches for Sussex and in June a Second Eleven match for Leicestershire in which he took 4 for 73. He now lives in Burnley and still plays occasional club cricket.

### **Edward John Stanford. (No.770.)**

*Born:* 21. 01.1971, Dartford.

Left-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent: 1995-1997.

Educated: Downs Secondary School, Dartford.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	6	4	48	32	24.00	0	0	2

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	902	43	388	9	43.11	3-84		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	7	6	1	26	13	5.20	0	0	1

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	288	2	211	10	21.10	3-29	0	4.39

Eddie Stanford was unlucky in that he joined the staff in 1993 just as Min Patel was becoming established as the County's number one spinner and spin was in any case going out of fashion. He had been spotted while playing for Dartford where, when the Dartford club took over responsibility for

running the Hesketh Park ground from the local council, for a short period he also functioned as Head Groundsman. He began well with 5 for 76 on debut against Sussex Seconds at Sittingbourne but overall had only a moderate first season with 20 fairly expensive wickets in all second team competitions.

Bowling slower and giving the ball more air, in 1994 Stanford's 55 wickets at 23.04 made him leading Second Eleven wicket-taker, a feat he would repeat in each of the next three seasons. Three times he took ten or more in a match -10 for 102 v Nottinghamshire at Dartford, 11 for 110 v Glamorgan at Sittingbourne in 1994 and 10 for 166 v Worcestershire at Ashford in 1995.

His first-class debut in 1995 was a low-key event, against Cambridge University in which he took 1 for 75 but his first Championship match was more notable in that his first wicket was Graham Hick, caught at point for 64. Hick had struck 16 including two straight sixes from Stanford's previous over. Although Stanford's 49 Second Eleven wickets were inexpensive, Patel was ever-present and this might have persuaded some counties to try playing both on occasions but even when it was decided to play a second spinner, the choice was off-spinner Steve Herzberg (q.v.).

For the next two seasons Stanford continued to take wickets in the Second Eleven – 51 at 30.94 in 1996 – but he was restricted to two first team matches in 1996 and one in 1997. When Patel missed virtually the whole of the 1997 season, preference was naturally given to Kent's overseas player Paul Strang (q.v.), who was not only a hugely talented leg-spinner but could also bat. In the latter half of his career, Stanford too began to reveal batting talent. Sent in as nightwatchman against Lancashire Seconds at Canterbury in 1996 he scored 52 and against Northants at Ashford he hit 32\* in an unfinished 83 run last-wicket partnership with Ben Phillips (57\*). At Ashford, again in 1997, he scored 47 and 38\* against Somerset Seconds.

Troubled by injury, Stanford made eight Second team appearances in 1998 and took only four wickets although he averaged over 30 with the bat. He left at the end of the season for a new career in teaching.

Between 1999 and 2001 Eddie Stanford played regularly for the Kent Cricket Board, captaining the team from 2000 in the ECB 38 County Cup and in the National Westminster Bank Trophy. As well as Dartford, Stanford played club cricket for Bexley and Bromley.

In 2001 he married Victoria Campbell in Gravesend.

### **Paul Andrew Strang. (No.777.)**

*Born:* 28. 07.1970, Bulawayo, Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe).

Right-handed batsman, right-arm leg spin bowler.

Kent: 1997. Cap 1997.

Tests: 24 for Zimbabwe.

Educated: Falcon College & Cape Town University.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	17	26	2	590	82	24.58	0	5	17
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	24	41	10	839	106*	27.06	1	2	15
<b>Overall</b>	107	157	37	3613	154	30.10	3	17	96

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4399	211	1929	63	30.61	7-118	4	1
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	5720	211	2522	70	36.02	8-109	4	1
<b>Overall</b>	21747	899	9933	324	30.65	8-109	17	3

### **List A Career Record**

## Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	26	20	6	257	40	18.35	0	0	9
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	95	73	24	1090	47	22.24	0	0	30
<b>Overall</b>	180	140	41	1941	52*	19.60	0	1	64

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1152	17	815	28	29.10	4-27	0	4.24
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	4351	35	3173	96	33.05	5-21	2	4.37
<b>Overall</b>	8015	78	5743	193	29.75	6-32	3	4.29

When Paul Strang came to Kent in 1997 as replacement for Carl Hooper, he was virtually unknown to the more parochially-minded followers of Kent cricket, although he had already played 13 Test matches for Zimbabwe and had troubled most of the English batsman when they toured Zimbabwe in the previous winter. An ideal team man and a good mixer on and off the field, he proved one of the most popular of all Kent's overseas signings and, perhaps partly because he was not a 'big name', did as much as anyone to dispose of the myth that there was no role for the leg-spinner in the modern English game.

Despite a wicketkeeper/captain (Steve Marsh) who had not 'kept to a leg-spinner for 15 years, aided by pre-match study of videos and a system of signals, the pair developed a highly effective partnership. Strang finished leading wicket-taker with 91 in all matches to which Marsh contributed seven catches and three stumpings. To his repertoire of well-controlled leg-break, googly, top-spinner and flipper Strang added gritty lower middle-order batting with the ability to improvise when runs were wanted quickly and outstanding fielding, especially in the gully/backward point area. During his short time with Kent, he several times conducted master classes for budding Kentish leg-spinners.

By coincidence, Paul Strang's first-class debut was against Kent, for Zimbabwe B at Harare in 1993. He made his Test debut against Sri Lanka at Harare in 1994 and played the first of his 95 Limited Overs Internationals against Australia at Perth in the same year. In 1996-1997, the season before he joined Kent, he hit 106\* (his only Test century) and took 5 for 212 from 69 overs against Pakistan at Sheikhupura. He shared an 87 run eighth-wicket partnership with his brother Bryan (42).

Strang failed to take a wicket on his debut for Kent against Derbyshire but made his mark in the second innings with 69, sparking a lower-order rally which saw the score raised from 120 for 5 to 333 all out. Against Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge the game was transformed by a ninth-wicket partnership of 171 between Mark Ealham (122) and Strang (73), which broke a 48 year-old Kent record. When Strang scored 82 against Leicestershire at Canterbury, his personal best for Kent, the same pair added 145 for the seventh-wicket, (Ealham 139). On his second appearance he took 4 for 59 when Kent lost to Glamorgan at Canterbury and contributed usefully to a run of four successive victories culminating in 7 for 118 & 4 for 68 v Lancashire at Old Trafford.

Like most of his kind, Strang was especially effective on pitches showing signs of wear, 71% of his wickets coming in the second innings, notably 6 for 88 v Middlesex at Lord's when Kent won by four runs, 5 for 119 v Essex at Canterbury when Essex lost by an innings and 6 for 72 v Somerset at Taunton where he was at the wicket when the match was drawn with the scores level. Earlier he had had the satisfaction of scoring 24 before being dismissed by fellow leg-spinner Mushtaq Ahmed and then having him caught to complete a pair.

Strang was highly effective in limited overs cricket, perhaps unexpectedly so in the thinking of the time. During Strang's short time with Kent, only Matthew Fleming claimed more wickets in the shorter game. Seldom expensive, in the 50-over Benson & Hedges Cup competition he took 4 for 27 v Sussex and 4

for 29 v Northants in the Semi-final, both at St Lawrence and in the 40-over Sunday League 3 for 31 v Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells.

That Kent would have liked to have extended Strang's stay was an open secret but, already committed to Carl Hooper, arguably the finest overseas player in the 18 counties, there was little they could do. He went on to Notts for the 1998 season but, in a wet year, he was unable to quite match his success with Kent. Returning to cricket in Zimbabwe, his cricket career was abruptly terminated by a chronic muscle injury to his bowling hand. He retired and emigrated to New Zealand where he continued coaching. Until the early months of 2013 he was coach to Auckland.

His brother Bryan played 26 Test Matches and 49 Limited Overs Internationals for Zimbabwe. Father Ron was a first-class umpire who officiated in one ODI.

### **Andrew Symonds. (No.783.)**

*Born:* 09. 06.1975, Birmingham, West Midlands. *Died:* 14.05.2022. Hervey Range, Townsville, Queensland, Australia

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace/off spin bowler.

Kent: 1999-2004. Cap: 1999.

Tests: 26 for Australia. Limited Overs Internationals: 198 for Australia. T20 Internationals: 14 for Australia.

Educated: All Saints Anglican School, Mudgeeraba, Queensland & Ballarat & Clarendon College, Victoria.

Parents: (adoptive) Kenneth & Barbara Symonds.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	49	85	7	3526	177	45.20	12	15	56
<b>Australia</b>	26	41	5	1462	162*	40.61	2	10	22
<b>Overall</b>	227	376	33	14477	254*	42.20	40	65	159

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4754	159	2632	65	40.49	6-105	2	0
<b>Australia</b>	2094	81	896	24	37.33	3-50	2	0
<b>Overall</b>	17633	710	871	242	36.00	6-105	2	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	62	60	4	1690	146	30.17	1	9	23
<b>Australia</b>	198	161	33	5088	156	39.75	6	30	82
<b>Overall</b>	424	377	51	11099	156	34.04	9	64	187

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2066	17	1486	69	21.53	5-18	2	4.31
<b>Australia</b>	5935	30	4955	133	37.25	5-18	1	5.00
<b>Overall</b>	11713	71	9379	282	33.25	6-14	4	4.80

### **Twenty20 Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**



	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	10	10	1	322	112	35.77	1	1	7
<b>Australia</b>	14	11	4	337	85*	48.14	0	2	3
<b>Overall</b>	93	85	19	2141	117*	32.43	2	12	42

### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	194	1	233	7	33.28	2-35	0	7.20
<b>Australia</b>	185	0	277	8	34.62	2-14	0	8.98
<b>Overall</b>	1237	1	1657	52	31.86	5-18	1	8.03

Awarded by one writer the title of ‘controversy’s favourite child’, Andrew Symonds had the ability to become one of the game’s truly great allrounders. That he was very good indeed is beyond all doubt, but his career was marred by a long series of, mainly alcohol related, incidents, culminating in 2009 when he was sent home from the Australian tour party on the eve of the ICC World 20/20 competition and his central contract cancelled. Nevertheless he made a considerable impact on the game and many of his innings, by no means restricted to limited-overs cricket, were positively breath-taking. As a bowler, although his career figures are not remarkable, he could be a match winner and he was an outstanding fielder almost anywhere, heavy build notwithstanding. Teammates testified to his motivational skill and to his often inspirational presence both on and off the field.

Of Caribbean and Scandinavian parentage, he was taken to Australia as a baby by his adoptive parents, two cricket-loving English schoolteachers from whom he acquired his almost obsessive devotion to the game. A precocious talent displayed with the Townsville (Queensland) Club led to a scholarship to the Australian Academy, captaincy of the Queensland Under 17 and Under-19 teams and his List A debut for Queensland v South Australia at Adelaide in 1993/1994.

His first-class debut followed shortly after, against New South Wales at Sydney, and in the same season he played his first ODI at under-19 level. In the 1994-1995 season at the age of 19 he scored 108\* against the English tourists sharing an unbroken fifth-wicket partnership of 205 with 20 year-old Jim Maher (100\*). He signed for Gloucestershire in 1995, emphasising his talent with an innings of 254 against Glamorgan at Abergavenny containing a world-record 16 sixes. He was voted both PCA and Cricket Writers Young Player of the Year and offered a place on the England A tour of Pakistan but declined in order to retain his qualification for Australia.

By the time Symonds came to Kent for the first time in 1999 he had behind him two seasons with Gloucestershire, one highly successful, the second rather less so, and had played one ODI for Australia as well as becoming a regular member of the Queensland side. In a season curtailed by a late call up to the Australian squad in August, including three hastily arranged matches in Los Angeles which were unexpected, to put it mildly. He began well with 123 from 131 balls in a pre-season friendly with Essex and, in a season in which no Kent batsman scored 1,000 runs, he headed the Kent averages with 940 runs (avge.40.87) scored at a rate of 71.54 per 100 balls. His three centuries included his personal best 177 (24 fours, three sixes) v Leicestershire and 102 (20 fours) from 145 balls v New Zealand, both at Canterbury as well as 99 at Old Trafford, but there were four ducks in a period of three matches including a pair at Worcester. In the CGU National League he hit 95 from 63 balls v Leicestershire at Canterbury and 85 from 79 balls v Essex at Chelmsford but finished with a relatively modest average of 30.42 in limited-overs cricket and five times was dismissed for single figures. With the ball, in all matches he claimed 15 expensive wickets.

By now a more mature cricketer, Andrew Symonds returned to Kent in July 2001 as a late replacement for Daryl Cullinan and in the following year was signed on a two-year contract. In the event, he remained with Kent until 2004 when his career with the County was terminated, by injury and international commitments. In his short 2001 season he hit 563 first-class runs (avge.46.92) including two typical centuries, at Leicester, 125 from 134 balls (1 six, 17 fours) including a match-winning third-wicket-partnership of 235 from 47 overs with Ed Smith (107) and at Northampton, 131 in 129 balls. A

personally disappointing limited-overs season was redeemed in the final Norwich Union League match when called on as fourth change and bowling brisk seamers, he clinched the title for Kent with 5 for 18 from 6 overs.

Symonds exceeded 500 first-class runs in each of his final three seasons. In 2002 he totalled over 1,000 in all matches as well having his best season with the ball in List A cricket, 24 wickets at 22.66. In 2003 in Kent's opening match in the 20/20 competition, v Hampshire at Beckenham, he hit 96\* from 37 balls and in his final season, although playing only five first-class matches due to International calls and a summons back to Australia for treatment to a troublesome Achilles tendon, he scored 506 runs (avge.72.28) in eight innings with three centuries. He also registered his first and only century for Kent in limited-overs cricket, a blistering 146 from 100 balls against Lancashire at Tunbridge Wells, an innings all the remarkable in that it later transpired that at three am on the morning of the match he was still drinking.

Unfortunately Symonds' excellent all-round cricket in 2004 was overshadowed by events at Worcester in June. With skipper David Fulton and several other senior players injured, Ed Smith had been appointed captain with Symonds taking charge for 20/20 matches. It was always unlikely that Symonds, an extreme example - almost a caricature- of an archetypal 'fair dinkum Aussie,' and the cerebral Smith with a double first at Cambridge, would ever be bosom pals and when Kent were in the field at Worcester it became clear that Symonds and at least one other senior player resented Smith's appointment and were unwilling to accept his authority. With the home side 300 for 4, something approaching mutiny was developing with a general air of lethargy and senior players leaving the field without the captain's permission.

A fraught situation was made worse by David Fulton's decision to take the field as twelfth man and his attempt to start directing affairs. When the somewhat bemused umpires (the highly experienced Nigel Cowley and George Sharp) had to point out to Fulton that he was contravening the Laws, it only served to draw wider attention to what was going on and further undermined Smith's position.

Sanity of sorts was restored by the timely arrival of Kent's Chairman of Cricket Mike Denness with some straight talking which at least enabled the match to struggle to a conclusion, albeit an unsatisfactory one - a draw with Kent still 194 in arrears and their last pair at the wicket. Symonds had scored 103 in Kent's first innings and taken three wickets but he was the most expensive of the six bowlers used and did not bowl at all in the second innings.

The confirmation of an uncontrite Symonds as 20/20 captain hardly improved matters. One of his first moves was to abruptly drop Smith who was having his best-ever limited-overs season. The Symonds' reign began deceptively well with a century (112 in 43 balls with 18 fours and 3 sixes) and a Duckworth/Lewis victory over Middlesex but after that the team rather fell to pieces and three successive defeats and only one more win meant that Kent were out of the competition.

By the time Kent decided on disciplinary measures, nobody was seriously inconvenienced. Symonds was back in Australia and Robert Key, the other main 'mutineer' and the only one to apologise, was playing for England. The only practical result was the resignation of Denness, who described Smith's treatment as a 'disgrace,' and the departure of Smith and his friend, the highly promising Alex Loudon, to Middlesex and Warwickshire respectively.

Although Symonds's behaviour would seem to go against all long-established captain/team and employer/employee relationships and his off-field lifestyle was hardly a secret, Kent's handling of the Symonds affair should perhaps best be seen in the light of the high regard in which Symonds was held at the Club. In the 1999 Annual Report he was described as 'a model overseas professional both on and off the field'. In 2001 he 'gives 100% and his enthusiasm is infectious and inspires his teammates'. In the 2002 Club Annual captain Matthew Fleming described him as contributing 'more than just cricketing ability to the team'. He is 'very good on and off the pitch for players both young and old'.

To teammate Matthew Walker he was ‘a fantastic cricketer – someone you can respect and learn from’.  
*Autre temps, autre moeurs.*

Although his baggy green meant so much to him that when he first received it in 2004, he reputedly kept it on for five days, only taking it off to shower and sleep, Symonds was never quite an automatic choice at Test level, although an integral part of the limited-overs squad. He had his fair share of injuries, but he did not achieve a Test century until his twelfth match when he hit 156 at Melbourne in the 2006/2007 Ashes Series. His best season was 2007/2008 when in six Test matches (two against Sri Lanka and four against India) he totalled 513 runs (avge.85.50) with his only other Test century and four half-centuries. His last Test was against South Africa at Melbourne in 2008/2009.

Controversy was never far away but there is nothing to be gained by detailing the full tally of off and on-field incidents. Although the long-suffering Australian authorities eventually lost patience after a drink-related breach of curfew and cancelled his contract in 2009, he continued with Queensland for a further two years and was involved with the coaching of their younger players.

There was one more season in English cricket. In 2005 Symonds played seven first-class, eleven List A and three 20/20 matches for Lancashire. A natural for the IPL, he had two seasons (2007/2008 & 2009/2010) with Deccan Chargers and 2011/2012 with Mumbai Indians. Always an enthusiastic – some suggested obsessive – hunter and fisherman, in 2013 Andrew Symonds retired from professional cricket in order to devote his time to wife, family and newly acquired farm and also achieved considerable success as a cricket commentator with Fox News. He was killed in a car crash in which he was alone in the car and no other vehicle or individual was apparently involved.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

Symonds, Andrew & Gray, Stephen. Roy: *Going for broke*. Hardie Grant Books (Australia), 2006.

### **Christopher James Tavaré. (No.712.)**

*Born:* 27. 10. 1954, Orpington.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1974-1988. cap 1978. Captain 1983-1984

Somerset: 1989-1993, Cap 1989. Captain 1990-1993.

Tests: 31 and 29 ODIs. All for England.

Educated: Sevenoaks School & St John's College, Oxford.

Parents: Andrew & June Tavaré.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	259	425	51	14201	168*	37.97	29	71	270
<b>England</b>	31	56	2	1755	149	32.50	2	12	20
<b>Overall</b>	431	717	75	24906	219	38.79	48	138	417

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	630	18	493	5	98.60	1-3		
<b>England</b>	30	3	11	0				
<b>Overall</b>	813	21	722	5	144.40	1-3		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
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<b>Kent</b>	248	243	32	6797	143	32.21	8	38	112
<b>England</b>	29	28	2	720	83*	27.69	0	4	7
<b>Overall</b>	400	391	50	11413	162*	33.46	14	65	168

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>England</b>	12	0	3	0				1.50
<b>Overall</b>	18	0	9	0				3.00

Many supposedly close followers of cricket can sometimes tend to be afflicted with remarkably short memories. This is certainly the case with Chris Tavaré. As recently as July 2022 he was described on a reputable website as ‘the ultimate blocker of a cricket ball’ and one has been hearing the same sort of thing for over 40 years, even from Kent cricket lovers who, apart perhaps from the some of the younger generation, can have little excuse for not being better informed.

Of course, many will know of his second innings at Old Trafford against Australia in 1981 when he scored 78 from 289 balls in 423 minutes and contributed 28 to a famous 149 run fourth wicket partnership with Ian Botham (118). There was also his 35 in five and a half hours in the fifth Test at Madras in the following year but there was far more to Tavaré than stubborn defence. The late Derek Ufton described him as, ‘for a decade and more, the backbone of the Kent batting and, while he could get his head down and graft when necessary - particularly adept at dealing with the rising ball, his left-hand - like Bradman’s - behind the handle, he was an elegant stroke player, a superb timer of the ball and one of the best back foot players of his generation’.

Few could hit the ball harder. John Holder, one of the most knowledgeable umpires of his time, when discussing the serious physical risk to umpires from a straight driven cricket ball, particularly since the introduction of modern heavy bats, named Chris Tavaré as the batsman who worried him most when in straight driving mood. He was also one of the best slip fielders of his, or indeed any, generation.

It might too be worth remembering that he played most of his career on uncovered wickets. His sixes, far more frequent than many give him credit for, were for the most part over or wide of mid on.

With eight centuries and 38 half-centuries, he excelled in limited-overs matches, hitting 26 sixes, winning four Gold Awards and three times adjudged Man of the Match in Nat West Trophy matches.

Tavaré made his mark as a cricketer quite early in life, playing for Sevenoaks School before his 15th birthday in 1969 and going on to play a further four seasons for the School, captaining in 1972 and 1973 and leading the averages in his last three years. In 1972 he gathered 794 runs (avge.113.44) with a top score of 187\* and 1,036 runs (avge., 94.16) in 1973 with a top score of 164. In the *Wisden* school averages at the time, it was unusual for batsmen to score over 1,000 runs or average over 100 but Tavaré’s achievements seem to have been printed without comment.

As early as 1970, while still not yet 16, Tavaré batted number four for Sevenoaks Vine against MCC and quickly became a regular with the Vine. In 1973 he played for ESCA against India Schools at Bradford and in 1974 for English Youth Cricketers against West Indies Youth Cricketers in the first ‘Test’ at Stone. In 1972 he made his debut for Kent Seconds against Hampshire at Folkestone and followed with a further three more matches that season and another three in 1973.

In 1974 he scored his first half-century in Kent colours, 94 against Hampshire Seconds at Canterbury. Possibly as a result, he was called up to make his first-class debut, against Cambridge University at Fenner’s, with a score of 27. He followed a little later with his Championship debut, at Trent Bridge (1 & 7) and played a further eight Championship games that year with a top score of 31 against Yorkshire at Scarborough. He was also called in for three matches in the 40-over John Player League.

For the Second Eleven, he was top of the averages with four half centuries including his second dismissal in the 90s, 95 v Middlesex Seconds at Harrow. He also hit his maiden hundred for Kent, 111 v the Army at Aldershot.

In 1975 Tavaré went up to Oxford to read zoology. With a miserably wet April and May, it was not a good year for Oxford cricket; not least because pitches had deteriorated, so much so that the Inspector of pitches, Bert Lock, was called in at the end of the season. *Wisden* judged Tavaré the most stylish of the batting line-up but totalled only 320 (avge.20.00). He played no Championship or limited-overs cricket that year and only eight Second Eleven matches with a top score of 97 at Bournemouth. For a combined Oxford and Cambridge side in the Benson & Hedges Cup, he hit 61 in a 104 run fourth-wicket partnership with Imran Khan at Leicester.

After starting his 1976 Oxford season with four low scores, Tavaré struck a productive vein of form with two half-centuries against Warwickshire, 104 v Northants, his maiden first-class century, two more half-centuries against Derbyshire, all in the Parks, followed immediately with 64 & 59 (top scorer in both innings) for a combined Oxford & Cambridge team v West Indies at Fenner's. With a further half century at Edgbaston, he rounded off his university season with 105\* in 200 minutes with 15 fours against Sussex at the unusual venue of Pagham and, mistiming a full toss, 99 (14 fours) in the University match. With Marks (80), 149 were added at a run a minute.

With eight Championship matches in the latter half of the season including two half-centuries, his final first-class record was 1,229 runs (avge.40.96) and 21 catches. He made seven appearances in the John Player League and for the Seconds registered his first century in the Second Eleven Competition, 113 at Southampton.

In 1977, Tavaré's final year at university was devoted almost entirely to study and he played just one first-class match for Oxford, 26 & 29 against Cambridge at Lord's. Joining Kent in July, he scored over 500 runs but, after beginning well with 51\* against Surrey at Mote Park, he struggled a bit until the second match of Canterbury Week when he achieved his maiden Championship hundred, 124\* with 15 fours in three and half hours against Nottinghamshire.

In his first full county season in 1978 Tavaré compiled 1,534 runs (avge.45.11) with two centuries, 11 half-centuries and his personal best of 49 catches, mostly at second slip, 12 of them off Underwood and more than anyone else with the exception of four wicketkeepers, David Bairstow, Paul Downton, Ian Gould and Derek Taylor. Apart from scores of 19 and 83 for Young England against New Zealand at Leicester, all his runs were scored for Kent, for whom he was leading run-getter and second in the averages.

Awarded his County Cap during the drawn match with Northants in June, apart from his 105 in four and a half hours at Taunton and 100\* in a little under three at Leicester, he scored 90 (run out) against Pakistan and five scores between 83 and 89. In one-day cricket he hit two half-centuries in the Benson & Hedges Cup, one in the Gillette and in an otherwise underwhelming season in the John Player League, 136\* with one six and 11 fours in 128 minutes v Gloucestershire at Canterbury, the highest individual score in the competition that year. The Kent Annual observed that the innings was 'due entirely to excellent stroke play, rather than the slogging so often seen on a Sunday'.

Several of the leading pundits of the day, including *Wisden*, took the view that Tavaré had been unlucky to miss the forthcoming trip to Australia. Among them was the late, great and sorely missed Alan Gibson who, assuming the role of prophet in his account of Tavaré's innings of 87 in the Kent v Essex match at Folkestone, took the view that 'we know him already as a dashing stroke maker,' 'he now showed that he could play a long and faithful innings, not in his best touch, eschewing most of his strokes, until the right ball comes along'.

1979 brought 1,328 first-class runs (avge.41.50) with three centuries and seven half-centuries, For MCC against the touring Indians, he scored 77 and took part in a 165 run third-wicket stand with Paul Parker (100\*).

After a bleak period between the last week in May and the penultimate fixture in June, Tavaré only three times achieved double figures, but emerged from the doldrums with his highest score, 150\* against Essex at Tunbridge Wells, the runs scored in a team total of 316 for 8 dec, from 98.5 overs. Beginning in a Canterbury Week, put back to accommodate the World Cup, Tavaré ran into prime form with 112 v Worcestershire and 86\* & 66\* v Yorkshire, followed by 101 at Bournemouth and 50 at Cardiff. In Canterbury Week against Worcestershire, he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 251 with Ealham (153) and a second-wicket partnership of 185 against Yorkshire with Woolmer (169). At Bournemouth, again with Woolmer (105), he put on 204.

In limited-overs cricket, Tavaré had an unremarkable season, apart from three scores in the eighties, one in the Gillette Cup and two in the John Player League. In the Gillette his innings was balanced somewhat by a duck against Joel Garner in the quarter-final in which only two Kent batsmen reached double figures and the top score was 12 (Garner 5 for 11). For Tavaré there was some consolation in the Somerset match in the John Player League. 89 (run out) and a 64 run Kentish victory (Garner 0 for 39). There was also an innings of 121 in a 60-over 'friendly' against the Australians in which Kent won by 73 runs.

1980 began well for Tavaré with 84 & 115 for MCC v Essex, 126\* v Northants at Canterbury and 98 at Bournemouth in the first four games of the season, which may have contributed to his selection in the first two Tests against West Indies. Despite missing three matches through Test calls, he led the Kent averages, 1,075 (avge.41.34), the only Kent batsman to reach four figures. Despite five centuries, it was nevertheless a somewhat patchy season with 14 single figure scores but redeemed by another purple patch, again starting in Canterbury Week – 87 & 100\* (180 mins) v Glamorgan, 55 & 62 v Warwickshire plus 108 at Leicester, rounded off at the end of the season at Worcester with 144\* in even time with 1 six and 20 fours.

For England, faced with one of the most formidable pace attacks in cricket history, Tavaré contributed 13 & 4 at Trent Bridge and 42 & 6 at Lord's, losing his wicket three times to Garner, once to Holding. In his 42 at Lord's he batted for a little under five hours and put on 135 for the second-wicket with Gooch (123). He was dropped after the Lord's Test, wholly or mainly so it would seem, in the interests of a rather over ambitious policy of all-out attack.

In List A matches he scored 95 (14 fours) at The Oval and 87 v Hampshire at Canterbury in the Benson & Hedges Cup and his second century in the 40-over John Player, 110 (1 six 6, 13 fours) v Glamorgan at Canterbury, including 146 from 18 overs with Ealham (81\*).

In 1981 he had in many ways his best season, top of the Kent averages, tenth in the national averages with 1,770 first-class runs (avge.53.63), four centuries including 156, a new personal best, at Derby, as well as 96 at Nuneaton, 11 other half-centuries and nine century partnerships. He was also Kent's leading scorer in limited-overs matches with 761 runs (avge.42.27)' a century in the National Westminster Bank Trophy and scores of 97, 99 and three other half centuries.

He was called into the England side for the fifth Test against Australia at Old Trafford, largely it seems on Mike Brearley's instigation. Batting in his accustomed place at first wicket down, he was first innings top scorer, ninth out for 69, from 193 balls. In the second innings he played perhaps the most famous innings of his career. Coming in at 7-1, he had scored 28 when England lost Brearley at 104, their fifth wicket, and was joined by Botham. Together they added 149, Botham departing for 118, arguably the most memorable of his Test hundreds. Tavaré finally succumbed after another 29 minutes, having scored 78 with three fours.

Considered the third slowest half-century in Test cricket, he endured barracking from large sections of the crowd and moans from some of the popular press, but Brearley and his teammates, including Botham himself, supported him in adopting his role as the sheet anchor the team needed and culminated in a 103 run victory. After, for Tavaré, a relatively uneventful Sixth Test apart from a 70 run partnership with Boycott, he was chosen for the tour of India and Sri Lanka under the captaincy of Keith Fletcher.

Beginning the Indian tour with half centuries in each of his first four first-class matches, including 96 against West Zone at Baroda and 56 in the First Test at Bombay (now Mumbai), he followed with his maiden Test century, 149 in the third Test at New Delhi. In contrast with his innings against Australia at Old Trafford, his runs came from 303 balls with 15 fours. With Boycott (105) he shared a 116 run partnership for the second-wicket and 120 for the fourth with Fletcher (51). He opened the batting six times in India, registering three century partnerships once each with Boycott, Gooch and Geoff Cook.

In the inaugural Test with Sri Lanka at Colombo he scored 85 (stumped) on a badly scarred pitch in the second innings. According to *Wisden*'s correspondent the late John Thicknesse 'he steered England home with an innings smoother and no less secure than any he had played in Tests'. In all first-class matches on the tour he totalled 761 runs (avge.40.05) with one hundred and six half-centuries. Only Gooch scored more.

Picked for all six home Tests in 1982, three against India, three against Pakistan, Tavaré missed 11 Championship matches and for the first time since 1976 missed 1,000 runs in Kent matches but still finished top of the Kent averages and totalled 1,552 runs in all first-class cricket. Among his three centuries were 122\* at Taunton, scored from 80 overs, the first 68 in three and a half hours, the remaining 54 in 47 minutes in the (successful) hunt for maximum batting points. In the penultimate match of the season he was appointed Kent captain and at Chelmsford posted a new personal best, 168\* at Chelmsford, with 22 fours, his hundred coming in 215 minutes. With Knott (115\*), he shared an unbroken sixth-wicket partnership of 256\*.

In May Tavaré scored 99 and 75\* opening the batting with Cook for MCC against the Indians at Lord's and went on to open in all six Test matches, as well as opening in the four Prudential Trophy limited-overs fixtures. Against India he scored two half-centuries with a highest of 75\* and shared opening partnerships with Cook of 106 in the second Test at Old Trafford and 96 in the third at The Oval. In first the Prudential Trophy match, at Leeds, he hit a fairly brisk 66 and participated in a 135 runs opening partnership with Barry Wood.

Top of the averages and leading scorer against Pakistan, the highlight was Tavaré's partnership with Botham in the second Test at Lord's which took the score from 9 for 3 to 121 for 4 and at one time looked like staving off defeat. Eighth out in the end, his 82 run vigil from 277 balls lasted six hours, 47 minutes but at least an innings defeat was avoided.

Test commitments kept him away from six John Player League fixtures but he chalked up another century, 103\* v Glamorgan in the JPL at Canterbury and almost another, 90 v Gloucestershire at Folkestone.

In the 1982/1983 winter he toured Australia, the ultimate for an English cricketer. Although much more at ease at number three, he opened the batting in all but one of the five Tests matches and all but one of his other four first-class matches. Beginning with a pair against Lillee for Western Australia, against genuine quicks he never seems to have entirely come to terms with the pace and bounce of Australian pitches. He was dismissed for scores of 1, 13 & 0 by Geoff Lawson, 1 and 0 by Rodney Hogg and 0 by Jeff Thomson but nevertheless did enough to retain his place in the side.

A typically Tavarian 89 in 466 minutes (9 fours) in the first Test at Perth was followed by 147 in 351 minutes with one 6 and 21 fours against New South Wales at Sydney and 89 again, in the fourth Test at the MCG when he was top scorer in the match. This was an altogether more aggressive affair, from 165 balls in 269 minutes with 15 fours and a fourth-wicket partnership of 161 with Alan Lamb (83)

against an attack including Lawson, Hogg and Thomson. At Perth, he shared stands of 95 for the second-wicket with Gower (72) and 100 for the fifth with Randall (78). He also opened the batting in all three of the One-day Internationals staged in New Zealand after the Australian tour.

Appointed county captain for his first full season, although Tests and the World Cup deprived him of 11 Championship matches, the general opinion was of a highly satisfactory season. The Kent Annual Report focussed on Tavaré 's tactical skills and calmness under pressure and Wisden praised the quiet but firm manner in which he gained the support of his players 'both young and old alike' and his ability to lead by example at the crease, especially in the shorter game. Kent rose from 13th to seventh in the Championship, seven victories compared with three in 1982, runners-up in the National Westminster Bank Trophy, defeat in the Semi-Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup and third place in the John Player League, four points below the top two with the final fixture rained off.

Although he scored 1,030 first-class runs in all matches, for the first time since 1976 he failed to reach a century in Kent matches although in his 16 innings he posted 94 at Chelmsford and 93 v Worcestershire at Canterbury, as well as five other half centuries' He also took part in eight century partnerships.

Despite missing nine one-day matches, he led the Kent averages with 902 runs (avge.60.03), 200 more than the next. As well as 122\* v Warwickshire at Folkestone in the JPL, he hit 99 v Cheshire in the NatWest Bank Trophy at Canterbury, 80\* at Swansea in the Benson & Hedges Cup and, in addition to his century, four other half-centuries in the 40-over competition.

Tavaré opened the batting in all four Tests with New Zealand and the seven matches which took England to the Semi-finals of the Prudential World Cup. In the first Test, at The Oval, he scored 45 from 105 balls in the first innings and his second Test century in the second. 'Playing strokes all round the wicket' according to *Wisden*, he scored 109 from 259 balls with 11 fours and put on 223 for the first-wicket with Fowler (105). In the second Test, at Leeds, he was eighth out for 69 having put on 100 for third-wicket with Lamb (58) and in the third at Lord's, 51 (1 four) where he shared a 149 run second-wicket partnership with Gower (108).

In the World Cup, he scored 45 against New Zealand in the first match at The Oval and 58 in the fifth with Pakistan at Old Trafford, putting on 115 for the first-wicket with Fowler. He only once failed to reach double figures.

In the 1983/1984 winter England toured Fiji for two matches, not first-class, New Zealand and Pakistan and, to quote the late John Thicknesse in *Wisden*, the tour was 'ineptly selected, burdened with a bad itinerary and lost three of the 15 players, including the captain, Willis, with injury. Although by no means alone, Tavaré had a bad tour. In his six first-class matches he scored 204 runs, was not selected for the last of the three Tests and the three ODIs against New Zealand. In Pakistan he played no Tests and did little in two ODIs.

Under Tavaré's leadership, Kent rose to fifth in the table in 1984, equalling their best position since 1979. There were eight wins, two ties and three defeats in 1984, comparing favourably with six wins and three losses in the earlier year.

At the start of the season he was clearly out of form, the end of May having produced only one half century: to regain his touch, he had even considered a spell in the Seconds. Things improved as the season progressed but by September, although he totalled over 1,000 runs in Kent matches, 12 times he was dismissed for single figures and for the first time since 1977 failed to average over 30. Apart from a century in the Parks, his first innings of substance was 96 at Worcester when he shared a match-saving third-wicket partnership of 211 with Derek Aslett. In the first match of Canterbury Week, against Leicestershire, his 117 in 317 minutes with 17 fours was his first Championship hundred since 1982 and was said to have been a factor in his return to Test cricket.



His personal form was even worse in limited-overs cricket, his average having fallen below 20, posted ten single figure scores, had dropped to number six in the last of the Benson & Hedges matches and at one time was as low as eighth in the JPL. On a brighter note, in the National Westminster Bank Trophy, although losing to Middlesex in the Final in the gloom of a September evening, in the Quarter-Final at Taunton the captain hit 103 from 118 balls with 14 fours, in a second-wicket stand of 167 in 36 overs with Mark Benson (96).

Called back for England in the fifth so called 'blackwash' Test against West Indies at the Oval, having fallen to Holding for 16 in the first innings, in the second he persisted for three hours 20 minutes for 49, second highest scorer, before succumbing to the bowling of, appropriately perhaps, Garner. There was one more Test, v Sri Lanka at Lord's, in which he scored a painstaking 14.

Before the start of the 1985 season there was a surprise. The committee decided to appoint Chris Cowdrey as captain. There had been some rumours during the past season, indeed when first appointed some cynics voiced the opinion that Tavaré was merely keeping the position warm for the Cowdrey succession. There were mutterings over his handling of the final stages of the Middlesex Final at Lord's, as is often the case when something goes wrong on the big occasion, especially with hindsight, but in fact apparently the decision on the change pre-dated the Final. More plausible perhaps was the late John Woodcock's supposition that during his leadership the captain's form had suffered but there seems no evidence that anyone had discussed the subject with the player most concerned.

When the news broke, very large sections of the Kent membership and, by most accounts a substantial body of the playing staff, were shocked, to put it no stronger. The late Brian Luckhurst, not by nature much given to boat-rocking, writing of the committee's decision in his *Boot Boy to President*, held the opinion that 'It was against my wishes as the team manager at the time and, in my opinion it was the worst decision that the County has made since the war'. Interestingly, while Luckhurst had a substantial voice in the original appointment, about the change he was not even consulted.

Over the two years of Tavaré's captaincy, Chris Cowdrey led the side in 15 first-class matches and had rather the better record in terms of results but readers who may wish to venture deeper into the controversy would probably be best advised to first study the account in *Trophies and Tribulations* by Clive Ellis and Mark Pennell, a book mentioned quite frequently in these pages. Understandably minded to take his talents elsewhere, Tavaré was, not without difficulty, persuaded to accept a revised four-year contract and was granted a benefit in 1988.

In a cold, very wet, season of covered pitches, Tavaré found form at once with 102\* in the first match, at Southampton, with 4 sixes and 12 fours in 117 minutes, adding 177 for the second-wicket with Benson (162). He did not reach three figures again until mid-July then hit two in succession, 123 v Yorkshire at Mote Park with 4 sixes and 19 fours from 180 balls and another second wicket partnership of 232 with Benson (107) and 150\* v Essex at Dartford, with 5 sixes and 20 fours. Enough sixes surely to raise doubts in the minds of even the most ill-informed of his critics of his ability to play strokes when roused.

He was third in the averages with 1,225 runs (avge.36.02). In List A matches, he was once more leading scorer with 853 runs (avge.47.38), 265 more than his nearest rival. His two one-day centuries, 143 in the Benson & Hedges at Taunton and 101 v Hampshire at Canterbury in what was now known as the John Player Special League, brought his total to eight and were the last he would contribute for the County.

The 1986 and 1987 seasons were relatively low-key, over a thousand runs and an average over 30 in both years. Only two were added to his tally of Championship centuries. In 1986, as well as 105 v Northants at Canterbury with 2 sixes and ten fours, he hit 93 v Glamorgan at Maidstone with 2 sixes and 11 fours. At Worcester in the following year, he scored 152 in a third wicket partnership of 285 with Benson.

In both seasons he scored over 500 runs and averaged over 30 with five half-centuries in limited-overs matches, with top scores of 88 in 1986 and 90 in 1987.

In 1988, the Tavaré benefit year, destined to be his last for the County, he finished top of the averages and at times approached his best form with 1,430 runs (avge.42.05). No other Kent batsman averaged 40, or hit more than his four centuries, all on away grounds. There were five other half centuries.

After a quiet start, he registered his first hundred, against Oxford University in the Parks, his fourth in the fixture, one of four in the Kent innings (five in the match) ending in a declaration at 539 for 3. Against Glamorgan at Sophia Gardens in the first match in June he scored 129\* and steered Kent to a four wicket victory with four balls to spare. A rather unusual match. With the aim of encouraging the spinners, after blessings from the TCCB and agreement between the captains, the pitch had been subjected to a drastic shave and the resultant low bounce and slow turn helped nobody, Glamorgan gaining only one batting point in their first innings 369 for 7. It was only thanks to three declarations that they arrived at a result. Tavaré's runs came in three hours with 1 six and 15 fours.

In his third century, 103 (8 fours in 271 minutes) at Edgbaston, he was missed three times on a green, uneven pitch, sharing a sixth-wicket partnership of 169 with Chris Cowdrey (78). The next highest scorer was extras (40), but Kent won in two days. A belligerent 119 at Chesterfield, his last in Kent colours, came from 115 balls with 17 fours.

Despite scoring more runs against them than any other county, Tavaré's top score for Kent against Sussex up to 1987 was 88, at the Nevill in 1981. In this final season he twice narrowly missed a hundred, 95 (run out) at Hastings, and at Mote Park, his penultimate first-class appearance for Kent, when, needing 311, the seventh wicket to fall, he was bowled for 97, top scorer for Kent in the match. He scored three centuries against Sussex, two for Somerset, one for Oxford University.

His final match, the last of the season, was an innings victory over Surrey at Canterbury, Kent finishing one point behind Champions Worcestershire. He scored 60 and shared a third-wicket partnership of 104 from 29 overs with Simon Hinks (92).

Earlier, at Chesterfield, he had accompanied his final Championship century with 82\* in the what was now known as the Refuge Assurance League in the 40-overs limited-overs competition. For the second successive season he held 29 catches in first-class matches.

At the end of the season, he left Kent and joined his friend from university days, Somerset captain Vick Marks. His wife too had roots in the area, she had grown up in the county. The original intention had been to stay for a single season but Marks decided to join the media and Tavaré stayed for a further four seasons, the first three as skipper. During his time with Somerset he scored another 6,365 runs (avge.43.00), averaging over 50 in 1990 and 1991 and gathering 13 centuries, including one against Kent at Taunton. Twice for Somerset he exceeded his top score with Kent, 219 v Sussex at Hove in 1990 and 183 v Gloucestershire at Bristol in the following season. He also held another 91 catches.

In limited-overs cricket for Somerset he scored 3,465 runs (avge.38.50) with five centuries, four of them in 1989 including one against Kent at Bath in the Refuge Assurance League, and 21 half-centuries. His top score in limited-overs matches was 162\* v Devonshire at Torquay in 1990. He played in three Benson & Hedges Semi-finals while with Somerset, two as captain.

In 1989 he made his last appearance in Test cricket, the rain-ruined third Test against Australia at Edgbaston but batted only once, caught off Terry Alderman for two.

Chris Tavaré registered a century against all the first-class counties of his time except Middlesex. Highest totals were Sussex 2,029 (avge.46.11), Worcestershire 1,616 (avge.46.17), Essex 1,519 (avge.36.16). He hit five centuries against Glamorgan, four against Essex, Northants, and Worcestershire, three against Leicestershire, Hampshire and Sussex,

He scored over 1,000 runs on six grounds, Canterbury 3,778 (avg. 39.76), Taunton 2,779 (40.86), Lord's 1,267 (39.59), Mote Park 1,258 (39.31), the Parks, Oxford 1,444 (48.13) and The Oval 1,054 (39.03).

The most successful bowlers against him were J.E.Emburey 12: D.A.Doshi, R.D.Jackman 8: R.J.Hadlee, M.D.Marshall 7: P.Carrick, J.Garner, J.K.Lever, C.A.Walsh 6.

On retiring from cricket he returned to teaching biology at Sevenoaks School. In all he taught there for 24 years, retiring in 2018. He was Master-in-Charge of cricket from 1999 to 2018. In recreational cricket, between 1990 and 2001, among others he played for Lord's Taverners and the J.P.Getty Eleven.

His brother Jeremy played for Gloucestershire Seconds in 1981 and 1982 and his nephew William made 54 first team appearances for Gloucestershire between 2014 and 2017.

As has happened so often when a Kent cricketer has joined another county after a spat with the Kentish establishment, in time broken bridges are repaired and, in one form or another, he (or she) returns to the fold. Chris Tavaré is another example. He served on the Kent Managing Committee from 2005 to 2006.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

#### **Neil Royston Taylor. (No.722.)**

*Born:* 21. 07.1959. Farnborough.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1979-1995. Kent cap: 1982.

Educated: Cray Valley Technical School.

Parents: Leonard & Audrey Taylor (*née* Wilson).

In 1982 he married Jane Claire Fitzearle in Canterbury.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	302	513	68	17721	204	39.82	42	84	151
<b>Overall</b>	325	551	70	19031	204	39.56	45	91	158

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1575	47	891	16	55.68	2-20		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	231	222	18	6602	137	32.36	5	36	54
<b>Overall</b>	249	239	19	7060	137	32.09	6	37	61

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	155	4	91	6	15.16	3-29	0	3.52

Neil Taylor never came nearer an England cap than one appearance for England B in 1992 and his name seldom surfaces among those in the 'unlucky never to be picked for England' category. Yet, of the 32 batsmen who have exceeded 10,000 runs for Kent, only 11 scored more. Only nine posted more than

his 42 centuries for Kent. In ten seasons he passed his thousand runs in a Kentish season (as well as once in Sussex colours).

He had an appetite for runs to go with his comfortable, well-fed, appearance but he was not without his critics, Strong on the leg side, he was sometimes labelled obdurate, an accumulator, quite happy to take his time over his runs, particularly in the first half of his career. If he was not often likely to produce results similar in his day to a 21st century 'Bazball' specialist, nevertheless the runs generally came, which was what usually mattered and to many followers of Kent cricket, he left his native county for no obvious reasons, still with more to offer.

Like the great Geoffrey Boycott, to some Taylor acquired the reputation of playing for himself rather than his side – easy to suggest, difficult to identify positively, still less prove – and there were tales of a preference for facing the genuine quicks from the non-striker's end. Like any successful batsman in the upper reaches of the batting order, he lost his wicket to most of the top fast bowlers of the day from time to time - for example, he was dismissed seven times by Joel Garner, twice for single figures in both innings - but the bowler who got him out most frequently was, possibly a little surprisingly, Derek Pringle. Nevertheless, his centuries came against attacks including some of the best, among them, alphabetically, not in order of speed, Ian Botham, Winston Davis, Kapil Dev, Darren Gough, Richard Hadlee, Devon Malcolm, Malcolm Marshall. Patrick Patterson, Courtney Walsh and Bob Willis.

Not yet 17, Neil Taylor made his debut for Kent Seconds v Essex at Dartford in 1976, scoring 1\* at number 11 in the first innings but 37\* batting number seven on the second. He toured India with ESCA in 1977/1978 and against Central Zone Schools, Indore, scored 107 in an opening partnership of 194 with Robin Dyer.

In 1978 he signed for Kent and made seven Second Eleven appearances, scoring 77 v Hampshire at Dover and 101\* v Middlesex at Hornsey against an attack including Keith Tomlins and Allan Arthur Jones. For England Young Cricketers he made four appearances against the touring West Indian Young Cricketers, scoring a match-saving 41 at Scarborough and 68 and 63 at Arundel, top scorer in both innings.

In his second match of the season in 1979 he scored 106 and 56\* opening the innings against Hampshire Second Eleven at Southampton and on the last day of June made his first-class debut, against Sri Lanka at Canterbury. Opening with Bob Woolmer (60), the pair put on 88, Taylor going on to 110 in four hours, 55 minutes with 15 fours, reaching his century from the last ball of the day and the first Kent batsman to register a century on debut since Peter Hearn in 1947. There were no further first team calls that season and only one more half-century for the Seconds but he finished third in the averages and was awarded his Second Eleven Cap. The Second team report in the Annual judged him as having had a good season but 'inconsistent'.

In 1980 he made his Championship debut in the second match of the season, scoring 4 and 33 batting number six at Ilford and going on to play in ten of the team's 23 first-class fixtures. Although averaging 30.46, he was in and out of the side, five times as opener, four times at six, once at seven, never appearing in more than two matches in succession and finding himself dropped two matches after having registered his maiden Championship half-century, 63 at Leicester in a second-wicket partnership of 171 with Chris Tavaré. At Tunbridge Wells with the ball keeping low and moving off the seam, against an attack including Imran Khan, Garth Le Roux, Geoff Arnold and Ian Greig, he twice reached the 40s, the first a typically painstaking 47 in 245 minutes.

Playing 11 of the season's 24 first-class matches, 1981 was disappointing. Not chosen for the opening five fixtures, he came into the side at Tunbridge Wells and in the second match of the Week, against pretty much the same Sussex bowling, he was bowled by Chris Waller for 99 and shared a 122 run second-wicket partnership at a run a minute with Tavaré.

There followed a run of low scores and at Mote Park against Middlesex was twice lbw to Wayne Daniel for scores of 2 & 6. He had his first experience of Canterbury Week but was dropped for the second match and, returning for the Cheltenham Festival, he contributed 60 to a second-wicket partnership of 120 with Benson (87) and scored 51 in the second innings, only to be dropped again from the next match at Folkestone. His final record was to be the lowest of his career, 385 runs (avge.22.64). For the second year running however, he headed the Second Eleven averages.

1982 was different. Beginning with 127 v against Oxford University and a 227 run opening partnership with Woolmer (126), there followed 82 at The Oval, 143\* v Warwickshire at Dartford, 81\* at Taunton and 100 v Middlesex at Tunbridge Wells (against Daniel among others) ,as well as 121 (4 sixes, 13 fours) at Hove in the Benson & Hedges Cup, all by the first week of June.

Prior to this season he had appeared in only one of the Club's limited-overs matches but he was now in the side from the beginning and hit another one-day century, 121 v Somerset (including Garner & Botham) in the Benson & Hedges Quarter Finals in mid-June, earning him the last of his three Gold Awards that year. At the end of the season he was top of the one-day averages as well as leading run scorer with 593 (avge.37.06). Although not quite so prolific in the latter part of the first-class season, he emerged Kent's highest scorer, 1,290 (avge.34.86) with three centuries, seven half-centuries. During Canterbury Week, he was awarded his County Cap.

In August he was chosen for England B against Pakistan at Leicester. Opening with Graeme Fowler (23 & 21) in a match ruined by rain, his scores were 18 and 32\*, the latter an aggressive innings according to *Wisden* and the highest among the five Englishmen who batted. He twice did twelfth man duties for England that year and in the Third Test at The Oval took a spectacular catch to dismiss Sandeep Patil from the bowling of Botham.

In 1983 for the second successive year, Taylor began with a century, 114 v the University at Fenner's and three days later got another on the same ground, 100 against Combined Oxford & Cambridge Universities at the Group Stage of the Benson & Hedges Cup, enough to win him his fourth Gold. He ended with 1,275 first-class runs (avge.38.63) with four Championship centuries. On an unresponsive pitch and slow outfield against Essex at Tunbridge Wells, both teams seemed reluctant to play strokes, Playing for his place in the side according to the Kent Annual, Taylor scored his 64 and 116\*in a total of more than nine hours. The Annual thought the match 'one of the duller encounters imaginable', the visiting skipper Keith Fletcher judged it a 'disgrace to the game'.

The remaining three centuries were more entertaining, 155\* v Glamorgan at Cardiff which included 115 for the first-wicket with Benson (50) and 106 for the third with Hinks (41), and hundreds in successive matches, 111 in 199 minutes with 16 fours at Leicester and 104 in three hours at Taunton. In the latter, in an (unsuccessful) attempt to revive the match after interruptions by rain, Taylor and Chris Cowdrey bowled 33 overs in half an hour.

After his success in the shorter game in the previous season, for reasons not easy to understand, Taylor was left out of ten of the 26 List A matches in 1983, four of them in the National Westminster Bank Trophy, including the Final, and the Semi-Final of the Benson & Hedges Cup. He totalled 413 runs (avge.31.76).

Opening in all 21 of the first-class matches in which he played, in 1984 Kent fielded five openers, Benson (10), Hinks (3), Potter (9), and Woolmer (10), plus Taylor. By now, there was pressure for places and he missed five Championship fixtures. His 1,098 runs (age.32.29) including centuries against Lancashire (run out) at Maidstone and Somerset at Taunton, the latter his second in successive seasons, as well as five half centuries, placed him fourth in the averages, one of four batsmen to pass the thousand. Possibly his best innings was at Hastings, a famous venue Kent had last visited in 1975. First in and last out for 50,in the first innings in a team total of 92, only one other batsman reached 20. The match was however overshadowed by Underwood's second innings century and the result a tie.

Taylor was not picked for the opening match at Southampton in 1985, Hinks opening with Benson, but in the next, against Surrey at Canterbury, Taylor was back but dropped to number six for scores of 2 and 13. When Kent played their third Championship match, Taylor was with the Seconds at Mote Park where he scored 139\* & 45, albeit in a losing cause. After 120\* against Oxford University in the Parks at the end of May, he appeared in one first team match at the beginning of June but did not feature again in the seniors until the second week of July. Meanwhile, for the Seconds his scores included 119 at York and 110 v Sussex at Dover in successive matches followed by 122 (batting number seven) v Hampshire at Folkestone as well as an unbeaten half-century at The Oval.

Not altogether surprisingly in the circumstances, he returned to the first team for the remainder of the season and headed the County averages with 843 runs (avge.46.83), his highest average to date. He struck two more successive centuries, 102\* in a match ruined by rain at Scarborough and 100 at Worcester, top scorer in both. In the Kent Annual, Simon Hinks' form is cited as the reason for Taylor's missing ten Championship matches but in his Second team report Colin Page, not much prone to scatter praise lightly, gave him 'a great deal of credit for the way he applied himself on the field and on his general behaviour'.

Possibly having undergone something of a wake-up call, he was restored to favour in 1986, again reaching his thousand (1,151 avge.31.10) and playing in all 26 of Kent's first-class fixtures. Batting at number four for most of the season he was brought back as opener in the last four. His form however might be described as patchy. In the first half of the season, he scored 64 in a rain-ruined match against the Indian tourists and another century against Oxford in the Parks but in the Championship until the last week of June his top score was 44. He then hit three successive half-centuries in Maidstone Week and three more by mid-August. These included 88 against Surrey at Dartford where he put on 212 for the first-wicket with Benson (123). He reached 60 in the second innings but from that point until the end of the season his top score was 27.

In one-day cricket he headed the averages and was leading run-getter with 593 runs with three half centuries.

Back as Benson's opening partner in 1987, despite missing the final two county matches due to injury, he gathered 1,300 runs (avge.37.14), his highest to date, with three hundreds, six fifties and five century opening partnerships, three of them in the first four matches of the season. His 142\* (17 fours) at Ilford, included 103 for the first-wicket with Benson (41) and 153 for the third with Tavaré (88\*). Against Glamorgan he reached his second hundred, at Canterbury, but probably his best effort on his favourite home ground was 123\* (352 minutes, 15 fours) against Nottinghamshire when he carried his bat in a total of 219, the next highest score 20. In the second innings he was the first wicket in Richard Hadlee's hat-trick.

In the shorter game he played only eight matches and in the Nat West Bank Trophy on a responsive wicket against some lively bowling from Holding, Mortensen and Warner for Derbyshire at Canterbury, he attracted some criticism for batting for 47 of the 60 overs for his 85.

Once again missing the final two fixtures due to injury, for Taylor 1988 could once again be fairly described as a 'mixed' season. Beginning at Chelmsford with 94 in an opening partnership of 208 for the first-wicket with Benson (110), he hit two centuries, against Surrey at Guildford and his third against Glamorgan at Cardiff as well as four half-centuries but after the end of July his top score was 41. 14 times he was dismissed in single figures, four times without scoring and fell 75 short of his 1,000 runs. Nevertheless, he again showed his quality when the bowlers had the upper hand. At Leicester for the second successive season he carried his bat, 67\* in a total of 121, only Marsh (15) also reaching double figures.

In List A matches he was top scorer with 718 runs (avge.35.90), the only batsman to exceed 500. At the Oval in the Benson & Hedges Cup he struck 137 from 146 balls and 87 v Essex at Canterbury where,

with Benson (120\*), 180 were scored for the first-wicket. There were three half-centuries in the 40-over Refuge Assurance League.

In the opening match of the 1989 season, against Essex on an uncertain early season pitch at Canterbury, Taylor scored 47 out of 119 in the first innings and 63 in a total of 133 for 8 in the second. Only one other Kent batsman reached 20. He finished leading scorer with 1,495 runs (avge.42.71), his best to date. He hit centuries against Hampshire at Tunbridge Wells and two in successive matches, against Surrey at Canterbury and Yorkshire at Scarborough, as well as seven half-centuries including 98 v Northants at Maidstone and 99 at Uxbridge. There were also eight scores between 42 and 49\*, he took part in nine century partnerships and was eight times top scorer in a completed innings.

Kent narrowly avoided finishing bottom of the Championship in 1990 but, now matured as a cricketer and stimulated perhaps by a new three-year contract, Taylor eclipsed everything he had done before, topping the Kent averages with 1,979 runs (avge.61.84), almost 400 more than the next highest and the highest by a Kent player since Bob Wilson's 2,038 in 1964. There were seven centuries and twelve half-centuries, including three in the nineties. Against Surrey at Canterbury he reached his first double century, 204 from 240 balls with 4 sixes and 23 fours, his first hundred coming between lunch and tea in 99 minutes. He followed with 142 in the second innings with 22 fours in 263 minutes and, apart of course from Arthur Fagg's two double hundreds against Essex, he became the second Kent player, after 'Wally' Hardinge, to score a double hundred and a hundred in a match.

Against Middlesex, also at Canterbury, he shared a second-wicket partnership of 366 with Hinks (234) from 101 overs, Taylor finishing on 152\* after surviving a 'catch' off a fielder's helmet. At the time this was the highest partnership for any Kent wicket. On the same ground he scored 107\* against the Indian tourists. His other hundreds were his fourth against Glamorgan, at Swansea, his third against Yorkshire, at Tunbridge Wells, and the second of his career at Fenner's. Batting mainly at three but four times as opener and making occasional appearances everywhere between four and eight, he captained in the last three games of the season, all drawn, when Chris Cowdrey and Benson were unavailable.

With 744 runs (avge.43.76), Taylor was again Kent's leading scorer in one-day cricket with seven half-centuries including 95 v Hampshire in the Refuge Assurance League and 90 v Warwickshire in the Benson & Hedges Cup, both at Canterbury. He also led the side to victory over Surrey in the 50-over Seeboard Trophy at Hove, Kent's first silverware for 12 years.

The dominance of bat over ball in 1990 was widely attributed to the flat seam, nine-strand ball but, for Taylor at least, 1991 was pretty much a repeat performance. Leading Kent's averages in both first-class and limited-overs cricket, 1,806 runs (avge.56.44) in the former, 713 (avge.39.11) in the latter, leading scorer in all formats. Only Jimmy Cook and Mike Gatting clocked up more than his seven centuries.

Unlike last season's run fest, the first two months of 1991 were badly affected by weather and, apart from 45 at Trent Bridge, it was not until the end of May that Taylor played a significant innings. After struggling against Derbyshire at Canterbury in the first innings, Taylor (146) and Benson (160) put on 300, a new Kent first-wicket record, Taylor scoring his runs from 226 balls with 1 six and 18 fours. On predominantly bowler friendly pitches in the first part of the season it was not until the third week of July that Taylor reached his next hundred, 138\*v West Indies at Canterbury in a total of 247 – 8 declared, a memorable match Kent lost by only four runs.

It was not however until a sequence of scores commencing August 10th that in successive matches runs began to flow – 150 at Leicester, 109 v Gloucestershire and 101 v Middlesex, both at Canterbury, 111 and 203\* in the tied match at Hove, rounded off back at Canterbury with 59 & 32 v Leicestershire in the concluding fixture. The match at Hove was the second successive year in which he tabled a century and double century in a match, hitting 14 fours and a six in the first innings and 28 fours and a six in the second. He became the first Kent player to score three successive hundreds. Within this purple patch he also shared three successive century partnerships.

In limited-overs cricket, his 110 against Scotland in Glasgow won him a Gold Award in the Benson & Hedges competition and very nearly gained another with 89\* in the next match, in the quarter-final at Worcester. In the 40-over Refuge Assurance Sunday League, he struck four half-centuries and shared two century partnerships with Benson.

In 1992, his benefit year, Taylor headed the Kent first-class batting averages for the third successive year with only Ward totalling more than his 1,508 runs (avge.53.86). In contrast with 1991 he hit only one century. There were however 11 half-centuries, two of them in the nineties and five others between 71 and 83\*. He participated in ten century partnerships.

By now more or less anchored at number three, few could dispute that he played some of his best cricket in 1992. In his century, 144 at Leicester, he batted four hours with 23 fours, putting on 235 for the second-wicket with Benson (139). Against Gloucestershire at Canterbury his 96 came in 118 balls with 13 fours (despite Walsh's match figures of 9 for 119) while against Worcestershire at Tunbridge Wells he shared an unbroken second-wicket partnership of 171\* in 48 overs (Ward 140\*, Taylor 67\*) in which he struck Richard Illingworth for three straight sixes. In the second match of the Week his 90 against Essex contained 16 fours and one six which included five fours in one over from another left-arm spinner, John Childs.

In List A matches he again scored over 500 runs with two half-centuries in the Sunday League and a Benson/Taylor century partnership in the Benson & Hedges Cup. His benefit raised £131,000.

After recent productive seasons, Taylor's 1993 must have come as something of a shock to quite a few interested parties. Although playing 16 first-class matches, for no obvious reason he produced only 679 runs, his lowest since 1981, averaged under 30, and after the second match of Canterbury Week never scored more than 30. He was dropped for the last two Championship matches and was left out of the games with the Australians and Zimbabwe. Probably his best effort was in the first match of Canterbury Week, against Leicestershire, when he top scored with 86 in the first innings and 42 in the second when, batting number seven due to a foot injury, he put on 80 for the sixth-wicket with Benson. (71\*) and top scored in both innings.

Although missing four one-day matches, Taylor finished third in the List A averages, with four half-centuries including 80 against Gloucestershire at Tunbridge Wells in the AXA Equity & Law League when he marginally outscored Carl Hooper (70\*) in a 147 run third-wicket partnership.

Taylor began 1994 with his third hundred against Cambridge at Fenner's and batted consistently throughout apart from a brief lean spell in late July. In a season in which, with the exception of course of the supremely dominant Hooper, most of the Kent batting struggled, only Taylor, 1,049 (avge.43.71) and Trevor Ward reached their thousand.

Quite early in the season Taylor displayed different aspects of his batting technique. Against Middlesex at Canterbury he scored 86 in four and a half hours. At Mote Park against Yorkshire, in the first innings Kent were 86 for 5 when he batted six hours for 139, his 40th hundred and fourth against Yorkshire. This included a ninth-wicket partnership of 107 with Patel (31). In the second innings when Hooper played his epic 183 from 151 balls, Taylor (83) helped him add 118 at more than two runs a minute.

Batting number three at Northampton, he was left 67\* when Kent were dismissed for 165 on a damp, seaming pitch. With Mark Ealham (52) 103 were added for the sixth-wicket, nine other batsmen failing to reach double figures. In the last game at Canterbury, he scored 120 against Somerset, putting on 218 runs for the fourth-wicket with Hooper (127) from 46 overs.

In limited-overs cricket, in the Semi-Final of the National Westminster Bank Trophy at Edgbaston he scored 64 and shared a 124 run second-wicket partnership from 30 overs with Ward (80) but this was his only half-century and in the latter half of the season he was not selected.



On his third Championship appearance for Kent in 1995, against Leicestershire at Canterbury, watched on a bitterly cold May by one of the smallest-ever attendances, Taylor registered, not just his last first-class hundred for his County, but did so before lunch on the first day. Arriving with the score 0 – 1, he scored his runs from 119 balls with 19 fours, six of them in ten balls from David Millns and five in ten from Hansie Cronje. With Benson (192), 192 were added for the second-wicket, and Taylor's innings was the first 100 before lunch by Kent since Peter Richardson's in 1964.

At Southampton in the second innings he hit 87 with 15 fours and two sixes and added 115 for the fourth-wicket with Ward (53). Retiring hurt with a hand injury for 13 in the next fixture at Tunbridge Wells, he missed the next four but, captaining against Warwickshire Seconds at Gore Court, scored 141\* and 33\*. This brought him back to the first team at Trent Bridge for what was more or less his swansong. In a game of 1,642 runs, the highest ever for Kent at the time, in the second innings Benson declared at 287 for 3 to set up an ultimately unsuccessful run chase with Taylor stranded on 99\*. In an unfinished partnership, he put on 117\* for the fourth-wicket with Graham Cowdrey (53\*).

He scored 5 and 8 in the next game against Derbyshire at Maidstone and this ended his first-class career with Kent, abruptly and for no obvious reason as it seemed to most. He appeared in five List A matches including 86 v Staffordshire in the NatWest Trophy and in his last scored 14 in the Final of the Benson & Hedges, his only appearance in the competition that year. He headed the averages for the Seconds with over 500 runs with four half-centuries as well as his hundred and captained them in eight matches.

After 18 years on the staff, Taylor was not once called on for the first team in 1996 and departed at the end of September, the man himself merely commenting that the decision was made for him not by him. Captaining the Second Eleven in 15 matches, in his final Kent season, he totalled 1,204 runs (ave.66.89) with six centuries including 211 v Hampshire at his favourite Canterbury. He also topped the averages in the Bain Hogg Trophy competition for Second Eleven teams. At the end of the season he signed a two year contract for Sussex. In the same period Alan Wells joined Kent from Sussex.

Batting number three in the opening match of the 1997 season, against Northants at Hove, Taylor produced a faultless 127, repeating his performance of 18 years ago in scoring a hundred on county debut, the first Sussex cricketer to do so since Hugh Bartlett in 1937. With Bill Athey (50), he put on 122 for the third wicket and 126 for the fourth with Keith Newell (107\*). He ended the season top of the Sussex averages with 1,033 runs (ave.38.25) with two more centuries.

In 1998 he began with 74\* against Oxford University but missed five of the early Championship matches with a knee injury and in the end played only five more matches for Sussex with a top score of 51.

After retiring from Sussex Neil Taylor became master-in-charge of cricket and football at St. Dunstan's College, Catford and played recreational cricket, mainly for Orpington. During his time with Kent, he had worked in stockbroking and for the Civil Service as well as qualifying as a coach.

During his career he scored over a thousand runs against eight counties, led by Essex 1658, Leicestershire 1614, Sussex 1554 and Middlesex 1337.

He hit a century against every first-class county except Kent, 5 against Leicestershire, 4 each against Glamorgan, Surrey and Yorkshire, 3 each against Middlesex and Somerset. He also scored three hundreds against both Universities. At the time he left Kent he had not reached a century against Durham or Northants but did so in his first year with Sussex. Unlike Alan Wells who during his time with Kent played against Sussex, Taylor never had the chance to appear against his native county.

It can sometimes be instructive to study a player's record each season against the eventual Champions. Against the eight counties involved, Essex, Glamorgan, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Nottinghamshire, Surrey, Warwickshire and Worcestershire, in 38 innings he scored 1357 runs (ave.39.61), marginally higher than his career average, with four centuries, six half-centuries and a top score of 156\*.

Very much a change bowler, his first-class wickets included some noted scalps, Ian Botham and Paul Parker among the four he took in 1982 and David Gower, Jonathan Agnew and, appropriately in a way, the deadly Joel Garner among the six he claimed in 1985.

Derek Pringle was the bowler who dismissed him most frequently as already mentioned, followed by J. Garner 7, C.A.Connor and N.G.B. Cook 6, J.P. Agnew, N.G.Cowans, W.W. Daniel, N.A.Foster, J.K.Lever, R.J.Maru, A.C.S.Pigott, A.Sidebottom, T.M.Tremlett 5.

### **Dr Julian Barton de Courcy Thompson MBBS. (No.767.)**

*Born:* 28. 10.1968, Cape Town, South Africa.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, fast medium bowler.

Kent 1994-1999. Kent Cap 1999. Second Eleven Cap 1995.

Educated: Judd School, Tonbridge & Guy's Medical School, London.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	36	48	19	546	65*	18.82	0	2	5

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5493	196	3103	122	25.43	7-89	5	0

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	52	27	18	98	30	10.88	0	0	6

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1972	31	1407	47	29.93	3-16	0	4.28

Julian Thompson had qualified as a doctor before joining the Kent staff and after becoming a professional cricketer continued to practice medicine in the winter at Kent & Canterbury Hospital where he specialised in obstetrics. A regular opening bowler with the Tunbridge Wells Club, in his first season in the Second Eleven in 1992 he took 11 wickets (avge.20.18) including 5 for 35 against Leicestershire Seconds at Dartford on his first appearance.

Having completed his studies, he was offered a contract and in 1994, despite a stress fracture of the shins which resulted in missing the last month, Thompson ended the season with 22 Second Eleven Championship wickets at 19.95 plus another 12 (avge.20.17) in the limited-overs Bain Clarkson competition. Against Warwickshire Seconds at Solihull he took 5 for 19 and he also hit a maiden half-century, 50\* against Yorkshire Seconds at Todmorden. Elevation to the first team had a less happy outcome, 1 for 120 at Edgbaston, 0 for 45 in two List A matches.

In 1995, 37 Second Eleven wickets (avge.20.89) plus another 11 in Bain Hogg trophy matches and 440 runs (avge.33.85) including a maiden century – 108 v Glamorgan at Ammanford – gained Thompson his Second Eleven cap. Probably more important, against the West Indies at Canterbury, in what was only his third first-class match, he attracted national attention by inflicting a pair on Brian Lara, the first pair of the great man's career. He took 2 for 72 and 2 for 23, dismissing Lara caught at the wicket in the first innings, lbw on the back foot in the second.

Despite his demolition of the world's leading batsman, with several pace bowlers competing for a place in the pecking order behind Martin McCague and Dean Headley, Thompson never quite became an automatic first team choice over the next three seasons. In 1996 he took 5 for 72 at The Oval in the opening game of the season but did little in his remaining four appearances although bowling economically in the limited overs competitions. In the following year he, in the words of *Wisden*, 'emerged from the shadows' against Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells with 5 for 89, 3 for 48 and 59\*, sharing a crucial ninth-wicket partnership of 109 with Ben Phillips (41) but at the end of the season 31 wickets at 28.71 and another eleven in List A matches was still not quite enough to secure regular first team cricket in 1998. When he did get his chance, stress fractures again curtailed his season.

Julian Thompson's fortunes changed in 1999 with the appointment of Matthew Fleming as captain. Fleming had a high regard for Thompson's ability and his judgement was more than vindicated by results. A good beginning with 4 for 61 v Middlesex at Lord's proved a false start thanks to a groin strain but, back in the side in mid-May, he bowled Kent to victory against Durham at Stockton with a second innings second new ball spell of 5 for 19 in ten overs and final figures of 7 for 89.

There followed two more similar efforts - 6 for 63 at Trent Bridge, 6 for 27 v Northamptonshire at Canterbury; five times he took four in an innings. Nine over stints in the 45 over CGU National League brought him 3 for 32 at Edgbaston, 3 for 16 at Scarborough and 3 for 24 at Bristol. In 14 first-class matches he claimed 64 wickets at 19.77 and another 19 at 24.32 in limited overs cricket.

He was rewarded with his County Cap in Tunbridge Wells Week and voted Player of the Season. He was also voted best player of 1999 in a poll of *Kent Messenger* readers and received a Kent Spitfires Tankard as the CGU National League Player of the Year. The latter, sponsored by Oranjeboom, also included an all-expenses paid trip to Amsterdam. To round things off, he also became a father for the first time.

Doctor Thompson's original intention had been to make the 1999 season his last and he was already under contract to Woolwich General Hospital. Not altogether surprisingly, Kent offered a new one-year contract, and he changed his mind but, in the event, it was the end. Further injury obliged him to abandon cricket and devote himself to medicine. In 2010 he became the Club's Honorary Medical Adviser.

### **Ronald Stanley Thresher. (No.676.)**

*Born:* 31. 12.1930, Tonbridge. *Died:* 02. 05. 2013, Dover.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast bowler

Kent. 1957.

Educated: Maidstone Grammar School.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	3	0	20	19	6.66	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	5	9	4	51	19	10.20	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	360	8	232	6	38.66	3-70		
<b>Overall</b>	848	34	407	14	29.07	4-29		

At his best a bowler of genuine pace, Ron Thresher might well have gone further in the game had he not settled for a career in banking with Coutts & Co where he remained until retirement. Even at school, he was distinctly quick and could be a terror to schoolboys; he once took all ten wickets in a house match. He played for Kent as an amateur and never appears to have considered cricket as a career. By 1952 he had impressed sufficiently with the Coutts Bank team and with Private Banks to be selected

for United Banks against the Club Cricket Conference at the Midland Bank Ground, Beckenham and in August that year for the Conference against MCC at Lord's. He failed to take a wicket in either match but, picked for the Conference against Royal Navy at Chatham in 1956, he took 4 for 47 & 1 for 22.

In 1957 his reputation in club cricket gained him selection for Kent Seconds against Middlesex at Lord's where figures of 4 for 36 & 4 for 30 brought further opportunities including his first-class debut, a tough baptism against Yorkshire at Tunbridge Wells. Kent lost by an innings but Thresher's 25 overs cost only 70 and brought him the wickets of Brian Stott, Ray Illingworth and Jimmy Binks. His second, and as it turned out last, appearance for Kent first team, v Somerset at Taunton, was less happy, 3 for 162 from 35 overs.

He played one other first-class match in 1957, for DR Jardine's Eleven v Oxford University at Eastbourne where his haul of 4 for 29 & 4 for 42 included five of the university's top six and he headed the Kent Second Eleven bowling averages with 11 wickets at 11.45. Thresher played for Jardine's Eleven at Eastbourne against both universities in 1958 but failed to take a wicket and this concluded his brief first-class career. For Kent Seconds he again contributed usefully with 14 wickets at 22.35 but in the following year managed only six expensive wickets and did not appear again.

For the Club Cricket Conference he was capped six times, twice in 1958. He continued in club cricket throughout the 1960s and between 1948 and 1960 took over 400 wickets for Coutts. He also played for United Banks and Tunbridge Wells.

In 1960 he married Patricia Fulton in Bromley. There were three children.

### **Peter Alan Topley. (No.708.)**

*Born:* 29. 08.1950, Canterbury.

Right-handed batsman, slow left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1972-1975.

Educated: Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury.

Parents: Thomas & Roda Topley.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18	17	3	150	38*	10.71	0	0	19
<b>Overall</b>	19	19	4	184	38*	12.26	0	0	19

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1202	47	669	14	47.78	2-28		
<b>Overall</b>	1316	51	741	15	49.40	2-28		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	3	0							

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

For most of Derek Underwood's long and distinguished career the lot of any other left-arm spinner on the staff was never likely to be a happy one. Such was the case with Peter Topley. Kent could hardly

fail to observe his considerable all-round success at school and with the St. Lawrence Club and in 1968 he scored 44 for Kent Young Cricketers v Derbyshire Juniors at Borrowash.

In 1969 he made his debut for Kent Second Eleven, against Essex at the Bowater's ground in Sittingbourne. He failed to score in his only innings and did not get a chance to bowl but did better for the Club & Ground with an innings of 59 v the University of Kent. He also had experience of representative cricket, for the National Association of Young Cricketers South v NAYC North.

1970 began badly with a pair against Surrey Seconds at Aylesford (the first bowled by Bob Willis) but he had the consolation of his first wicket for Kent, a distinguished first, Geoff Howarth. Given a chance to open, he scored 30 v Sussex Seconds at Tunbridge Wells. He also appeared for the full NAYC side against West Indies Young Cricketers at Trent Bridge.

In 1971 Topley joined the Kent CCC office staff which in practice meant that he had Second Eleven cricket for virtually the whole season. Clearly benefitting from regular bowling, he took 7 for 78 v Middlesex Seconds at Winchmore Hill; 2 for 54 & 3 for 37 v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells and 3 for 39 & 2 for 13 v Surrey at Norbury, finishing leading wicket-taker with 43 wickets at 17.44. His batting was disappointing, 333 runs (avge.18.50) but, given the chance to open again v Hampshire at Andover, he scored 56, the only Kent player to achieve double figures) and the Kent Annual considered he was already giving signs of developing into an outstanding close fielder.

In 1972, with Underwood on Test duty, Topley made his first-class debut, v Warwickshire at Dartford. On his second encounter with Willis, with scores of 15\* and 15, Topley demonstrated a strong defence against pace as well as distinguishing himself in the field but this match proved the pattern for the remainder of his career with the County.

He made 19 first-class appearances, six in 1972, five in 1973 (one of them for MCC v Kent), one in 1974 and seven in 1975 but never did enough to suggest he justified a place in a full Kent side. Although seldom expensive, he never succeeded in taking more than two wickets in an innings. Only once did he contribute significantly with the bat, 38\* v Nottinghamshire at Dover in 1975 when he added 61 for the ninth-wicket with Bernard Julien (51). He also appeared in John Player League 40-over matches but neither batted nor bowled.

In Second Eleven matches Topley had his days of success. In 1972 he claimed 32 wickets at 16.46 including 5 for 24 & 6 for 45 v Middlesex Seconds at Chiswick and 5 for 40 v Surrey at Aylesford. Twice more he passed 30 wickets in a season, 32 in 1973 and 30 in 1974. In his final season his bowling seemed to desert him but, given more chance up the order he scored 466 runs (avge.42.36), including 109 v Surrey Seconds at Bowaters, Sittingbourne and 80 v Surrey at Norbury. Unfortunately, with Brian Luckhurst, Mike Denness, Graham Johnson, Bob Woolmer and Charles Rowe in the first team and David Laycock and Graeme Clinton waiting in the wings, opening batsmen were not a problem for Kent and at the end of the 1975 season, he was not re-engaged.

Although Peter Topley's career bowling figures are unremarkable, he succeeded in dismissing an unusually high number of class batsmen including John Edrich, Graham Gooch, David Lloyd, Roy Marshall, Javed Miandad, Derek Randall and Phil Sharpe. When in 1973 he played for MCC against his own county, his one wicket was that of his county captain, Denness.

After cricket, he had a varied career, for a while he was a taxi driver. He later became a driving instructor and now runs his own driving school. His brother Don played 120 first-class and 159 List A matches for Surrey, Essex and Griqualand West and his nephew Reece is currently (2023) with Surrey, having previously played for Essex, Hampshire and Sussex and to date has played 29 ODIs for England.

### **Andrew Tutt. (No.761.)**

*Born:* 21. 02.1968, Bermondsey.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1992.

Educated: St Columba's Roman Catholic School, Bexleyheath & Erith Technical College.

**First Class Career Record**  
**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	0							0

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	114	5	53	0				

**List A Career Record**  
**Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	10	5	2	10	5*	3.33	0	0	1

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	411	12	276	9	30.66	3-16	0	4.02

Having played a first-class match for Kent without being on the staff, Andy Tutt developed into a considerable figure in Kent club cricket, notably as captain of the highly successful Hartley Country Club team, winners of the Kent Premier League Trophy in 2008 and in every season from 2011 to 2013 and in 2015 and 2016.

In 1992, the year of his one first-class appearance, he was Kent's second highest wicket taker for the Second Eleven with 39 (ave.24.59) in 14 matches plus another half dozen in the Bain Clarkson limited-overs competition but apart from one Second Eleven match in 1993, he did not appear for the County again. Among his best performances for Kent Seconds in 1992 were 7 for 42 v Gloucestershire at Gore Court and nine wickets in a match against Essex at Chelmsford, a match for which the full bowling analysis has unfortunately not survived.

Between 1999 and 2002 he made ten appearances in List A matches for the Kent Cricket Board and another five in the Minor Counties Trophy competition. Against Denmark at Maidstone in 1999 he took 3 for 16, 2 for 21 against the Leicestershire Board Eleven in 2002 when he won the Man of the Match award and 4 for 35 against the Hampshire Board at Liphook in 1998.

Andy Tutt represented NAYC South in 1984 and played for the AKCC in the Esso Festival at Oxford two years later. His first club was RACS for whom he played until 2000. From 2001 to 2005 he was with Bexley with whom he reached the Semi Final of the National Club Championship and joined Hartley Country Club in 2006. He toured Australia with a Club Cricket Conference side in 2001/2002 and back in England appeared for CCC against British Police.

**Derek Gilbert Ufton. (No.638.)**

*Born:* 31. 05.1928, Crayford. *Died:* 27.03.2021. Elham.

Left-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1949-1962. Kent cap.1956.

President of Kent 2001.

Educated: Dartford Grammar School.

Parents: Gilbert Ufton & Sarah (Sally) Ufton (née Catlow).

## First Class Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	148	242	48	3915	119*	20.18	1	10	269/44
<b>Overall</b>	149	244	48	3919	119*	19.99	1	10	270/44

### Bowling

Did not bowl

As player, coach and administrator, few Kent cricketers have given longer service to the County than Derek Ufton. He played his first game for Kent on August 6th, 1945, gaining his Second Eleven Cap in 1946, County Cap in 1956. and playing his last Second Eleven match on June 10th, 1966. He played for the first team from 1949 to 1961, mostly as reserve wicketkeeper and as understudy to one of the all-time great wicketkeepers, Godfrey Evans. Being deputy to a long serving Test keeper has its obvious drawbacks but, on the other hand, it did mean that he played far more first-class cricket than the majority of county reserve stumpers.

Ufton ultimately became Kent's first choice keeper in 1961, the year before he retired. He captained the Kent Second Eleven on some 50 occasions in Minor Counties Championship and First-Class Counties Second Eleven matches and as well as many in Second Eleven friendlies. He had two periods as Second Team Coach and was on the committee from 1978 to 1983, from 1995 until 2000 and as Chairman of the Cricket Committee from 1992 to 2000. He was President in 2001.

As a footballer, mostly as centre-half, he made 263 first team appearances for Charlton Athletic between 1949 and 1960 and won one England Cap, against the Rest of the World at Wembley in 1953. He was Manager of Plymouth Argyle and served for 26 years on the Charlton board. In October 2020 he became England's oldest capped footballer.

More sport orientated than academically inclined, Ufton learned his love of ball games, especially cricket, from both parents. His father played cricket and football for Vickers, Crayford & Dartford Athletic, the Vickers club team, and from his only son's early childhood, did everything he could to encourage him. His mother too spent much of her spare time playing ball games with her boy.

Gilbert Ufton took his son, aged around eight, for his first sight of his hero, the great Leslie Ames, but it was his mother who on Saturday July 29th, 1939, took her 11 year-old son to what turned out to be rather a special occasion. At the Bat & Ball, Gravesend, the first day of Kent v Derbyshire, 22 wickets fell. Kent were all out for 162 (Valentine 70). Derbyshire began badly, losing their captain Robin Buckston with six runs on the board, caught down the leg side for one from an inside edge off Norman Harding. The catch was the first behind the stumps for Kent's new wicketkeeper Godfrey Evans, an archetypal Evans effort, a full stretch, two-handed dive, the first of many such. The occasion was captured for posterity by at least one national newspaper.

Tragically, Sally Ufton did not live to see her son become a professional sportsman. On 13th August 1944, she died in hospital following injuries sustained when a V1 flying bomb landed in Crayford High Street where, at a WVS centre, she was sorting out children's clothing donated for bombed-out families. In addition to serving with the WVS, Sally Ufton was an air raid warden. At least two other helpers were killed at the same time and there is a memorial window to all three at St. Paulinus' Church, Crayford.

Ufton junior had already begun playing for the Vickers team in Crayford and a scholarship to Dartford Grammar School in 1939 was another step to greater things. As well as the Ufton family, among many who encouraged him was a P.E. teacher, Joseph Jagger whose son Michael became rather better known as Mick Jagger, a fellow Dartfordian. In 1943, while playing for Dartford Grammar School, young Ufton took part in a series of 20 over evening games and in one of the final rounds, lost against the

eventual winners, Dartford Cricket Club. A match was staged against the Champions v the Rest and Ufton was one of two from the Grammar School chosen to play.

In the following year, he was invited to join Dartford Cricket Club and on his first appearance impressed with a half-century, albeit via a couple of missed chances. He quickly became a first team regular and by 1945 was opening the batting. Tom Charman, an influential figure in the Club and a future President, chose young Ufton as a late replacement for Kent v The Rest, a Bank Holiday hospital charity match staged at Canterbury on 6th August. Over 7,000 people turned up for the match all else overshadowed by Norman Harding's feat of taking all ten 'Rest' wickets for 32. Ufton scored three.

There is some doubt as to whether he kept wicket. He took no catches and did not himself remember keeping on that day but, apart from Ames, who had given up keeping at the end of the 1938/1939 South African tour, and Arthur Fagg who had moved to opening batsman and slip some years ago and in any case was not fully fit, there was no other obvious candidate. Sergeant Evans had been posted overseas. On the other hand, the obvious choice, Howard Levett had, rather curiously been chosen for The Rest although Dickie Mayes (*q.v.*), another with wicket keeping credentials, was also in the Rest side.

In May 1946, again influenced by Tom Charman, Ufton came to Canterbury, along with some 40 other hopefuls, for a trial. By this time Ufton had left school and was employed in a City shipping office, mainly involved in delivering and collecting documents and parcels to and from the docks and shipping companies. Obligated to ask his employer's permission for time off, the trial seemed to go well enough but only Fred Ridgway and Ufton's friend John Aitchison (*q.v.*) were chosen. Disappointed, to put it no stronger, he lingered a while on the venerable old ground and was accosted by the famously eccentric Manager/Secretary Gerald Hough, who made it clear there was no need to hang around. The young man, like the majority had been judged 'not good enough'.

Ufton had presumably been trialled as both batsman and keeper and, on reflection, Hough asked if the youth kept wicket. Finding that he did, Hough decided that, with Levett intending to give up county cricket, Ufton could be taken on as Club & Ground keeper until his call up, which would be before the end of the season. After that there would be no promises. It all sounds a rather offhand way of engaging a young cricketer, but Ufton decided, although he had already, at a very early age, acquired a remarkably detailed – and, to a young man quite intriguing - knowledge of London's dockland - to give his employers notice.

On 22nd May Ufton made his debut, not for the Club & Ground, and not as wicketkeeper, but batting number nine against Sussex Seconds at Hastings with Levett behind the stumps. Coming in at 247 for 7, he scored 58\*, sharing an unfinished partnership of 107\* with S.W.Wratten. In the second innings he came in at number four and scored 30\*, again sharing an unfinished partnership of 50, with Arthur Phebey (*q.v.*). On 6th June he scored 18, batting number five for the Club & Ground against Bromley, and presumably kept wicket. Two days later he was back with the Seconds, against Surrey at the Oval, Levett again keeping wicket. Thanks to rain, the young man did not get a chance to bat. There followed a run of seven Club & Ground matches, some, possibly all, as wicketkeeper with a top score of 46\* against Hayes, two ducks, one catch, one stumping and a match (rained off) with his old Club Dartford.

On 19th June he was back with the Seconds, against Sussex at Canterbury, again with Levett as keeper. Ufton scored 131\*and, with H.C.S.Munro (75), added 104 for the fourth-wicket, spoiled slightly by a second innings duck. He played one more Club & Ground match but in August he was called up into what was then the Royal Army Service Corps. As well as playing cricket, he had helped to operate the scoreboard during the Second Test Trial, played at St. Lawrence.

During his Army service he found rather more time for football than cricket, playing for the RASC, Aldershot Services and other Army sides. Beginning at Colchester, his main service postings were in Cirencester, Aldershot, Blackmoor and Farnborough, all offering reasonable sports facilities and in both 1947 and 1948 during leave, he managed to play some cricket for Kent as well. In 1947 he played an early Club & Ground match against St. Lawrence, taking the field alongside Fagg, Todd, Ames and



Evans. There were also four Second Eleven games, of which he kept in at least two and at Hastings, suffered his first pair.

In the following year in June, July and August he appeared in five Second eleven matches, catching five and stumping five plus four Club & Ground games in the first of which, against Bromley, he scored 93. Although over these two seasons in some of these matches other wicketkeepers played – George Downton, Maurice Fenner, Jack Walker and Geoffrey Ward – as far as one can tell, in only four matches can there be any doubt that Ufton was first choice reserve keeper.

He came out of the Army in the early summer of 1949, playing his first Club & Ground game against Sevenoaks Vine on July 6th, first Second Eleven game on July 13th against Norfolk at Dartford and made his first-class debut at Maidstone against Warwickshire on July 23rd, when he came into the side for Evans who was playing for England against New Zealand in the Third Test at Old Trafford.

The Warwickshire match, described by *Wisden* as ‘one of the best matches of a memorable season’, was captained by two professionals, Ames, who scored 69 & 160, and Tom Dollery, who scored 95 & 118. For Ufton his first wicket was Jack Ord, caught off Wright, and his second ended Dollery’s century. When the last over began, Warwickshire wanted five runs with two wickets remaining. A wicket fell first ball to Dovey and off the second Ufton missed stumping Phil Bromley. Two singles and a leg bye from the last pair followed, but the final ball was scoreless, a single run separating the teams. Unfortunately in the circumstances the missed stumping attracted some press publicity, even *Wisden* mentioned it, which was not an ideal start to his career. Nevertheless, he was called on again at Weston-super-Mare when Evans played in the fourth (and last) Test match of the year. In his final Second Eleven match of the season, he registered his first century for Kent, 104 v Devonshire at Torquay.

In 1950 Ufton became regular reserve keeper with 14 matches, caught 14, stumped two, 347 runs (avge.16.52) with a top score of 46 against Sussex at Gillingham. He achieved one of his ambitions, to play at Lord’s, catching Bill Edrich for 93 off a difficult skier which probably denied the great man his second century of the match, and twice losing his wicket to fellow footballer and centre-half, Leslie Compton.

Unfortunately injury intervened in 1951. There was a run of three Second Eleven matches, including scores of 106 & 61 at The Oval when 215 were added for the second-wicket with Phebey (112), and 80 at Basingstoke. A first team match followed against the Minor Counties at Canterbury and another at Kidderminster when Evans joined the Test team against the South Africans at Trent Bridge. After 37\* against Minor Counties and a useful 30\* against Worcestershire, he was retained in the side as a batsman when Evans returned against Surrey at Blackheath but suffered a dislocated shoulder while fielding on the first day and took no further part in the match. This was an injury which would become a regular feature during his sporting career, 13 times to his left shoulder, seven times to his right.

In June and July 1952 Ufton deputised for Evans to cover the first three of the four match Test series against India. At Folkestone he took five catches in Leicestershire’s first innings, four of them from Colin Page, and scored 44 against Lancashire at Mote Park. When Evans returned for the second half of Maidstone Week against Warwickshire, Ufton remained in the side as a batsman. Following a first innings duck, he scored 84\*, adding 74 for the seventh-wicket with Dovey (40) and 67 for the eighth with Wright (39) after none of the first six batsmen had managed more than 15. Moving on to Hastings, he recorded his first and only century, 119\* in four and a half hours with 8 fours, adding 155 for the fifth-wicket with Brian Edrich (82). He played his first game of Canterbury Week with Evans behind the stumps but football then took over. He finished with 470 runs (avge.33.57).

In the Ashes year 1953, Ufton deputised for Evans three times, once for the fourth Test at Headingley, once for MCC v the Australians and once in a Test Trial at Edgbaston. During the first Test at Trent Bridge, Michael Fenner kept for Kent with Ufton playing as a batsman and Fenner was also the preferred Evans replacement for the Lord’s, Old Trafford and The Oval Tests. In five games Ufton played as a batsman with Evans behind the stumps and four of his half-centuries that year came when

he played purely as a batsman - 83\* & 57 v Northants at Gravesend, 66 & 57\* v Gloucestershire at Gillingham - and exceeded 500 runs for the first time.

In total between 1952 and 1956 he batted in 15 matches with Evans keeping wicket, totalling 654 runs (avge.31.14). This contrasts with his overall record of 3,919 runs (avge.19.99).

Ufton having apparently settled in as regular deputy keeper, an early injury in 1954 coincided with Tony Catt's arrival on the scene and, for the next half dozen seasons the two were in competition. Because of his Charlton commitments, Ufton was unavailable, usually after the first week of August. In 1954 Catt kept in eight matches, Maurice Fenner in three and Ufton only two, but between 1955 and 1957 Ufton gained preference - 13 matches in 1955, 12 in 1956, plus eight playing as a batsman with Evans keeping wicket, and 12 in 1957. In all there were a total of 86 dismissals (73/13), including a personal best of 33 (27/6) in 1956. During the same period, Catt made 13 appearances in all.

In the next two seasons the positions were reversed, with Ufton appearing only twice in 1958 and once in 1959, when he was appointed Second Eleven captain and also led the Club & Ground. This was however far from the end of his first-class career.

Evans retired at the end of 1959 and Catt began 1960 as the man very much in possession, making 11 successive appearances. The runs however dried up, 154 (avge.12.15) with a top score of 34, and at the end of Tunbridge Wells Week, Ufton, still captaining the Seconds, was brought back. No longer committed to Charlton, he played the remaining 19 matches of the season, finishing third in the Kent averages with 624 runs (avge.31.20) with two half-centuries and sharing three late-order century partnerships - 126 for the seventh-wicket v Northants at Rushden (Ufton 44, Dixon 97), 106 for the eighth v Middlesex at Lord's (Ufton 31, Halfyard 79) and 151\* for the seventh v Gloucestershire at Mote Park (Ufton 52\*, Dixon 105\*). Behind the stumps he had his best season to date, caught 44, stumped 8.

In 1961, for the first and only time in his career, Ufton played a complete first-class season. His 90 dismissals (76/14) were only exceeded by three other keepers that year, all Test cricketers, Jimmy Binks (94), John Murray and Jim Parks (both 93). Against Glamorgan at Swansea he dismissed seven in a match, five in an innings, the latter for the second time in his career. Ufton was particularly pleased to find his dismissals rather more widely scattered than usual - Halfyard (21/3), Brown (19), Sayer (13), Jones (9/2), Dixon (7/2), Baker (3/4), Stuart Leary (2/3), Ian Potter (2) - with a gratifying variety of stumpings. Although scoring only one half-century, 58\* (top score) against Yorkshire at Dover, there were half a dozen other scores between 30\* and 46 and he reached his highest seasonal aggregate 672 (avge.20.24). He also appeared in his only first-class match other than for Kent, MCC v Scotland at Greenock.

Rather unexpectedly and not altogether logically, 1962 proved to be Ufton's last first-class season. He seems to have kept as well as ever, in eight matches caught 22, stumped four.

Four times he kept through a completed innings without conceding a bye and there was only one bye when Gloucestershire scored 331 at Dartford. Batting however was another matter. Apart from 24\* against Derbyshire at Gravesend, his next highest score was nine and, after the Warwickshire match at Gravesend ending on 5th June, he was back to the Second Eleven. Coincidentally, Ufton's first and last appearances were both against Warwickshire. His last two first-class wickets were both stumpings, A.C.Smith stumped off Leary, David Brown off Halfyard.

Returning to the Seconds for the remaining 13 matches of the 1962 season and opening in all but three of them, Ufton began with 61 v Sussex at Dartford, 121 v at The Oval, 57 at Worcester and 64 v Surrey at Canterbury, finishing top of the averages with 799 runs (avge.42.05). He added another century, 118\* v Northants at Ditton, and two more half-centuries rounded off with 22 dismissals (17/5). He captained the side on at least two occasions and, among names playing alongside him, were two young cricketers, Derek Underwood and Alan Knott, both playing as a bowlers.

Hopes of a return to the first team still lingered, Phebey for one clearly thought so in his piece in the 1963 Annual on his friend's coming Testimonial. It was not to be, but he missed only one Second Eleven match, finishing second highest scorer with 654 runs (avge.28.43) and 23 dismissals (18/5). As well as his final century for the Club, 100 at Worcester, there were three half-centuries, 84 at The Oval, 95 v Gloucestershire at Gravesend and 50 in his final innings, v Sussex at Broadstairs. He captained in at least four matches when deputizing for Page. At the end of the season he was one of four players 'not re-engaged', the decision taken, in the words of the Kent Annual 'in view of the fact that the staff had reached the un-economic number of 22 and the room had to be made for possible additions'. The Testimonial raised £3,900.

The general opinion seems to have been that Ufton ranked high in the pantheon of Kent wicketkeepers. Quite a few highly experienced cricketers from his time have claimed that, while Evans was undoubtedly one of the greatest ever exponents of the wicketkeeper's art, the fires could burn a bit lower when nothing much was as at stake and, for ordinary day to day county cricket, Ufton was the more reliable.

At various times Ufton had been approached by other counties, notably Leicestershire, as early as 1950, and around the same time Somerset coach Bill Andrews was prepared to take him as a batsman until the veteran Walter Luckes eventually retired. In 1957 there was talk of Sussex being interested following the retirement of Rupert Webb but Ufton remained a 'one county man' although he looked around without success when Kent finally dispensed with his services.

He continued to retain his contacts with the Dartford Club throughout his life and captained the Club between 1974 and 1977. On the first floor of the pavilion at Hesketh Park, the Derek Ufton Suite is named in his honour. He played for Paignton in 1965 when he first joined Plymouth Argyle and on a number of occasions for Rothman International Cavaliers when he was their manager. He made 50 or so appearances for the Lord's Taverners between 1972 and 1996 and from 1990 to 1991 became their National Chairman.

Before turning professional Ufton played football as an amateur for Dulwich Hamlet, scoring at least one goal at centre forward, and for Bexleyheath and Welling. He had watched Charlton as long ago as 1934 and was present when they had their record 70,000 crowd but it was Cardiff City who first gave him a trial. He had agreed terms when, thanks to a chance meeting in London with Malcolm Allison, then with Charlton, whom he had known well when in the Army, a trial was arranged at The Valley. The upshot was that Ufton joined Charlton in October 1949 and stayed there until 1960, making 277 League and Cup appearances and becoming Club Captain.

Making his debut originally at what was then called left-half, in the beginning of the 1951/1952 season Manager Jimmy Seed switched him to centre-half where he remained for virtually his entire career. Playing against the greats of his day such as Nat Lofthouse, Jackie Milburn, Stan Mortensen, Tommy Taylor etc. Ufton considered Trevor Ford as the pick of the bunch but claims to have had more trouble with a different type of centre forward, West Bromwich Albion's ball-playing Ronnie Allen who, like many of the continentals, tended to wander.

Although suffering more than his fair share of injuries including the recurring shoulder injury, he was the Club's first-choice centre half for much of his career and became club captain. In his later seasons, if not perhaps quite automatic first choice, he continued to make frequent first team appearances, sometimes back at left-half. Even in 1959/1960, he still played 16 first team matches. In the programme for the Derby County match that season, Manager Jimmy Trotter stated that 'There is no stronger barrier to attackers through the middle than Derek Ufton'. Although never scoring in League or Cup, in a third team game in September 1950 he scored a hat-trick.

In 1953 he was selected for England v the Rest of the World at Wembley, a match to celebrate the Football Association's 90th anniversary. Matters were arranged differently in those days with apparently little or no pre-match planning. Ufton was marking A.C.Milan's Gunnar Nordahl and at half-

time England were 3-1 down. Nordahl had not scored but Ufton was having a torrid time although, to be fair, he was far from being the only sufferer. He was following Charlton's customary man-to-man marking system while most of the other England players were used to zonal marking. At that stage, rather belatedly one might think, Walter Winterbottom asked Ufton to switch to zonal marking and the game ended in a 4-4 draw, albeit thanks to a late and somewhat dubious penalty. Winterbottom indicated that Ufton would get another chance against Northern Ireland, but selection was by a 12 man committee and nothing more was heard. As it turned out it was probably as well as, not long afterwards, England famously met Hungary.

The most famous match in Charlton's history was the immortal 7-6 victory in 1957 over Huddersfield Town, managed by Bill Shankly no less. Ufton's personal share was admittedly little more than a walk on (and carried off) part. With the score still 0-0 after 15 minutes, Charlton's captain was on his way to the Miller Hospital with his, regular, shoulder injury. By the time he had arrived in surgery, Charlton were 1-4 down and, although the skipper tried to discharge himself, by the time the surgeon had operated and the patient recovered from the anaesthetic, he had missed 13 goals and Charlton had won.

When Ufton and Charlton came to the eventual parting of the ways, he was put on the transfer list for £1,250, a not an especially generous gesture after 12 years. He was planning to join Luton Town managed by the Charlton legend Sam Bartram but had second thoughts and retired. He had the requisite coaching badges and had coached Tooting & Mitcham for three years and joined his friend Malcolm Allison as coach at Plymouth Argyle. When Allison joined Coventry City, Ufton took over at Plymouth where he stayed from May 1965 to February 1968. This ended his active career in football although he served on the Charlton Board for 26 years and helped broker the return of football to the Valley in the 1990s. He was still watching Charlton in the final season before the advent of Covid.

Away from his two main sporting interests, he had a varied career. Through his friend Bagenal Harvey, he was involved in advertising including TV commercials and was one of those featured in the Brylcreem ads which used cricketers and footballers, including Denis Compton, Godfrey Evans, Johnny Haynes, Arthur Milton, etc. He managed and selected the team for the hugely successful Rothman's Cavaliers Sunday matches which drew large crowds to grounds all over the country and even larger numbers to television screens. The team was led originally by Gary Sobers and in the second year by Ted Dexter. For the remainder of his business career he was extensively involved with staging major sporting functions and promotions for the Mecca Group.

Derek Ufton married twice, one daughter and one son by his first marriage and two sons by his second wife Judy who survives him. In 2024 Judy followed her husband by becoming President of Kent CCC, a rare double.

### **Derek Leslie Underwood M.B.E. (No.693.)**

*Born:* 08. 06.1945, Bromley.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1963-1987. Kent cap.1964.

President of Kent 2006

Tests: 86 for England. One-Day Internationals: 26 for England.

Wisden Cricketer of the Year. 1969.

Educated: Beckenham & Penge Grammar School.

Parents: Leslie Frank Underwood & Evelyn Annie Underwood (née.Wells)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	520	538	154	3793	111	9.87	1	2	183
<b>England</b>	86	116	35	937	45*	11.56	0	0	44
<b>Overall</b>	676	710	200	5165	111	10.12	1	2	261

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	103976	6919	37482	1951	19.21	9-28	127	38
<b>England</b>	21862	1239	7674	297	25.83	8-51	17	6
<b>Overall</b>	139698	8956	49993	2465	20.28	9-28	153	47

## List A Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	377	181	76	751	28	7.15	0	0	100
<b>England</b>	26	13	4	53	17	5.88	0	0	6
<b>Overall</b>	413	197	81	815	28	7.02	0	0	108

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	18023	524	10038	530	18.93	8-31	8	3.34
<b>England</b>	1278	24	734	32	22.93	4-44	0	3.44
<b>Overall</b>	19873	559	11118	572	19.43	8-31	8	3.35

Experts may disagree about the finest English spinner of post-war generations, but Derek Underwood must surely rank among the greatest of the left-arm practitioners. According to his own account, like countless young cricketers, he began by bowling fastish, or at least as fast as he could, and it was not until he joined Kent that he started to spin the ball seriously. Starting young, of his first 100 wickets 26 were taken before his 18th birthday (Colin Milburn's twice). At his peak, on a pitch taking spin, the combination of turn and lift could make him truly 'Deadly' and surely the nearest to being virtually unplayable on turning wickets, at least since 1939. When, as happened with increasing frequency especially with the coming of bland, covered wickets, the bat was in the ascendant, he could seal up an end and not infrequently bore the batsman to his own destruction.

An inch under six feet, broad shouldered, with strong fingers but a touch flat footed, he took a run of about ten yards (eight or nine paces, opinions seem to vary), but some of those who followed his career from the very earliest days maintain that on switching to spin, although he cut his pace, he hardly changed his action at all.

Quicker through the air and with a flatter trajectory, his bowling differed fundamentally from most of his contemporaries and from most of the great left-arm spinners of the past. Underwood himself, in an interview in 1969, thought his pace similar to Tony Lock's before the latter remodelled his action after the 1958/1959 Australian tour. Sometimes described as bowling at a cutter's pace, Les Ames and others of his generation considered his faster ball as about the pace of Doug Wright's, while to teammates it was 'the Keith ball' named after a specially arranged net session with the great Australian allrounder. Topically for the period, it also became known as the 'Exocet'. Brian Luckhurst thought that Underwood's speed would reach 80 m.p.h. if subjected to the speed gun.

He had the fundamentals from the beginning, but his immaculate line and length came through sheer hard work, and he went on developing, continually fine tuning his technique to batsmen and to pitches, varying his pace and trajectory as well as making fullest possible use of the crease. Like all orthodox left-arm spinners his stock delivery spun away from the bat, varied with the left-armers' other stock-in-trade, the ball that went with his arm. He was said too to deploy on occasions a full medium pace inswinger. His career did of course persist into the era of the advent of covered wickets but how his figures would have looked with the advent of DRS and ball tracking one can only speculate.

On overseas pitches he often tended to bowl slower but throughout his career leaking runs was anathema. On Australian pitches his 50 Test wickets cost 31.48, (95 at 27.56 in all first-class matches),

54 Test wickets (avge.26.51) in India, 24 (avge.13.54) in New Zealand. Almost to the end of his career, various influential people tried to change him to a more orthodox technique, notably at different ends of the spectrum, Alec Bedser and Jim Swanton. Captains now and again preferred more orthodox methods, notably Don Wilson in 1969, and Norman Gifford and Phil Edmunds in the early 1970s. One cynic ventured the thought that on overseas tours he was, rather like an umbrella, chosen in case it rained.

In fact, elements of his departures from the orthodox were not perhaps quite as radical as some seemed to think. Blythe for instance is on record as bowling faster to quick footed batsmen, and employed a medium pace inswinger, Verity bowled quicker on hard wickets, especially in Australia and South Africa and after cricket resumed post 1914/1918, Rhodes is said to have centred his attack primarily on middle and leg.

Although hardly a natural athlete, thanks to hard work and will power, he made himself into a reliable outfielder. Despite a limited range of strokes, with patience and immense application, he became something more than just a nightwatchman – the famous photograph of his jumping duck shot facing Michael Holding at Old Trafford in 1976 probably says it all.

Born in Bromley Maternity Hospital, the family home was in Bromley Common and his early cricket watching was at the nearby Farnborough Cricket Club where his father bowled quickish right-arm medium and his elder brother Keith was beginning to find a place in the side. The two boys did not lack for encouragement. As well as playing against a stack pipe at the end of their road, Underwood senior laid a concrete wicket in the back garden with matting on top. At Dulwich Preparatory School the younger Underwood took nine wickets for ten runs against a visiting school and received further encouragement from his sports master, who took parties of boys to The Oval to watch Surrey in their pomp. In 1953, the young Underwood was lucky enough to be there when England regained the Ashes.

Moving on to Beckenham & Penge Grammar School, although not emulating his brother by rising to school captain, he scored 96 against the staff in 1958, was elevated to the First Eleven in 1959 aged 14 and took all ten wickets against Bromley Grammar School in 1961. By now he was also playing among grown-ups for Farnborough Town. While playing for Kent Schools Cricket Association, he further improved his cricketing education with guidance from coach George Pope (Derbyshire & England), highly rated among the leading coaches of the day. The boy also took a step up in class by joining Beckenham Cricket Club.

At the indoor school at Allders department store in Croydon he caught the attention of Ken Barrington and Tony Lock who, through the latter, alerted a name from the past, Les Todd (*q.v.*). Although the recommendation was more as a batsman, the outcome was a trial at Canterbury in 1961.

Kent could hardly fail to spot his talent and, with guidance from the likes of Claude Lewis and Colin Page, in June that year he made his debut for Kent, for the Second Eleven in a 'friendly' against Huntingdonshire at Ramsey. Underwood opened the bowling with John Dye (*q.v.*) in the first innings, first change in the second, without taking a wicket and was similarly wicketless for Kent Schools v Essex Young Amateurs at Hayes and for Kent Young Amateurs v Jim Swanton's Arabs at Canterbury but for the Club & Ground he was top of the averages with seven wickets at 7.85 each, including 5 for 19 v Metropolitan Area A.K.C.C. at New Eltham.

After his GCE results, he signed for Kent in the 1962 season, taking 5 for 45 & 4 for 15 on his Second Eleven debut against Hampshire at Beckenham in the first game of the season. He played 13 of the scheduled 18 matches and took 42 wickets (avge.19.52), including 5 for 13 & 3 for 43 against Gloucestershire Seconds at Canterbury.

The Chairman, in his end of season report on the Young Players, expressed the view that Underwood 'always bowled accurately' and on a helpful wicket was 'probably the most effective bowler on the

side'. He claimed another 14 wickets (avge.22.31) for the Club & Ground. Against Northants Seconds at Ditton, Alan Knott was in the side, although he did not keep wicket.

In 1963, due to an early season injury to David Sayer and still missing David Halfyard following his accident in the previous year, on May 8th, still only 17, Underwood found himself parachuted into the first team, against Yorkshire at Hull. Coming on as first change, he dismissed Ken Taylor, Ray Illingworth, Fred Trueman (for a duck) and Don Wilson - 4 for 40 in 21 overs. Rain ruined the match, but in the second innings he bowled 3 overs for two runs and the wicket of the first innings centurion Doug Padgett. With the bat he scored 10, adding 24 for the last wicket with Tony Catt (24\*).

Progressing beyond even the most optimistic expectations, at the end of the season, he led the County bowling averages with 101 wickets (avge.21.12), including 4 for 25 & 6 for 88 when Surrey were beaten at Blackheath, 5 for 50 at Leicester, 4 for 12 v Derbyshire at Folkestone and 5 for 66 v the West Indians at Canterbury where his wickets included Basil Butcher, Seymour Nurse and Frank Worrell. Among other distinguished names were Trevor Bailey (twice), Ted Dexter, John Edrich, Keith Fletcher (twice), Tom Graveney, Tony Lewis, Colin Milburn (three times), Arthur Milton (twice) Peter Parfitt (twice) and Phil Sharpe.

He bowled 940.4 overs, 50 of them in one innings at Kettering, where his figures were a parsimonious 4 for 80. He delivered 148 more overs than anyone else in the Kent team and only in Tunbridge Wells Week, when rain restricted him to 13.2 overs in the two matches, did he fail to take at least one wicket in a first-class match. He was also wicketless at the Nevill in Kent's first match in the newly introduced Gillette Cup, where his 11 overs cost 87. Despite the workload he was taking on at such an early age, when the Kent first team had three days off in late June, Underwood was called on to bowl 49 overs and claimed six wickets for the Seconds against Somerset at Sittingbourne.

In the return fixture with Yorkshire at Gravesend, he suffered his first pair, bowled by Trueman in both innings. In the Kent Annual the Chairman wrote, Underwood, although 'not quite the orthodox left hand type' 'has 'the great essential qualities of length and direction', 'the ability to change his pace cleverly and on wickets giving him some assistance, he definitely turns the ball away from the bat'. 'One swallow does not necessarily make a summer, but it is certainly a most encouraging sign for the future'.

The Chairman's hopes were more than fulfilled. In 1964 Underwood again brought home 101 wickets, slightly more expensive at 24.25. In his first match, on a rain-affected pitch at Bradford, he again excelled against Yorkshire with 2 for 3 & 7 for 97, his first dismissal of Geoffrey Boycott and a 14 run Kent victory, their first on Yorkshire soil since 1930. In June he took 6 for 39 at Edgbaston and in July his best to date, 2 for 46 & 9 for 28 on a dusty wicket on what would prove his happiest hunting ground among away venues, Hastings. In August at Dover, another fruitful venue, he took 6 for 43 against Northants and at Canterbury 5 for 100 v the Australians where, watched by his parents specially invited for the occasion, he was awarded his County cap. Among his wickets were Peter Burge, Brian Booth & Norman O'Neill.

Against Somerset at Taunton, he scored 10 in a ninth-wicket partnership of 62 with Brian Luckhurst (103) and 33, his personal best, in the second innings. Against Leicestershire at Folkestone, for the first time Underwood and Knott took the field together in a first-class match and in the second innings Paul Munden was the first victim of the Knott/Underwood partnership. In the Gillette Cup, he again failed to take a wicket.

In the cold, wet and windy summer of 1965, Underwood missed his hundred wickets by 11, the Chairman's report going so far as to suggest that he 'did not always obtain wickets when conditions were favourable'. 'Perhaps the answer is that batsmen have become more accustomed to his type of bowling'. Apart from 86 fewer overs, there is not much evidence of this in the scorebook and with Alan Brown having an outstanding season and Alan Dixon reaching his peak in his dual purpose role, at this distance Underwood seems to have bowled pretty much as usual - 5 for 71 v Middlesex at Lord's, 5 for

71 again against Somerset at Canterbury, 5 for 70 & 6 for 51 under not particularly helpful conditions at Edgbaston and 3 for 22 & 6 for 26 at Leyton where conditions were very helpful indeed.

There was one significant change. He had almost invariably bowled round the wicket so far during his short career and some influential voices in Kent had considered that, at his pace, he might have difficulty getting enough turn from around the wicket. He started bowling over and at times both line and length suffered. Still as the bowler himself said, 'I reaped the benefits next year. Being able to bowl on both sides I had more variety'.

In the Parks at Oxford, Kent chased a target of 250 in two hours 50 minutes and still needed 71 when the last pair, Stuart Leary and Underwood came together. They added 37 when Underwood was caught for 27 off Guy Ridley (*q.v.*,) Leary 44\*. In the Gillette Cup at Portsmouth, he claimed his first one-day wicket.

For Underwood 1966 was a career landmark, with 157 wickets (avge.13.80), top of the national bowling averages, the first Kent cricketer to do so since Colin Blythe in 1914, highest wicket-taker for Kent, the first to reach the 100 mark and his 144 for Kent the most since 'Tich' Freeman in 1930s. As a final touch. he was capped for England against West Indies.

His first experience of Test cricket was distinctly mixed. He was not picked, for the first two Tests but brought into the third at Trent Bridge. He was given only two overs in the first innings but, coming in at 260 -9, he batted 85 minutes for his 12\*, adding 65 with Basil D'Oliveira (76). When West Indies batted again, he bowled over the wicket from 3.30 to 6 p.m. for figures of 22-13-17-0 and, but for a missed slip catch, would have had Rohan Kanhai as his first Test wicket. West Indies cut loose on the last day and his final figures were 43-13-86-0 but he remained the most economical of the five bowlers used.

In the 4th Test at Leeds, England suffered their second successive innings defeat and from his 24 overs his one wicket cost 81 but, as some slight consolation, Kanhai became his first Test victim after all. Appropriate in a way as, over the years, Kanhai probably played Underwood better than anyone. Underwood was one of six dropped for the final Test at The Oval.

In the Championship, Underwood claimed ten or more wickets in a match five times, 'five for' 13 times. In a wet summer with quite a few under-prepared pitches, batsmen suffered, Essex more than anybody against Underwood - 3 for 61 & 6 for 20 at Dartford, 4 for 20 & 9 for 37 at Westcliff-on-Sea. Among wickets on other outgrounds were 6 for 9 & 4 for 59 at Blackpool, 5 for 55 & 6 for 78 at Bath and 4 for 26 & 4 for 37 at Hastings. On major grounds he still did well enough - 5 for 29 & 5 for 58 v Middlesex at Lord's, 5 for 23 v Leicestershire at Canterbury and 5 for 57 at The Oval.

Yorkshire beat Kent at Harrogate to become Champions with Underwood contributing 7 for 30 when Yorkshire were bowled out for 109 in their second innings. His victims included Geoffrey Boycott for nine and he dismissed him again for 17 for MCC v Yorkshire in the Scarborough Festival.

At the close of the season, he was chosen for the MCC Under-25 tour of Pakistan where he struggled to come to terms with the conditions and, apart from 4 for 21 against the President's Eleven at Rawalpindi, he was generally out bowled by Pat Pocock and Robin Hobbs.

In 1967, for the second successive season, Underwood headed the national averages with 136 wickets (avge.12.39), 128 for Kent, and was influential in helping his county win the Gillette Cup and finish runners-up in the Championship, their highest position for 39 years.

Overlooked for the Indian half of the split season and for the first Test against Pakistan, in the second Test on a wet but far from lethal Trent Bridge he claimed for 5 for 52 in the second innings and held his place for the third Test at The Oval. For Kent against the two touring teams at Canterbury, he took 5 for 59 & 2 for 22 (from 22 overs) against the Indians and 7 for 78 & 3 for 54 against the Pakistanis.



In the Championship it was much as usual, 5 for 45 & 6 for 28 v Glamorgan at Gillingham, 7 for 33 in the second innings at Leicester, the almost customary 7 for 38 & 7 for 44 at Hastings and 7 for 35 & 5 for 15 (from nine overs) v Hampshire at Mote Park. In contrast with the worn patches at Maidstone, on a placid Southampton pitch his figures were 56-30-93-4. At The Oval, to go with his second innings 5 for 59 for a 72 run victory, batting number five, he was Kent's second innings top scorer with 47, his highest to date. *Wisden* thought he 'played strokes which 'put the leading batsmen to shame'.

In the Gillette Cup, Underwood again bowled economically, 3 for 21 v Essex at Brentwood in the Second Round, 3 for 26 v Sussex at Canterbury in the Semi Final and 3 for 41 v Somerset in the Final at Lord's.

In the 1967/1968 winter Underwood took part in a three month international tour of Africa and Asia under the captaincy of Mickey Stewart comprising 21 matches, four of them first-class. Underwood took part in two of the latter, taking 6 for 41 & 3 for 12 against the Chief Minister's Eleven at Madras and a remarkable 8 for 10 & 7 for 33 against the Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) President's Eleven at Colombo. In lesser fixtures he also produced some remarkable figures including 7 for 30 v a Singapore Eleven, 8 for 19 v an Invitation Eleven at Serembam, Malaysia, and 4 for 13 v a Hong Kong League eleven at Kowloon.

Underwood was among the 14 chosen for the first Test of the Ashes series at Old Trafford in 1968 but was left out on the morning of the match. In the second Test, at a Lord's heavily affected by rain, Underwood bowled only 18 overs, 15 of them maidens. Still enough to bring him two wickets, Ian Redpath and Doug Walters, both of whom, deceived by his pace variations according to *Wisden*, were bowled off the inside edge.

In the third Test at Edgbaston his 3 for 48 included Paul Sheahan and Walters (again) and at Headingley he was the pick of the bowlers in the first innings with 4 for 41 from 28 overs (including Walters), 'a masterly performance' in the words of *Wisden*. When England struggled in their first innings, he took guard at 241 for 9, his team 71 in arrears. Beginning with ten from his first over, he hit 45\*, sharing a partnership of 61 with David Brown (14). There was more praise from *Wisden* 'Underwood demonstrated the proper way to hit the ball by treating it on its merit' and 'did not indulge in wild sloggling but hit the ball intelligently'.

With England needing a victory to halve the rubber, in the fifth Test at The Oval Underwood played arguably the most memorable game of his life. In the evening of the penultimate day, Australia needed 352 at 54 an hour. At the close they were 13 for two. Underwood, who had been restricted to two tail-end wickets in the first innings, had claimed Redpath lbw with the last ball of the day. Drying under a hot sun after overnight rain, at lunch on the last day, Australia were 85 for 5, Underwood having disposed of Ian Chappell and Walters, Ray Illingworth of Sheahan. During the interval a heavy thunderstorm arrived and within half an hour the Oval was flooded.

At around 2.15 the sun returned but even if the pitch became playable (just) the outfield was another matter. Unlikely as it seemed, the ground staff, armed with mops, brooms etc, and assisted by volunteers from the crowd with blankets and more mops, began what seemed an impossible task but, helped by the return of obligingly warm sun, the waters receded and, to the surprise of most, at 4.45 play was resumed.

With 75 minutes remaining, John Inverarity and Barry Jarman, with ten fielders clustered round the bat, held on until almost 5.30 when D'Oliveira bowled the latter. Now, with only 35 minutes left, Cowdrey immediately replaced D'Oliveira with Underwood at the Pavilion end. The pitch was still sodden but it was enough. With the ball turning and lifting, Underwood had both Ashley Mallett and Graham McKenzie caught by David Brown in the leg trap without scoring in the first over of his new spell and, after 10 runs had been added in 12 minutes, John Gleeson was bowled off-stump. Five runs later, Inverarity, who had batted four hours for 56, played no stroke to a straight ball and was lbw. Underwood

had taken the last four wickets in 27 balls for six runs, 7 for 50 in the innings. He ended top of the Test averages with 20 wickets at 15.10 apiece.

His 123 wickets in all matches at 14.80, 91 for Kent, included, in successive matches, 7 for 25 & 4 for 37 at Swansea and 4 for 47 and 7 for 17 against Hampshire at Gillingham, 22 wickets in two matches at 5.2 runs each.

The MCC tour of Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and Pakistan in 1968/1969 under Cowdrey with Leslie Ames as manager, began well enough but, after two drawn Test matches with Pakistan, the third at Karachi was abandoned when the political unrest in Pakistan, which had been simmering since the tour began, brought matters to a head. The remainder of the tour was cancelled. Underwood finishing top of the tour averages with 20 wickets at 19.00.

In 1969 Underwood was one of *Wisden's* Five Cricketers of the Year and for the sixth time took 100 wickets in all first-class matches (101 avge.15.45), finishing third in the national averages and first among the spinners. In another season of split tours he played in five of the six Test Matches, two against West Indies and three against New Zealand. Against West Indies at Headingley he dismissed three of the top four batsmen – George Camacho, Charlie Davis and Basil Butcher as well as his Kent colleague John Shepherd for 55 to turn the scales on the last day. Against New Zealand his 24 wickets cost at a parsimonious 9.16 each, 11 for 70 at Lord's, on a 'curiously mottled pitch according to *Wisden*, 1 for 49 at Trent Bridge and 12 for 101 on a damp but quite lively Oval.

Perhaps the most notable of his performances in the Championship was his innings of 80 at Old Trafford. Sent in as nightwatchman, he batted three and a half hours (some accounts say over four hours). The next highest scorers were Stuart Leary and Alan Ealham each with 37. Among other high points were 6 for 22 from 10.2 overs when Middlesex were beaten by an innings at Lord's, 6 for 45 & 2 for 9 when Essex lost by seven wickets at Brentwood and 5 for 20 & 4 for 21 when Kent beat Somerset by 118 runs at Dover.

In the newly introduced 40-over Sunday League he three times claimed four wickets - 4 for 26 v Hampshire at Canterbury on his first appearance, 4 for 16 at Trent Bridge and 4 for 27 against Gloucestershire at Folkestone, 24 wickets in 12 matches at 13.29.

With no Test matches, Underwood made two short tours of West Indies, with Rothman's Cavaliers to Jamaica and the Duke of Norfolk's Eleven to the Windward Islands, Trinidad & Tobago and Barbados.

Kent won the Championship for the first time since 1913 but the long dry summer of 1970 was not a vintage year for spinners and for the first time since 1965 Underwood failed to reach his hundred wickets in an English season. It was also the first time since 1965 that his wickets had cost more than 20 runs each but even so, with 89 (avge.22.95), he was once more top of the Kent averages.

Following the cancellation of the South African tour, the star-studded Rest of the World side brought in to replace them was arguably the strongest since Bradman's Invincibles but after playing in the first three matches the selectors, Fredde Brown, Gary Sobers and Les Ames, replaced Underwood with Don Wilson for the remaining two. His seven wickets had cost 40.42 but he added a famous scalp to his list – Graham Pollock – as well as Barry Richards for the second time and, again, Kanhai.

It was Kanhai who, for Warwickshire on a sub-standard Gravesend pitch, played an innings which, in the opinion of at least one of those fortunate enough to see it, was the finest ever played against Underwood. Beginning with a six, in three hours ten minutes he struck 3 sixes and 9 fours. Although Warwickshire won by 93 runs, Underwood took 7 for 103 & 7 for 110, the first time he had conceded 100 runs in both innings and the only time he would ever do so in England.

Kent had started the season badly, losing their first game on a damp wicket at Swansea despite Underwood's stingy 4 for 65 from 35 overs and 3 for 53 from 32. They lost again in the Warwickshire

game at Gravesend referred to in the previous paragraph. At Leicester he contributed to Kent's first win with 2 for 16 & 4 for 30, including three in four balls, and during Kent's final title-winning run he took 5 for 40 at Weston-super-Mare, 6 for 68 & 5 for 82 at a spin friendly Cheltenham and 6 for 58 in a second win against Leicestershire at Folkestone. In the draw that clinched the title at The Oval he picked up the last four wickets, Mike Edwards, Mickey Stewart, Younis Ahmed and Graham Roope for 74 runs from 31 overs.

In limited-overs cricket he was miserly as ever, 5 for 25 v Warwickshire and 4 for 21 v Derbyshire, both at Maidstone in what was now known as the Players' County League and 3 for 33 v Worcestershire at Canterbury in the Gillette Cup.

In 1970/1971 he toured Australia & New Zealand with MCC, captained by Illingworth. Before the tour began Underwood had been on record in a letter to the writer as expecting to be used mainly to rest the quick bowlers and this proved pretty much the case.

England had made the rather unusual choice of a second left-arm spinner for an Ashes tour, Illingworth's county colleague Wilson who had of course been Underwood's replacement for the last two Tests of 1970. In the event Wilson took only six first-class wickets and was not chosen for any of the Tests in Australia although, with Underwood also in the side, he played the first Test in New Zealand.

Chosen for five of the six Ashes Tests, the exception the second, at Perth, the *Wisden* correspondent for the tour, the famously peppery Lyn Wellings, was critical of Underwood for bowling faster and digging the ball in but he did what he was picked for. Only the spearhead of the attack, John Snow, bowled more overs. He finished third in the averages with 16 wickets at 32.50. Pitches were good but generally slower than in recent tours and in the fourth Test, at Sydney, he found enough in the wicket for 4 for 66 in the first innings. Thanks mainly to Snow's 7 for 40 in the fourth, England went one up and won the series. All but two of Underwood's wickets, including both Chappell's and Walters (three times) were from the top order.

In the New Zealand leg of the tour he carried on where he left off in his last encounter with the Kiwis in 1969 with 6 for 12 & 6 for 85 at Christchurch and 5 for 108 at Auckland. He ended the MCC tour leading wicket-taker and top of the averages with 43 wickets at 26.11.

The split Test tour formula was again adopted in 1971 with three against Pakistan followed by three against India, Underwood playing only one Test against each, preference being given to Norman Gifford. In the first innings at Edgbaston, against Pakistan he conceded 105 runs without taking a wicket, the first time he had conceded three figures in a Test match without reward.

His 102 wickets (avge.19.47), was the seventh time he passed his hundred wickets in a season, 98 of them for Kent, who were able to avail themselves of his services in 23 matches. Once again, he headed the Kent averages. Yorkshire that year were twice beaten by an innings. At Bradford, Yorkshire were disposed of for 93, Underwood, 21-10-28-7, He was said to have found a damp spot, put into perspective somewhat by Kent's reply – 307 all out with half-centuries from Luckhurst, Colin Cowdrey and Leary. . In the return at Canterbury his figures were 5 for 19 & 5 for 41 from a total of 45.2 overs.

At the start of the 1972 Ashes series Gifford was still the selectors and, presumably Illingworth's, first choice as left-arm spinner and it was not until the fourth Test at Headingley at the end of July that Underwood was called into the side. Fine bowler that he was, at that stage Gifford had taken 1 for 116 and it seemed a fairly logical choice. Nevertheless, there were mutterings, particularly among some with Antipodean accents. The pitch was, to quote *Wisden* 'without pace, took spin from the first day and grew progressively more helpful'. To quote *Wisden* again 'Underwood is the most skilful bowler in the world where there is help for finger spin'.

England won by nine wickets at ten past five on the third day, Underwood 4 for 37 & 6 for 45, the first five wickets in the second innings falling in 13 minutes. Australia won the last Test, at The Oval and halved the series, Underwood contributing 4 for 90 & 2 for 94 from 73 overs, more than anyone on either side. *Wisden* now seemed more inclined to accept the extent to which he had developed on batsmen friendly pitches. 'Underwood showed his class with some immaculate bowling on a true surfaces'. He finished top of the Test match averages – 16 wickets (avge.16.62). Only Snow, with 24, had more but he played in all five Tests.

With 52 wickets for Kent (avge.21.73), his best figures were 6 for 67 & 2 for 11 in the first match of the season at Leicester and 3 for 26 & 8 for 70 in the last on another damp pitch at Bradford.

A third List A competition was introduced with the arrival of the Benson & Hedges Cup in 1972 but it was the John Player League which gave Kent their second experience of winning limited-overs silverware. Underwood's contributions to their success included 5 for 19 v Gloucestershire and 4 for 30 v Lancashire, both at Maidstone.

The MCC tour of India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan in 1972/1973 involved five Tests against India and three against Pakistan of which Underwood played four against the former and two the latter. Unlike some of the locals, he still did not find the pitches very conducive to spin, but he bowled consistently and accurately and, of the five spinners in the team, he bowled most overs and only Pocock, with 22, took more than his 18 wickets.

With a total of 49 wickets (avge.27.81) 1973 was, by Underwood standards, a moderate season. He failed to take a wicket in his only Test of the three against New Zealand and his eight wickets in three Tests against a dominant West Indies cost 330. At Lord's he bowled 34 overs for 105 runs without a wicket, only the second time he had been wicketless with three figures to his name.

In the Championship he began with 5 for 43 & 8 for 9, when Sussex were dismissed for 67 and 54 at Hastings. With Sussex 0 for 0 in their second innings at close of play on day two, after overnight thunderstorms, the ground was a lake on the last morning but, thanks to the ground staff, the local fire service and some of the Kent team, play commenced at four p.m. and Underwood needed only 10.1 overs. In all other first-class matches that season his total was a modest 36. In the shorter game, accuracy remained his primary asset, notable examples being 4 for 9 from 4.3 overs at Brackley and 4 for 26 from 8 overs at Chelmsford, both in the John Player, the competition won by the County for the second time.

In the 1973/74 MCC West Indies tour, in the Third Test at Bridgetown England played no spinner other than the dual purpose Tony Greig but in the remaining four Underwood was, in the words of *Wisden* again 'the perfect stock bowler, miserly and durable'. He picked up only 5 wickets (62.80) in Tests, 12 in all first-class matches, but, as an example of his accuracy, in the fifth Test at Trinidad he delivered 49 overs for one wicket (Gary Sobers) at a cost of 76 runs.

Underwood played in all six Test matches in 1974, three against India, three against Pakistan. Against the former he bowled only 67 overs and contributed little. It was otherwise against Pakistan. In the second Test at Lord's, leaky covers provided tailor-made damp patches – 5 for 20 & 8 for 51 – the pitch becoming virtually unplayable in the second innings. At one stage he had figures of 6 for 9. At the Oval, he came in as nightwatchman at 14 for 1 and batted three hours, taking the score to 143 when he was lbw for 43.

Reduced through Test calls to eight appearances in the Championship, he nevertheless produced 6 for 44 & 4 for 72 v Surrey at the Mote and 6 for 38 & 6 for 42 v Gloucestershire at Dover where at convenient times torrential rain was succeeded by hot sunshine. In all, his 40 wickets cost 16.12 each in Kent matches alone. In limited-overs cricket he took 4 for 57, against Leicestershire at Canterbury, on the way to Kent's second success in the Gillette Cup Final.

The 1974/1975 Ashes series was not in general a happy experience for the tourists, but Underwood emerged top of the tour averages and third in the Test averages, albeit his 17 Test wickets came at 35.00. Left out of the second Test at Perth and wicketless in the third and sixth at Melbourne, before the start of the fifth, at Adelaide, the covers blew loose in high winds and, with the ball turning and stopping, Underwood returned figures of 7 for 113 & 4 for 102, all eleven coming in the top seven in the batting order.

In 1975 Underwood was left out of the opening World Cup match, for England against India at Lord's and again for the Semi Final against Australia at Headingley. 2 for 30 against New Zealand at Trent Bridge and ten overs for 11 runs and no wicket at Edgbaston against East Africa was all that remained.

Playing all four of the Test matches against Australia which followed, he had an uneventful series, never managing more than one wicket an innings, his six costing 266. At Edgbaston, when Australia won by an innings, he was allowed only seven overs and at Headingley it was a second left-arm spinner Phil Edmonds ( 5 for 28) who seemed to be giving the Australians more trouble. At The Oval, the pitch seemed to get slower and slower but when Australia piled up 592 for 9, Edmonds was expensive while Underwood was at his meanest with 44-13-96-0, enlivened by two missed chances.

With Kent, despite missing nine matches, he was again top of the Kent averages and leading wicket-taker with 61 wickets (avge.15.47). Once again, he excelled against Yorkshire with 7 for 44 & 2 for 29 on a drying pitch at Dartford, although on this occasion the visitors bit back and had rather the better of the draw. At Northampton in the second innings his figures were 12-8-9-5, His benefit, his first benefit as it turned out, raised £24,144.

England had no Test match commitments in 1975/1976 and the winter was uneventful apart from a short tour with the International Wanderers in South Africa which also included Mike Denness, Bob Taylor, Edmonds and eight Australians under the captaincy of Greg Chappell.

Against one of the strongest ever West Indies teams as well as the hottest summer in living memory, Underwood played in all five Test matches in 1976, bowled more than twice as many overs as anyone else and finished leading wicket-taker with, in the circumstances, a miserly 17 wickets at 37 .11.

In the first Test at Trent Bridge, while concerned above all else in keeping runs down, Greig did not call on Underwood until 5.45 when the score was 235 for two. West Indies finished 494 all out. Underwood having disposed of Viv Richards (232), Alvin Kallicharran (97), Clive Lloyd (16) and Larry Gomes (0), his figures 37-8-82-4.

In the second Test at Lord's, England were 197 for eight when Underwood joined Chris Old. Together they added 52 (Old 18\*, Underwood (31). With Richards injured, when the visitors batted England gained a lead of 68, Underwood's contribution being 5 for 39 including the two leading scorers, Gordon Greenidge and Clive Lloyd. In the third Test at Old Trafford he took 3 for 55, including Greenidge again and Collis King, but his subsequent figures were 0 for 90 in the second innings, 0 for 80 from 18 overs at Headingley and 3 for 165 from 60.5 overs at The Oval , the most overs he would bowl, and the most runs he would ever concede, in a first-class innings.

Despite Test calls and a Test Trial at Bristol in which his match figures were 7 for 60, Underwood still played 14 of Kent's 22 matches, bowled more overs than anyone else and, with 54 wickets, was top wicket-taker.

In the year in which Kent won both the Benson & Hedges Cup and the John Player League, in the former he took 2 for 10 from 9.5 overs in the Quarter-final v Nottinghamshire at Canterbury, 5 for 35 v Surrey in the Semi-Final at The Oval and 3 for 31 in the final at Lord's.

In the 1976/1977 MCC tour of India & Sri Lanka Underwood totally eclipsed everything he had done before on the sub-continent. Bowling with, to quote *Wisden* yet again, 'immense craft and wit – slower

than before and with greater variation', his 29 wickets in the Test series, made him highest wicket-taker on either side despite the presence of the great Indian quartet of Bedi, Chandrasekar, Prasanna and Venkataraghavan.

His Test figures included 4 for 78 at New Delhi, 3 for 50 at Calcutta (Kolkata) 4 for 28 at Madras (Chennai), 4 for 76 at Bangalore (Bangluru) and 4 for 89 & 5 for 84 at Bombay (Mumbai), in all 29 wickets at 17.55. His last five haul at Mumbai meant that he had claimed five wickets in an innings against every Test playing country.

England then went on to Australia for the Centenary Test at Melbourne. In Australia's first innings Underwood was the meanest of the English bowlers, 11.6 – 2 - 16 - 3, which included the wicket of first innings leading scorer Greg Chappell and in the second added David Hookes to his growing list of distinguished left-handed victims. In all first-class matches on the tour he topped the averages with 44 wickets (avge.16.84).

Derek Underwood signed for World Series Cricket in April 1977 but, outwardly at least, the English cricket season went on more or less as usual. Much was happening behind the scenes of course but anyone who wishes to know more of the Packer affair will find many thousands of words on the subject relatively easy to discover elsewhere. As to whether all these goings on affected team performance opinions vary but, certainly with no wins and three defeats, Australia had probably their worst England tour within living memory.

In the three one-day Internationals for the Prudential Trophy which preceded the Tests, Underwood took 3 for 29 in the first at Old Trafford. In the Test Series he bowled economically in the Jubilee Test at Lord's, but his best effort was at Old Trafford, venue for the second Test, Lancashire had been without a regular groundsman for a month and there were doubts about the pitch, unfounded as it turned out. Nevertheless, England fielded three spinners, Australia two. On the last day, with Underwood claiming the last five wickets, the match had developed into a duel between Underwood and century maker Greg Chappell. He was the last to go, bowled for 112. Underwood's 6 for 66 in the second innings were his best figures in an Ashes Test since the epic 7 for 50 at The Oval in 1968.

In 1977 Kent shared the Championship with Middlesex. Despite Underwood being restricted to 12 Championship matches it was enough to give him an economical 33 wickets in Kent matches at 16.18. The highlight was again a Yorkshire match, this time at Folkestone where he returned figures of 7 for 43 in the second innings. Trailing by 32, Yorkshire were 84 for 2 at close of play on the second day but overnight rain was followed by warm sunshine and their remaining eight wickets fell for 43, Underwood claiming 6 for 18 in ten overs. Only the opening pair reached double figures, Boycott last out c Knott b Underwood 61. Kent won by seven wickets. In a match spoiled by rain at Hove, Underwood's first innings figures of 6 for 69 included his only hat-trick, Imran Khan, caught short leg, Snow bowled and, from the next over, Arnold Long stumped.

Again free of Test commitments, Underwood comfortably headed the Kent averages in 1978 with 110 wickets (avge.14.49) and, having played nothing but Kent matches, he was second in the national averages, bettered only by Andy Mack who bowled 77.3 overs for his 16 wickets. This was the first time since 1971 he had reached three figures and Kent won their sixth outright County Championship.

Eight times he claimed five in an innings, twice ten in a match. At The Oval, due to persistent rain, Surrey were still 30 for 2 in their first innings at the start of the third day. The remaining 18 wickets fell for 140 runs, Underwood 4 for 17 & 9 for 32. The latter are the best-ever figures for Kent against Surrey. Against Derbyshire at Mote Park, another rain affected match, ended in figures of 5 for 41 & 6 for 38. Twice more he claimed nine in a match, and in matches in which he delivered 30 or more overs, only once did he fail to take a wicket.

Kent won the Benson & Hedges Cup for the third time. Apart from the match at Trent Bridge where he dismissed –'Pasty' Harris, Clive Rice and Mike Smedley for 29 runs, he never claimed more than one

wicket in a match but in the Final at Lord's he bowled the most dangerous Derbyshire batsmen Eddie Barlow.

There was no silverware in 1979 but again he collected his hundred wickets, 106 (avge.14.85) once again all in Kent matches, bowling 799.2 overs, 300 more than anyone else for Kent, and had probably never bowled better. He bowled more than anyone in the first-class averages in fact, although to be fair Gifford came near with 798.3 and five others reached 700.

Ten times he gathered five or more wickets in an innings, four times ten in a match. Frequently nigh unplayable in the right conditions, highlights included 4 for 39 & 6 for 24 at Gloucester, 6 for 36 & 7 for 35 against Nottinghamshire at Folkestone, 3 for 20 & 8 for 28 at Bournemouth and 8 for 88 & 5 for 14 at Cardiff. Kent won by an innings in the first three and by 125 runs in the last.

In limited-overs cricket, he led the Kent averages with 37 wickets at 13.40 which included 4 for 26 v Nottinghamshire in the Benson & Hedges and 4 for 12 v Hampshire in the John Player, both at Canterbury, and 3 for 5 in the John Player at Gloucester.

The ex-Packer players, or most of them, were now accepted back into the fold in 1979 and, considering his prolific wicket-taking while he had been out of Test cricket, a return to Test cricket seemed fairly likely. Ahead of the official announcement however, Underwood received the news of his return during the last John Player match of the season against Middlesex at Canterbury, the information coming from Edmonds, the man he would be replacing.

The 1979/1980 tour of Australia followed by the Jubilee Test in Bombay was for Underwood, as for most of the England party, at best disappointing and not helped by a bewildering mix of first-class and one-day matches. In the Benson & Hedges series involving Australia, England and West Indies, he began well with 4 for 44 v West Indies at Sydney but took only one more wicket and by the closing stages of the competition John Emburey was the only spinner chosen.

In first-class cricket, he began well with 3 for 11 & 7 for 66 v Tasmania at Hobart but, although in the three Ashes matches only Botham took more than his 13 wickets (avge.31.15.), *Wisden* thought he had difficulty finding his rhythm due to lack of regular bowling. Nevertheless, as so often, he bowled more overs than anyone else on the tour.

In the 1980 season he gained one tail-end wicket in his only Test against West Indies and up to the end of July he had experienced a disappointing season with only 17 first-class wickets to his credit. Things picked up from there – 3 for 53 & 4 for 26 v Warwickshire at Canterbury, 6 for 71 & 6 for 28 v Essex at Folkestone, 4 for 85 & 7 for 75 v Middlesex at Canterbury and finishing with a respectable 61 wickets at 23.24.

Although Underwood was still leading wicket-taker among the left-arm spinning fraternity in 1981, Emburey was the only regular spinner chosen for the Ashes series. Again, top of the Kent averages with 78 wickets (avge.22.92), he took twelve in a match against Essex at Canterbury. Against Somerset at Folkestone where Kent lost by an innings, he bowled 54.4 overs for his 7 for 118.

In the Hampshire match at Canterbury he scored 50 (run out), the second half century of his career, in which he shared a ninth-wicket partnership of 108 with Richard Ellison (55\*). Kent also won the return with Hampshire at Bournemouth and when he had David Turner caught in the second innings, he claimed his 2,000th wicket, joining Blythe, Freeman, Woolley and Doug Wright as the only Kent bowlers to do so.

In the shorter game he was again Kent leading wicket-taker with 34 at 13.82 apiece, including 4 for 22 at Huddersfield, 4 for 25 v Nottinghamshire at Canterbury and 4 for 23 at Derby, all in the John Player.

The 1981/1982 winter tour of India and Sri Lanka proved to be the end of his Test career. Although unable to match his record in India of 1976/1977, he played in the six Tests against India as well as the inaugural Test against Sri Lanka. His ten wickets against India were expensive at 43.80 each but his haul included Sunil Gavaskar twice, Dilip Vengsarkar and Kapil Dev. He did rather better with 6 for 92 in the three one-day internationals.

In his last Test match, against Sri Lanka, he signed off appropriately. Bowling over the wicket and exploiting a worn patch outside leg stump, he had figures of 5 for 28 & 3 for 67. At the end of the tour he joined a 'rebel' tour of South Africa. Apart from the elaborate pre-tour secrecy, it was not a particularly memorable venture, only two wickets falling to him in his two first-class matches and two in the three one-day matches but, although wickets were scarce, he accounted for Barry Richards for the seventh time in first-class cricket and the fourth time in one-day cricket.

The inevitable outcome of the venture was a three-year ban from Test cricket, which left him stranded, three short of his 300 Test wickets.

Following the introduction of full covering in Test cricket in 1979, all first-class pitches sadly followed in 1982, The Chairman's report described the wickets prevailing as 'unhelpful' and Kent dropped to 13th in the table, but for Kent's leading spinner nothing seemed to have changed much. Consistent, economical and accurate as ever, once more he was Kent's leading wicket-taker, 24 more than the next highest with the same number of wickets as 1981 – 78 (avge.22.44), all in Championship matches and marginally cheaper. Five times he claimed five in an innings, again excelling with 3 for 45 & 7 for 79 at Bournemouth, the other four 'five fors' being at Canterbury, Dartford, Hove and Trent Bridge .

Seventh in the Championship, losing finalists in the NatWest Trophy, Semi Finalists in the Benson & Hedges and serious contenders again for the John Player League for much of the season, in 1983 Kent had one of their best seasons in recent years although they still relied heavily on their most dependable, and now near veteran, bowler. Despite the handicap of full covering, for the tenth and last time he passed his hundred wickets, 106 (avge.19.27), more than twice the number of any other Kent bowler, nine times five in an innings, three times ten in a match, and more than any other spinner in the country. He also headed Kent's one-day averages (37 wickets at 16.67).

Four times he took seven wickets in an innings. At Trent Bridge his 7 for 88 & 6 for 73 brought a six wicket victory and his second innings 7 for 55 gave Kent what had looked like an unlikely win against Leicestershire at Folkestone. In Canterbury Week, despite 7 for 103 (from 44.4 overs) & 7 for 55, Kent ran out of time chasing 242 in 185 minutes against Worcestershire.

In the National Westminster Bank Trophy, Underwood had picked up half a dozen wickets at a fairly inexpensive 11.83 each but when Kent lost on Finals Day he had the unusual experience of seeing Kent get through 50 overs without being called on to bowl. In the John Player League, he twice took five in an innings, 5 for 14 from 5.4 overs v Surrey at Canterbury and 5 for 31 v Lancashire at Maidstone.

In 1984 Underwood was not only top of the Kent bowling averages and leading wicket-taker. He also had his best-ever season with the bat – 498 runs (avge.20.72) including his first and only century, appropriately perhaps on his favourite out ground, Hastings. Despite the history of Sussex v Kent matches and his record at the ground, Kent had not actually played there for 11 years, and the game turned out to be one of the most memorable.

21 wickets fell on the first day, by which time Sussex had gained a 51 run first innings lead and Kent were 22-1 in their second innings, night watchman Underwood 0\*. On the next day, Sunday, he had a major share in Kent's John Player League victory with 6 for 12 from six overs. Resuming his innings on Monday morning, while wickets fell at the other end, he was ninth out for 111 with 14 fours. Tavaré, Aslett, Chris Cowdrey and Johnson contributed a mere six runs, but 24 were added with Ellison (18) for the seventh-wicket, 45 with Knott (21) for the eighth and 53 for the ninth with Terry Alderman



whose 52\* was his maiden half-century. Uncharacteristically at Hastings, Underwood claimed only one wicket in the match, but the game ended in a tie, the first in the Championship since 1974.

Underwood's 77 Championship wickets at 19.62 in 1984 included a double over Hampshire, 7 for 21 from 11.2 overs when the visitors were dismissed for 56 and Kent won by 123 runs at Canterbury and another profitable visit to Bournemouth, 4 for 34 and 8 for 87 and a 44 run victory. In the second innings he bowled his 42 overs unchanged.

In the run up to Kent's second successive defeat in the NatWest Final, Underwood had figures of 10-4-16-1 against Hampshire at Southampton in the Second Round.

Passing his 40th year during the 1985 season, Underwood was Kent's leading wicket-taker for the 15th time, 67 (avge.26.89). Although only Ellison was above him in the Kent averages, Underwood's wickets were nevertheless his most expensive since 1976, not particularly surprisingly now that covered wickets were the depressing norm. In the national averages, only four bowlers averaged under 20, none of them spinners.

He only once claimed five in an innings, 6 for 56 & 4 for 80 v Essex at Dartford, the 47th and last time he would achieve ten in a match. Seven times he claimed four in an innings, including, 4 for 44 & 4 for 69 v Somerset at Canterbury, 4 for 34 v Derbyshire at Folkestone and 4 for 8 from 18 overs v Yorkshire at Mote Park. At Folkestone against Hampshire, he scored 4\* in a last-wicket partnership of 63 with Chris Cowdrey (134).

1986, the year of his second benefit, he was second highest wicket-taker, 52 at 26.36. The penultimate game of the season, v Warwickshire at Folkestone, was marked by one of his most remarkable bowling analyses. In the second innings his figures read 35.5 - 29- 11-7. All seven fell to catches, five of them by Chris Cowdrey.

He took four in an innings three times as well as 5 for 43 v Glamorgan at Maidstone and 3 for five at Basingstoke in the Players' Sunday League. His second benefit raised £117,120.

After such a career, Underwood's final season was always likely to be in danger of finishing with a touch of anti-climax. It did not help that it was a wretched summer – 19 inches of rain fell on St. Lawrence during the season. His last five-for was 5 for 43 against Middlesex at Canterbury. At Bournemouth he took 4 for 27 and 3 for 14 at Mote Park in the return –both ending in Hampshire victories,

In his final match, at Canterbury, after a rain affected first day, Leicestershire declared at 303 for 7 of which Underwood took 4 for 89 consisting of three England cricketers, Peter Willey, David Gower and James Whittaker plus Paul Whitticase, Kent declared behind at 250 for 7 and at the close of day two Leicestershire were 10 for 0. On his final day, he led the team out to the applause of a rather larger than usual crowd but, although Leicestershire declared again at 196 for 4, Underwood was wicketless in his final 27 overs at the cost of 40 runs and Kent's attempt at 250 from a minimum of 40 overs petered out at 134 for 4.

No other Kent bowlers delivered more than his 611.3 overs during the season and, although his 45 wickets were his most expensive in an English season at 28.77 each, only three left-arm spinners, John Afford, Phil Carrick and Ian Folley, came cheaper in the national averages and there was little more than three runs difference among the four of them.

In the shorter game he finished second in the averages with 22 wickets (avge.17.04), included were 4 for 28 v Sussex at Canterbury in the Benson & Hedges Cup and 8 for 31 v Scotland at Myreside, Edinburgh in the NatWest Trophy which was, statistically, his best in one-day cricket.

He was awarded the M.B.E. for services to cricket in 1981. On leaving Kent, he carried on playing until at least 2005, mainly for Lord's Taverners, Forty Club, Old England etc. Among numerous 'miscellaneous matches, on first October 1989 D.L.Underwood's Eleven lost by three wickets to A.S.M. Oakman's Eleven at Hastings, the last match played on the old Central Recreation Ground.

In business he became Managing Director of a company involved in the development of artificial pitches.

In Tests against Australia, he took 105 wickets (avge.26.38), four times five in an innings, twice ten in a match. Against the other Test playing countries –India 62, New Zealand 48, West Indies 38, Pakistan 36 , Sri Lanka 8.

Against the then 16 opposing counties Underwood took 100 wickets against 11. In terms of economy, more than a little surprisingly, Yorkshire came out top of the list - 124 wickets at 13.96. the remaining ten were Essex 146, Gloucestershire 110, Sussex 151, Hampshire 179, Glamorgan 107, Warwickshire 106 , Somerset 111, Leicestershire 108 Surrey 153, Middlesex 149.

Underwood bowled on nine Kent grounds and took at Canterbury 323, Folkestone 181, Maidstone 150, Tunbridge Wells 92, Dartford 78, Dover 62, Gravesend 60, Blackheath 37, Gillingham 29.

On away grounds, including Test matches etc., (qualification 30 wickets), Lord's 130, The Oval 108, Hastings 61, Bournemouth 60, Trent Bridge 55, Edgbaston 54, Leicester 46, Worcester 44 , Old Trafford 37, Taunton 34, Headingley 31, Bradford, Bristol Northampton 30 each.

As already mentioned, Underwood gained an impressive haul of distinguished batsmen.\* indicates left-hander –20: K.W.R.Fletcher, 17: Mushtaq Mohammad, 15: G.S.Chappell, K.D.Walters, Other notable scalps include – , 12. S.M.Gavaskar, 10. A.W.Greig, 9 C.H.Lloyd\*, 8:G.Boycott, C.G.Greenidge, A.I.Kallicharran\*, 7:B.A.Richards, 6: J.H.Edrich\*, R.B.Kanhai, Milburn. 5: I.T.Botham, D.I.Gower\*.

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#### **Alan Otto Charles Verrinder. (No.719.)**

*Born:* 28. 07.1955, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire.  
 Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.  
 Kent 1977.  
 Educated: Windsor Grammar School.

#### **First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	1	24	23	24.00	0	0	1
<b>Overall</b>	4	4	1	24	23	8.00	0	0	3

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	48	0	39	0				
<b>Overall</b>	216	5	144	4	36.00	2-42		

### List A Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	3	3	1	2	2	1.00	0	0	0

### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	120	1	105	1	105.00	1-43	0	5.25

Alan Verrinder joined the Surrey staff in 1974 after attracting attention in club cricket and with Buckinghamshire Young Amateurs. In his first season he played one first-class and two List A matches but took only two wickets and, although he remained on the staff for two more years, he was unable to establish himself. In 1976 he played two more first-class and one List A match with limited success but for the Second Eleven he was leading wicket-taker with 28 at 25.46. This included 3-48 and 6-85 against Glamorgan at Norbury. At the end of the season he joined the Kent staff.

If anything, there was even more competition at Canterbury than at The Oval. At the time he joined Kent, although Norman Graham was nearing the end of his career, the County could call on the widely differing seam bowling talents of Kevin Jarvis, Bernard Julien, John Shepherd, Bob Woolmer and Richard Hills with Graham Dilley, Nick Kemp and Guy Spelman still emerging.

Not surprisingly, apart from one game against Cambridge University, he had little chance to shine at senior level. Even in the Second Eleven, in three of his eight Second Eleven competition matches, he did not get a chance to bowl. For some reason he was omitted from the published end of season averages but his three wickets cost 92.66 each. It should perhaps be added that his first two wickets were John Edrich and Geoff Howarth. He was not re-engaged for 1978.

Alan Verrinder played one Second Eleven match for Hampshire in 1979 but then decided to go into business. He has held numerous directorships including MD of HSM UK Ltd, Dauphin PLC and Intercraft Design PLC and is currently a leader in his field of Business /Coaching and Sales Marketing & Business consultancy.

### Jack Walker (No. 636).

*Born:*02.03.1914, Cobham. *Died:* 29. 05.1968, Cobham.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1949.

Educated: Rochester Technical School.

Parents: William Woodhouse Walker and Mabel Walker (*nêe* Hole)

### First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1	2	1	19	19*	19.00	0	0	2/2

### Bowling

Did not bowl

Called into the side against Essex at Gravesend for Godfrey Evans who was playing in a Test Trial at Edgbaston in 1949, Jack Walker impressed several good judges with two catches and two stumpings, the latter both off Doug Wright who was not the easiest bowler to take on first encounter. At 35 however, it was clearly too late to consider cricket as a career. At that stage he was a highly experienced club wicketkeeper/opening batsman with Gravesend, for whom he was to keep wicket for 16 years, as well as with Cobham Park, where his family connections totalled well over 100 years and he was himself Chairman for 21 of them, and for Upnor for whom he scored his first century, v *TS Arethusa* in 1936. His personal top score was 146\*, for Cobham v Rainbow in 1939.

Walker had a taste of playing against county cricketers in 1940 when he scored 19 for Gravesend against London Counties whose attack included Jim Smith, Arthur Wellard, Alan Watt and Leslie Todd (q.v.,) and played against them again in 1941. In 1943 he sampled representative cricket, for the Club Cricket Conference against Combined Universities at New Malden and two years later for a combined Gravesend Sunday Eleven v Australian Services on the Gravesend Central Ground.

This was a curious Sunday charity fixture. Five of the Australian team, Lindsay Hassett, Keith Miller, Cec Pepper, Dick Whittington and Bert Cheetham were playing in the Third 'Victory' Test Match at Lord's, which had started on the previous day and would be resumed on the following morning with Whittington due to open the batting. Walker's opening partner for Gravesend was the future Sir George 'Gubby' Allen.

Jack Walker played two Second Eleven games for Kent, against Norfolk at Dartford in 1948 and Devonshire at Bromley in 1949 as well as three games in 1948 for the Club & Ground. His highest score in Kent colours was against Norfolk when he participated in a ninth-wicket partnership of 60 (Walker 45, S.R.O.R. Shearburn 51).

Following his marriage to Peggy Howcroft (1919-1983), a daughter of a former Mayor of Gravesend, at Strood in 1939, he moved into the Agent's House at Cobham Hall where he was employed by Lord Darnley as steward. When his father died in 1941, Jack Walker took over his building and undertaking business but closed it when he and his wife were appointed sub-post master and post mistress in Cobham village. For the final 15 years of his working life he was Works Manager for Rochester Co-operative Society, his retirement hastened by a series of heart attacks.

For 20 years a member of Cobham Parish Council, Jack Walker was a man of wide interests including pen and ink drawing, amateur dramatics and conjuring. It was while practicing a series of conjuring tricks in the Meadow Rooms, Cobham that he collapsed and subsequently died.

His son Richard played for Kent Juniors in 1964, was on the MCC staff and made four appearances for Kent Second Eleven between 1966 and 1975 plus eight for Middlesex Seconds between 1965 and 1967. A stalwart of the Gravesend Club, he received his Club Cricket Conference Cap in 1976 and toured with Conference sides to West Indies in 1977 and New Zealand in 1979. His son, Jack Walker's grandson, is Matthew Walker (q.v.).

### **Matthew John Walker (No. 763).**

*Born:* 02.01.1974, Gravesend.

Left-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1992-2008, Kent County Cap 2000.

Educated: King's School Rochester.

Parents: Richard Woodhouse Walker & June Walker (*née* Hendley)

### **First Class Career Record Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	182	299	31	9722	275*	36.27	25	40	121
<b>Overall</b>	223	377	39	12197	275*	36.08	28	51	155

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1804	38	1100	20	55.00	2-21		
<b>Overall</b>	2154	49	1274	28	45.50	3-35		

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	257	234	34	5665	117	28.32	3	34	70
<b>Overall</b>	285	255	40	6269	117	29.15	3	37	75

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	886	5	740	30	24.66	4-24	0	5.01
<b>Overall</b>	904	5	759	30	25.30	4-24	0	5.03

#### **Twenty20 Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	40	38	6	765	58*	23.90	0	1	4
<b>Overall</b>	82	75	11	1397	74*	21.82	0	4	10

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

With a respectable career average, 28 first-class centuries, a top score of 275\* and seven other scores between 150 and 197, it may seem unfair to suggest that Matthew Walker under-achieved but in his 16 years with Kent his undoubted talent took a long time to mature. Not until 2003 did he score 1,000 runs in a season and, although he recorded his maiden hundred in 1994, his second did not come until 1996 his third in 1999 and it was 2001 before he registered more than one in a season. Even so, only in 2003 did he reach the level of consistent performance of which many good judges thought him capable.

A stockily-built 5ft. 6 in. (267.6 cm.), while he excelled in the typical short batsman's back foot strokes, he could drive powerfully off front or back foot and was quick on his feet. Although rated throughout his career as one of the best all-round fielders in the side, it seems some of the then fashionable training methods did not sit well with him. At one time in his career there were stories of weight problems, accompanied by suggestions that he was not a devotee of strict winter fitness regimes.

According to one of his captains, Matthew Fleming, when he first began to take training with due seriousness and started running every day 'he couldn't hit the ball off the square' but the fact that he had been a sufferer from asthma since childhood could well have been a contributory factor. In the 1998 Kent Annual Walker told readers that he had 'worked out a programmed diet and fitness plan, not just a crash course, to keep my weight at manageable level' and clearly it worked but in the 2005 edition of the Annual he ascribed his form from 2003 onwards to a change of outlook brought on by the arrival of his first child.

Walker's background was firmly rooted in cricket. Grandfather Jack (*q.v.*) played one match for Kent in 1949, his father was on the MCC staff, played for both Kent and Middlesex Seconds and won several

Club Cricket Conference Caps. Like Matthew, both grandfather and father played with distinction for the Gravesend Club.

An outstanding schoolboy cricketer, in 1990 Matt Walker represented Southern Schools in the MCC Schools Festival at Wadham College Oxford and made his debut for Kent Second Eleven against the Army at Chatham. In the following year he represented NAYC South and made his first appearance for England Under-19. In the 1991-1992 winter he toured Pakistan with England Under- 19 and in the following year captained the side on their tour of India, scoring 103 v Rawalpindi Under- 19 and 64 v India Board President's Under 19 Eleven. On returning to England, captain and team attended a garden party at Buckingham Palace.

Joining the Kent staff in 1992 Walker played three Second Eleven Championship matches that year with a top score of 64 at Royal Grammar School Ground, Worcester. He made his first-class debut during Kent's pre-season tour of Zimbabwe in 1993 when he scored 23\* & 16 v Zimbabwe B (including Paul Strang (*q.v.*) at Harare and although his form was patchy; in his first full season in the Second Eleven, and in the one-day Bain Clarkson Trophy, mainly as opener, he scored over 500 runs with four half-centuries and a top score of 93 against Derbyshire at Folkestone.

In 1994 his career seemed about to blossom. Over 1,500 runs for the Second Eleven including 126\* at Southgate, 130\* at Solihull, 127 v Leicestershire at Folkestone and 103 v Hampshire at Maidstone led to a call up to the first team and a county Championship debut against Durham at Canterbury where he scored 34 in an opening partnership of 75 with Trevor Ward. In his fifth county match, the last of the season, he hit a maiden century, 107 from 132 balls against Surrey at The Oval where he shared a third-wicket partnership of 189 with Trevor Ward (109).

Sadly, 1994 proved a false dawn, the first but not the last. Next season he was, in his own words, 'technically terrible' and by June he was back in the Second Eleven. Although on occasions performing usefully in List A matches, not until August 1996 did he regain a place in the County Championship side; which made what followed all the more surprising. Against Somerset at Canterbury, in what was only his 19th first-class match, he scored 275\* in nine hours 25 minutes of virtually faultless batting. It was the highest by a Kent batsman at Canterbury, beating the great Frank Woolley's 270 against Middlesex in 1923; it was also the highest for Kent by a left-hander anywhere. 176\* at close of play on the first day, he hit 41 fours and shared century partnerships of 101 for the second-wicket with acting captain Trevor Ward, 155 for the third with Carl Hooper (76) and 137\* (unfinished) for the eighth with Dean Headley (63\*).

There was a sub-plot – two in fact. At lunch on the second day, Walker had somehow gained the idea that the record was 277 and the post-lunch declaration at 616-7 – itself a Kent record at Canterbury – left him feeling cheated until he learned the truth. According to legend, veteran journalist Jim Swanton, appalled by the prospect of seeing his boyhood idol Woolley's record broken by a relatively unknown newcomer against distinctly moderate bowling, tried hard to persuade Ward to declare when Walker reached 270.

In truth, apart from the presence of a young and raw 'Gubby' Allen, the Middlesex attack in 1923 does not look greatly superior to Somerset's 73 years later and, whereas Middlesex had emerged victors, thanks to three declarations, Kent won in 1996 with seven overs remaining. Walker scored another 43\*, admittedly against 'declaration' bowling, and had the additional distinction of being on the field throughout the match.

Whether Swanton actually suggested the declaration, remains uncertain. Ward himself does not apparently recall any such conversation and some of the many stories of the great man when in his pomp which have grown up over the years, on closer examination some seem of dubious accuracy.

To Walker's many supporters among the Kentish faithful, there were more disappointments to come. Although he started the 1997 season with scores of 56,83,69, and a brilliant 117 in the 50-over Benson

& Hedges competition, he was unable to carry this form into the semi-final and final and in first-class cricket he averaged 19.42 with two half-centuries. Another moderate season, exacerbated by injury followed in 1998 and it would be 1999 before he scored another first-class century, 103\* at Fenner's.

Not until 2001 did he begin to achieve his full potential. In that year he hit 985 first-class runs (avge.44.77) with four centuries, 105 at The Oval, 112\* at Swansea, 124 v Essex at Tunbridge Wells and 120\* at Leicester as well as 98 v Pakistan and a remarkable match winning 106\* (from 123 balls with only six fours) against Essex at Chelmsford in the Benson & Hedges Cup.

In 2002 it looked like yet another false dawn. Although again excelling in List A matches with 670 runs (avge.39.41 including 94 from 77 balls against Worcestershire at Canterbury in the Norwich Union League, in first-class cricket his top score was 46. With his future seemingly in doubt, all was to change in 2003. For the first time he reached 1,000 runs (1,051 avge.43.79) as well as finishing leading scorer and averaging 51.50 in all one-day competitions and winning both Player of the Year and Fielder of the Year awards. Among his three hundreds were 150 v Lancashire at Blackpool where he shared a fourth-wicket partnership of 196 from 51 overs with Ed Smith (203) and two against Warwickshire, 106 at Edgbaston and 121 at Canterbury where he put on 267 for the fourth-wicket with Smith (213). He also hit a maiden hundred in the 45-over National Cricket League, 101 from 108 balls against Gloucestershire at Bristol.

This time the dawn would be the genuine article. Between 2004 and 2007, he hit 15 first-class centuries (and 40 half-centuries), twice more exceeded 1,000 runs, 1,266 (avge.55.04) in 2004 and 1,419 (avge.61.69) in 2006 and twice hit two hundreds in a match – 157 & 100\* v Sussex at Canterbury in 2004 and 142 & 157 v Lancashire at Canterbury in 2007 (against an attack including in the first innings Muttiah Muralitharan). Displaying a penchant for what our now termed 'big hundreds' he scored 197 v Lancashire at Canterbury in 2006 when he was run out due to cramp while going for a second run after batting seven and a half hours on the hottest day of the year, and 173 v Surrey at Guildford in 2005 when his fifth-wicket partnership with Justin Kemp (124) yielded 233 runs from 53 overs.

Among other lengthy partnerships were 307 for the fourth-wicket at Edgbaston in 2005 (Walker 140, Stevens 163), Kent's highest for any wicket against Warwickshire, 288 for the third-wicket v Lancashire at Canterbury in 2007 (Key 182, Walker 157), a record for Kent at Canterbury and 260 for the second-wicket v Gloucestershire at Bristol (Key 164, Walker 109) in 2005. When Kent scored a record 429 for 5 in the fourth innings for victory against Worcestershire at Canterbury in 2004, the innings was founded on the 236 runs fifth-wicket partnership between Walker (151) and Michael Carberry (112).

Many followers of Kent felt that more use could have been made of Walker's medium-pace bowling, particularly in the shorter game – in 2005 he headed Kent's List A bowling averages. Although his career figures are unremarkable, he was a useful partnership breaker and gained some notable scalps including Michael Bevan, Ally Brown, Paul Collingwood, Neil Fairbrother, Owais Shah, and Ben Smith.

Even when struggling in the longer game, Walker had generally pulled his weight in limited overs cricket and in 2005 he took over as captain in List A matches for the latter half of the season. Although 20/20 came relatively late in his career, he more than justified his place in the side. In 2006 he headed the 20/20 averages and scored his personal best, 58\* v Middlesex at Beckenham. In the following season his 45 from 35 balls in the Final set his side on course for the Trophy.

As so often happens in county cricket – in Kent more perhaps than in most counties – the end of Matt Walker's playing career was not entirely happy, more so perhaps because it was also his benefit year. Following a run of low scores, he was out of the first team before the end of May and, apart from a run-a-ball 43 at Edgbaston in the Pro-40 League, he never did enough to re-establish himself in a handful of appearances throughout the rest of the season.

On the assumption that Neil Dexter (*q.v.*) would sign a three-year contract, it was decided not to renew Matt Walker's. In the event neither was available, Dexter joined Middlesex and Walker, somewhat disenchanted with Kent's apparent predilection for imports, Kolpak players and short-term contract overseas cricketers of widely varying abilities, signed a two-year contract with Essex.

Matt Walker scored 1,000 runs in his first season with his new county in 2009, the only Essex batsman to do so, and remained in the side until 2011 when, following a loss of form, he dropped out of the first team half way through the season. When Graham Gooch joined England's coaching staff, Walker took over as batting coach and also captained the Second Eleven. He returned to Kent in 2014 as Assistant Coach and when in 2017 Jimmy Adams left he became Head Coach.

An all-round sportsman in his youth, Matt Walker captained England Schoolboys at hockey, and distinguished himself in both codes of football. He had trials for Gillingham and Chelsea and played Rugby for Kent. In club cricket, as well as for Gravesend, he played for Hartley Country club.

Nothing if not versatile, while with Kent his winter employment included reporting football for *The Sun* and working in the toy department of Riceman's in Canterbury where, on at least one occasion, he stood in for the store's Father Christmas.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

Robertson David, Milton Howard and Carlaw, Derek. *Kent County Cricket Club 100 Greats*, Tempus Publishing 2005

#### **Christopher David Walsh (No.774).**

*Born* :06. 11. 1975. Pembury.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, leg spin bowler.

Kent 1996-1998. Second Eleven Cap. 1997.

Educated: Yardley Court Preparatory School, Tonbridge School & Exeter University.

Parents: David & Carol Susan Walsh.

#### **First Class Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4	7	1	98	56*	16.33	0	1	3

##### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	72	0	64	0				

#### **List A Career Record**

##### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	1	1	0	0	0	0.00	0	0	0

##### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

One of four Kent cricketers – Matthew Banes, Jamie Ford and Ed Smith are the others – all born in the same maternity unit at Pembury Hospital and all educated at Tonbridge, where they were all four coached by Chris Stone, Chris Walsh was in the Eleven at Tonbridge from 1992 to 1994. In the latter year he averaged 92.30 and played for Kent Colts with a top score of 69 in a 45-over match with



Walmer. In 1995, like his fellow Tonbridgian Jamie Ford, he had a successful season with Kent Second Eleven, scoring over 600 runs with three centuries. With Ford, he was a member of the AKCC Under-19 team which won both the Oxford & Cambridge Festival Trophy and the Hilda Overy Championship.

Unfortunately, he was unable to repeat this form in 1996. Given his chance in the First Eleven against Oxford University at Canterbury, he scored 56\* in an unbroken opening partnership of 200 with David Fulton (134\*) but in the Second Eleven Championship he averaged a disappointing 20.75 with two half-centuries.

On joining the staff in 1997, Walsh's form improved with 500 runs in all Second team competitions, four half centuries and a top score of 85, which gained him his Second Eleven Cap. For his university he hit a century against Oxford in a 60 over competition. Improvement continued into 1998 when he was second in the averages at 47.90 and hit two centuries in the Second Eleven Championship, ninth out for 122 out of 217 v Lancashire at Canterbury and 137 against Hampshire including a 135 run opening partnership with Richard Clinton (60), son of former Kent player Graeme (*q.v.*). This return to form earned him three further chances in the first team with a top score of 20.

In his final season, Walsh made a moderate start and his highest score was 39 when he opened the batting against Leicestershire Seconds at Oakham School on July 26, 1999. Beginning with a partnership of 137 with Richard Clinton (58), he batted for nine hours for 239 with one six and 34 fours from 483 balls. This was the only time he passed 50 in the Second Eleven Championship, but he excelled in the limited-overs AON Second Eleven Trophy where he averaged 71.83 with a century against Surrey, 82 against Sussex and 76 against Essex. In July he was voted the most improved Second Eleven Player of the month and was presented with a cheque for £600.

Chris Walsh's career had run pretty much in parallel with that of Jamie Ford and at the end of the 1999 season both opted for careers outside cricket, in Walsh's case, the Law. In 2000 he played one List A match and four Minor Counties Championship matches for Cambridgeshire.

Walsh played a great deal of club cricket, originally with Holmesdale (1991-1997) subsequently Sevenoaks Vine (1999-2006), as well as Band of Brothers, Cross Arrows, MCC and Old Tonbridgeans. His father, David Walsh gained Blues at Oxford for cricket and hockey (1967-1969) and played some matches for Sussex Second Eleven.

### **Geoffrey Hubert Ward (No.637).**

*Born:* 22.11.1926, Sittingbourne. *Died:* 20.04.2008, Bearsted.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1949.

Educated: Sutton Valence.

Parents: George Hartwell Ward & Enid Joyce Ward (*née* Randall)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	4	2	19	6*	9.50	0	0	2/1
<b>Overall</b>	3	6	2	23	6*	5.75	0	0	3/1

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Geoffrey Ward was in the Eleven at Sutton Valence 1942-1943 and, called-up in 1944 served in the Army in Italy. On demobilisation in 1946 he came to Kent for a trial in 1946. In the Kent Trial Book, he is shown as 'a very fair spin bowler, goodish bat' with an added comment 'did not wish to play as a professional but changed mind'. Joining the staff in 1947, in the event, he played as a

wicketkeeper/batsman or purely as a batsman and during his time with Kent his bowling was limited to five overs in Club & Ground matches.

Ward played his first game for Kent Club & Ground against Dartford at Hesketh Park in May 1947, presumably as a batsman as he bowled two overs and does not seem to have kept wicket. 'Hopper' Levett held three catches. His Second Eleven debut followed on June 18, v Gloucestershire Seconds at Bristol where he was absent for his first innings but scored four on the final day and held a catch. Between 1947 and 1950 he played 23 Minor Counties Championship matches for the Second Eleven, scoring 427 runs (avge.17.08), caught 14 and stumped one. The catches were not all behind the wicket. In twelve of these matches another specialist wicketkeeper was in the side, Derek Ufton in nine of them, and it seems safe to assume that he was in the side as a batsman. He hit two half centuries, 62 v Norfolk at Lakenham in 1949 and 67\* v Surrey at Gore Court in 1950.

His two first-class matches for Kent, v Lancashire at Old Trafford and v Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, were as deputy for Godfrey Evans, one of three wicketkeepers to deputise that season; Derek Ufton and Jack Walker were the others. He caught two and stumped one with a top score of 6\*. He was almost certainly the first former public schoolboy to play first-class cricket for Kent as a professional.

Ward was one of five players not re-engaged at the end of the 1950 season. He was singled out for mention in the report of the Young Players Sub-Committee as 'a good wicketkeeper and free bat' but that 'Ufton stood between him and a place in the Eleven and other amateur wicketkeepers were available in an emergency'. In the course of his final season, Ward played twice for Essex, in a first-class match against Combined Services at Chelmsford and for the Second Eleven v Huntingdonshire at Ramsey.

Whereas as his elder brother joined the family firm, Ward's Construction Medway Ltd., Geoffrey Ward emulated his mother's family by going into farming. He farmed sheep and fruit in Rainham, Upchurch and Newington. In 1957 he married Suzanne L Webster in Prescot, Lancashire. There were three daughters and two sons.

### **Trevor Robert Ward (No.737).**

*Born:* 18. 01.1968, Farningham.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1986-1999. County cap 1989.

Educated: Hextable Comprehensive School

Parents: Richard Henry & Hazel Ann Ward (nee Gunner)

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	206	355	19	11897	235*	35.40	24	70	197
<b>Overall</b>	248	425	22	13876	235*	34.43	29	77	226

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1083	29	647	8	80.87	2-10		
<b>Overall</b>	1149	29	694	9	77.11	2-10		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	248	243	11	7432	131	32.03	7	50	52
<b>Overall</b>	324	318	13	9248	131	30.32	10	59	78

## Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
<b>Kent</b>	414	0	351	10	35.10	3-20	0	5.08

## Twenty20 Career Record

### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	2	2	0	8	5	4.00	0	0	0

## Bowling

Did not bowl

His promise was evident early. At 15 he was opening for Dartford in the Kent Cricket League (scoring 92\* in a ten-wicket victory against Gravesend at Hesketh Park) and making his debut for Kent Second Eleven (making 17 against Glamorgan). He joined the Kent staff in 1986 and was comfortably the top scorer in the Second Eleven Championship with 921 runs at 46. In June he made his first team debut, opening with Mark Benson against Malcolm Marshall. They added 62 (Ward, 'peppered with bruises', 29). In August he played for England Under 19s against Sri Lanka and that winter toured there as vice-captain to Mike Atherton. Ward captained the team (including Nasser Hussain and Mark Ramprakash) in the first Test, top scoring with 60 off 77 balls on an uneven pitch where the scoring rate rarely rose above two an over. He made 67 in his only innings in the second Test but missed the third through illness.

Ward was again top scorer for Kent Second Eleven in 1987 (1,011 at 40.44) with 212\* against Hampshire at Dover and 119 against Lancashire at Old Trafford. Whilst the first team's bowlers were often injured allowing opportunities for others, the batting top six (Benson, Neil Taylor, Simon Hinks, Chris Tavaré, Chris Cowdrey, Derek Aslett) rarely changed. When his chance finally came at the end of August against Lancashire (this time facing Patrick Patterson) he was forced to retire hurt with a broken thumb and missed the rest of the season.

Ward also faced competition from other highly regarded youngsters such as Steve Goldsmith, Vince Wells and Graham Cowdrey. However, with Goldsmith joining Derbyshire and Aslett not re-engaged, 1988 dawned with more opportunities. After an unsuccessful appearance against Hampshire in April, Ward returned to face the West Indians in a side missing seven first team regulars. The West Indians' 275 was enough to win by an innings. Ward made 8 and 9, dismissed twice by Curtly Ambrose, but retained his place for the next match against Essex, 'playing superbly' in making 70 (out of a first-wicket partnership of 109 with Taylor). Ward finished the season with a modest 362 runs at 21.29 – 'on occasions has allowed his impetuosity to get the better of him' noted the Kent Annual.

1989 was his breakthrough summer and he received his cap. Tavaré's departure to Somerset had left a vacancy at number four and the aggressive Ward was seen as 'the natural successor' (which might surprise those who only remember Tavaré's invaluable but dour role for England). Ward took his opportunity, 64 and 87\* (with four sixes) 'a ray of light on a misty day' at Hove then 91 at Southampton. His maiden century came on a hot day at Bath (off 114 balls with five sixes) and he finished the season with 1,257 at 35.91 with that century and nine other fifties. He also scored 520 List A runs, his highest score 83 off 71 balls against Dorset (winning the Match Award). The Kent Annual described his batting as 'a joy to watch and beautifully straight' but again referred to his 'impetuosity' (early in an innings). Mention was also made of his promising off breaks and being coached by Fred Titmus and Don Wilson but, as his record shows, little came of it.

1990 was a season of two halves. The first brought just 68 runs from eight innings, an ankle injury and seven matches out of the side. Then an innings of 201\* for the Second Eleven at Maidstone led to his recall two days later against Surrey at Guildford. He made 88 and he kept his place for the rest of the

season. There were two centuries (a 'powerful and attractive') 124 at Chesterfield that he rated his best and 175 at Bournemouth (described by the Kent Annual as 'the finest innings of its type played by a Kent batsman all summer'). His overall figures (863 at 31.96) were moderate but the second half of the season, 795 at 41.84, represented a good recovery and hope for 1991. His one-day form was more consistent (549 at 36.60) with his top score (94) in the Benson and Hedges Cup on May 1st winning him the Gold award.

1991 brought 1,493 runs at 46.66, including five centuries. The first (141) came in May at Folkestone but he hurt his shoulder, missed two matches and made only 36 runs in the next four. Helpfully a weak Oxford attack (all averaged over 45 that season) came next and he made 122. Staying as opener, a fortnight later at Maidstone he became the first Kent player to score two centuries in a match against Glamorgan, 'these two hundreds (and the first was exceptional) were ringing confirmation of his talent' said the Kent Annual '[as opener Ward] discovered he was able to hold back his natural instinct to attack from the first ball'. (What remained) his highest first-class score followed in a memorable match against Middlesex. 146 behind, Kent declared at 450 for 3 (Ward 235\*, still Kent's highest second innings score) before skittling Middlesex for 96. Towards the end of the season, Ward was picked twice for England A in one-day matches against the Sri Lankans. His 78 was the top score of the second match but, 'a great disappointment to both himself and all at Kent CCC', he was not selected for any of the England tours that winter. It was the closest he came to international selection.

1992 was even better. His seasonal best 1,648 runs (average 48.47 with five centuries) has only been exceeded twice since. He also took 25 catches with 10, at short leg or silly point, off slow left armer Richard Davis. His first century (140\*) came at Tunbridge Wells but his next century (103 at Guildford) was even better. All out for 117 Kent followed on but Ward reached 'an astonishing' century (off 95 balls with four sixes and ten fours) out of an opening partnership of 113 and Kent won the match. Ward started August with 85 and 118 against Glamorgan and, the next day, 150 at Canterbury. A prearranged declaration at Northampton left him stranded on 95\* off 89 balls in Kent's last ever three-day championship match but he finished 'in devastating form' with 153 against Warwickshire, adding 290 with Benson as Kent clinched second place. Kent were losing Benson and Hedges finalists (although Ward made only 83 runs in the seven matches). Overall, he scored 687 List A runs.

In 1993 Kent fell from 2nd to 8th in the championship and Ward's first-class aggregate was down to 903 at 31.14 with two centuries. He took 14 innings to pass 50. His first hundred (141) came against Surrey in Canterbury Week (at number three), his second in his final innings of the season, 137 against Glamorgan, adding 229 off 50 overs with Hooper (236). But Kent's victory, by 236 runs, felt slightly flat. The previous day they had lost to Glamorgan in the AXA Equity & Law decider watched by a crowd of 12,000 filling every seat and blade of grass round the boundary edge at Canterbury. Ward made a vital contribution to Kent's title challenge (720 runs, including his first one day centuries, 131 against Nottinghamshire and 112 against Hampshire) but only 11 in the decider.

In 1994 Ward scored 1,368 at 42.75 with three centuries. He had passed 50 seven times without a century before he went to Abergavenny in late July. There he made two hundreds (110 and 125) in the match for the second time against Glamorgan but at Cheltenham (98) fell just short of a third successive hundred (ending an opening partnership of 209 with Benson). His other first-class century came in the last match at the Oval, 109 off 130 balls adding 185 off 38 overs with Matt Walker who made his maiden century. In List A matches, Ward made 691 at 31.41. His best performances were in the Nat West, 120 against Berkshire (adding 169 with Hooper, 136) and 80 in the semi-final against Warwickshire. Some BBC highlights of this, featuring Ward's pulling and driving, are on You Tube (they stop when he is out, before Kent's collapse and 8 run defeat).

At the end of the season Ward (who had been given permission to talk to Middlesex) signed a three-year extension to his contract. He did not sound particularly enthusiastic in a November interview with the *Kent Messenger*, 'It was a difficult decision and I'm not sure it was the right one...I don't think it's done anything in terms of enhancing my chances of playing for England'. Kent's coach, Daryl Foster, also seemed underwhelmed saying Ward had 'not been the easiest man to handle'.

Warwickshire eliminated Kent again from the Nat West in 1995 (this time by 10 runs, Ward top-scoring with 68), but, after two successive near misses, Kent won the AXA Equity & Law Sunday League and lost the final of the Benson and Hedges. Ward was a key figure in Kent's success scoring (what remains) a List A seasonal record for the county, 1,073 runs (at 46.65) with three centuries. At Canterbury Week Ward (123) added 241 with De Silva (124) 'before a packed festival crowd some of whom were physically threatened by the sixes frequently sent among them'. One spectator's nose was broken. Ward (469 at 78.16) was leading run-maker in the Benson and Hedges Cup. He and Benson (401 runs) made five successive century partnerships as Kent won their four group games and their quarter final (Ward 125, 113, 62\*, 76 and 64). Unfortunately, Benson had to miss the final with a triple fracture to his thumb and Ward made just seven.

By contrast Kent finished last in the Championship and Ward made only 932 first class runs at 30.06. He started well, 76 and (carrying his bat) 114\* against Northamptonshire but hit only one other hundred, (101) against Surrey. He narrowly missed his usual hundred against Glamorgan, making 98 before being run out after a mix-up with De Silva and was also run out backing up in successive matches at Headingley and Trent Bridge.

In 1996 Kent rose to 4th in the Championship. Usually batting now at number three, Ward scored 1,252 first class runs at 41.73 with two centuries and nine other fifties (plus 768 runs in List A matches). He scored consistently but the Kent Annual felt 'at times he looked a world class batsman; at other times he seemed a shadow of his normal self'. Both his centuries came at Canterbury in May, 106 against Lancashire 'marked by crisp drives and square cuts' and a superb 161 out of a total of 299 against Yorkshire 'featuring a fierce assault' after tea on the third day. In August he became Kent's fourth captain of the season for two championship games. Kent won both, against Northamptonshire (after enforcing the follow on) and Somerset after persuading them to declare before saving the follow on.

In 1997 Ward reached 1,000 runs for the last time, 1,018 (with his average down to 33.93). He was Kent's top scorer in List A matches with 748 runs. He started the season with 96 against Derbyshire, then 67 and 83 at Horsham but made a mere 92 in his next eight innings. His only century (161\*) came in September, nearly 16 months after the last. Though still only 29, this was to be his last Championship hundred for Kent. He remained a good fielder, especially close-in to the spinners, 13 of his (season's best) 30 catches were off Kent's leg spinner for the season, Paul Strang.

In 1998 Ward scored 565 List A runs. His 101 against Lancashire took him past Tavaré where he remains Kent's leading scorer in the Sunday League and its successors. But he made only 416 first-class runs at 18.91, his 94 at Maidstone the only time he passed 50. A month later, despite being vice-captain, he was dropped and played just twice more (when Key was playing for England Under 19s).

Ward's benefit was in 1999 which brought him a modest £60,000. He made 101 against a particularly weak Cambridge attack (who between them took 15 first class wickets in their career at 94) but in the Championship made only 139 runs at 11.58. He regained form in August with a Second Eleven century (and a couple for Dartford) but at the season's end he decided to leave Kent.

There was some bitterness. In a thinly veiled criticism of the captain (Fleming) and coach (John Wright) he said the Chief Executive, Paul Millman was 'the only one here who's been truthful with me'. Ward was unhappy about his omission from the side 'There was no cricketing logic to that; it had become personal' though his record over the previous two years weakens his argument.

Still only 31, he signed a three-year contract for Leicestershire (who had won the County Championship in two of the previous four years). In his first season he carried on from where he had left off with Kent (averaging 12) but in 2001 he averaged 46 and made four centuries in a spell of just seven matches (the last, an emotional 110 against Kent, earning him his county cap). 2002 was less successful and after one last, memorable century (168 off 172 balls against Essex at Southend) he left in 2003 after playing only three more matches.

As if to suggest his first-class career had ended prematurely, he played ten seasons for Norfolk scoring 10 Minor County Championship hundreds (including four in six matches in 2010) and three Minor Counties Trophy hundreds (averaging 48 in both competitions). He also scored prolifically for Leicester Ivanhoe. In 2004 he became cricket coach at Uppingham School where he has remained since.

For Kent, Ward scored 1,161 average 68 against Glamorgan with six centuries (plus another against them for Leicestershire). He also scored four centuries (and two List A centuries) against Surrey. He scored hundreds against 15 other counties, all but Durham, Leicestershire and Sussex. Only Benson (7809) scored more List A runs for Kent.

His record was impressive. With a wide range of attacking strokes, he could destroy good attacks. He scored quickly, benefitting the team and entertaining the crowds. But his Kent career ended prematurely with the suggestion he might have achieved more. Steve Marsh called him 'the biggest unfulfilled talent that I ever played with...the fragility of his temperament ...was his downfall time and time again'.

Matthew Fleming recalled Ward's response to suggestions he could play for England if he adapted his game a little, 'I'm not going to change, they'll have to pick me as I am'. Kent's cricket correspondent, Mark Pennell, wrote 'Ward could be incredibly stubborn, yet he also suffered from nagging self-doubt'. In fact, the two can coalesce rather than contradict and explain why Ward (different in character and circumstances to Fleming) seemed unwilling to risk changing a successful method on which his livelihood depended. Whilst he could sometimes disappoint and frustrate, on balance, most of those who watched him were glad he stayed as he did.

#### *Further reading:*

Ellis, Clive and Pennell, Mark. *Trophies and tribulations*, Greenwich Publishing, 2010

Marsh, Steve. *The Gloves are Off*, West Ridge Books, 2001

Robertson, Milton and Carlaw. *Kent County Cricket Club 100 Greats*, Tempus Publishing 2005

#### Viewing:

*The Spitfire Sessions. A Batter's Game*. 26 May 2020 (featuring Trevor Ward, David Fulton and Paul Nixon). Kent Cricket, You Tube.

*John Winnifrith*

### **Stuart Nicholas Varney Waterton (No.723).**

*Born:* 06. 12.1960, Dartford.

Right-handed batsman, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1980-1985. Second Eleven Cap. 1981.

Educated: St George's School, Gravesend, Gravesend Grammar School & London School of Economics.

Parents: Barry Waterton & Olive Waterton (*née* French).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	25	28	5	386	50	16.78	0	1	43/10
<b>Overall</b>	41	48	10	757	58*	19.92	0	3	79/15

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	6	4	3	35	15	35.00	0	0	5/2
<b>Overall</b>	27	17	4	294	92	22.61	0	1	17/7

### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Stuart Waterton made his first appearance for Kent in a Club & Ground game against an Army Under-25 side at Chatham in 1979 and made his Second Eleven debut in the opening match of the following season against Surrey at Orpington. By the first week of June that year he was in the First Eleven, deputising for Alan Knott against Yorkshire at Sheffield, the first of seven games with the seniors which brought him twelve dismissals (11/1).

Although averaging a modest 13.75, he batted usefully on occasions. Against Surrey at Mote Park, Kent were 88 for 6 when he joined John Shepherd. Together they added 121 (Shepherd 100, from 118 balls, Waterton 40\*). His innings of 36 on a difficult Trent Bridge wicket was reported in the Kent Annual to have 'embarrassed his more senior colleagues in his intelligent playing of the turning and lifting ball'. As a bonus, he won an award as the Outstanding Young Wicketkeeper of the Year.

Waterton was awarded his Second Eleven cap in 1981 and stood in for Knott in five First Eleven games but there was a change in 1982 with the arrival of the similarly talented Steve Marsh. For the next four seasons, when Knott was otherwise engaged, first team wicketkeeping duties would be shared out more or less evenly between them – 1982: Waterton one match, Marsh two, 1983: one each, 1984: Waterton 7 (plus a place in the Nat West Final when Knott failed a late fitness test), Marsh eight, 1985: Waterton four, Marsh three.

Writing of Waterton and Marsh in the 1985 Kent Annual, Director of Coaching Colin Page had expressed the view that their wicketkeeping was 'a tremendous problem to separate' but when Knott retired at the end of the 1985 season the Club decided that Marsh would be his replacement; Waterton was allowed to depart to Northants.

The decision was met with mixed feelings, by the some of the Kentish faithful, not least because Waterton had been prolific as a batsman for the Second Eleven. He had hit his maiden century in 1982, 154 at Old Trafford, and had led the Second Eleven averages in his last two seasons – 835 runs (avge.59.64) in 1984 including 88\* & 106,\* again at Old Trafford, and 700 (avge.63.63) in 1985 with a top score of 143\* at The Oval.

With Northants Waterton had only one season in the first team before losing his place to David Ripley. He played one List A match for Lancashire. From 1989 to 1997 he had a highly successful career with Oxfordshire both behind the stumps and as batsman, scoring almost 5,000 runs in the Minor Counties Championship and hitting ten centuries. In 1994 he played for Oxfordshire against Somerset in the first round of the NatWest Trophy.

In amateur cricket he was awarded his Club Cricket Conference Cap in 1990 and in all represented the Conference in 20 matches, 16 of them on the 1990/1991 tour of Hong Kong and Australia during which he hit over 800 runs with one century and five half centuries. Between 1991 and 1998 he played for the NCA England Amateur Eleven (Vice-Captain 1996-98) and subsequently for the England & Wales Cricket Board Eleven. He took part in the Triple Crown Tournament every year from 1993 to 1998 and in the European Championship in 1998. In 2006 he had a season with Gore Court.

In 1996 Stuart Waterton married Edna White in Chatham. During his playing days he had worked as a civil servant and on occasions as a builder's labourer, but he is currently a brand manager with Kookaburra Sports.

**Alan Peter Wells (No.778).**

*Born:* 02.10.1961, Newhaven, Sussex.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler.

Kent 1997-2000

Educated: Tideway Comprehensive School, Newhaven.

Kent cap 1997. Sussex cap 1986.

Tests: One for England. Limited Overs Internationals: One for England (both while with Sussex).

Parents: Ernest William Charles Wells & Eunice Mae Wells (*née* Dyke)

**First Class Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	55	91	4	2591	111	29.78	3	17	23
<b>England</b>	1	2	1	3	3*	3.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	376	628	81	21099	253*	38.57	46	101	227

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	108	6	55	0				
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	1171	32	820	10	82.00	3-67		

**List A Career Record****Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	59	55	7	1335	118	27.81	2	5	23
<b>England</b>	1	1	0	15	15	15.00	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	377	348	43	9381	127	30.75	8	58	108

**Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>England</b>	Did not bowl							
<b>Overall</b>	128	1	142	7	20.28	1-0	0	6.65

Alan Wells came to Kent in 1997 after a 16 year career with Sussex during which he reached the front rank of English county batsmen but was never able to quite reproduce his Sussex form for his adopted county. Joining Kent on a five-year contract after Sussex had summarily sacked him as captain in his benefit year, he finished leading scorer in his first season with 1,120 runs (avge.37.33) and, although there was only one century, 109 v Essex in Canterbury Week, there were nine half-centuries, the highest 94, plus another two in limited-overs cricket.

Handicapped by injury, his second season was a disappointment so far as the Championship was concerned with only 684 runs. Even so, there were highpoints; 95 v Durham at Canterbury which included a sixth-wicket partnership of 150 with Steve Marsh (92) and 79 & 77 at Wantage Road where he helped Carl Hooper (157\*) add 176 for the sixth-wicket from 51 overs.

In limited-overs cricket it was very different. Top of the averages with 493 runs (avge.49.30) he hit two centuries, 111\* from 106 balls v Hampshire at Southampton in the Benson & Hedges Cup and 118 from 85 balls v Durham at Canterbury in the AXA League with eight sixes and eight fours. Six of the sixes came from successive balls, one from the last ball of an over from Nick Phillips, five from the next five from Jon Lewis. With Carl Hooper (100) a record 208 runs were scored for the third- wicket from 24 overs.



Again plagued by injury, Wells played only ten Championship matches in 1999 and, to the puzzlement of many, was not picked at all for limited-overs cricket. Almost half his 490 runs (avge.32.66) came from two centuries, one in May, the other in the final game of the season, but the consistency which had always been a feature of his game, now seemed to have deserted him. In a third of his innings he failed to reach double figures.

Throughout 2000, in what proved to be his last season of first team cricket for Kent, Wells was already struggling to find form when he contracted blood poisoning in his knee. In the Championship, it was late June before he played an innings of substance, 60\* v Somerset at Mote Park. Left out of team at the end of July, he returned to the side in mid-August, as captain for two matches, but a record of 297 runs (avge.17.47) in 12 matches was hardly good enough for a player of his undoubted class. He did however play one highly satisfying innings in the Norwich Union National League against his former club under floodlights at Hove, 90 from 117 balls with two sixes and nine fours.

Alan Wells spent 2001, his final year at Canterbury with the Second Eleven, initially as captain, later as coach and was highly regarded in both roles. He hit two rapid hundreds, 103 (two sixes, 15 fours) v Surrey Seconds at The Oval in the Second Eleven Championship and 111 from 71 balls (six sixes, ten fours) v MCC Young Cricketers in the Second Eleven Trophy at Tonbridge School.

During his time with Sussex Alan Wells hit 40 centuries, averaged over 40 and passed 1,000 runs in ten seasons. Some of his best efforts were against Kent notably at Hove when he hit 161\* and with brother Colin (140\*) added a record 303\* for the fourth-wicket. In all, he hit six centuries against Kent.

At Test level, he was desperately unlucky to be a 'one match wonder'. Chosen against West Indies in 1995 at the age of 33, he was caught first ball from a virtually unplayable lifter from Curtly Ambrose and unbeaten for three in the second as the match subsided into a more than usually boring draw. He was never picked again. In another respect he was lucky. He had played in South Africa in the 1980s and appeared in one match for Border in 1981-1982. In 1990 he joined Michael Gatting's singularly ill-timed tour of South Africa; but, unlike some other 'rebels,' it did his career no lasting harm. He was appointed vice-captain when England A toured South Africa in 1993/1994 and captain when the side toured India in the following year.

As captain of Sussex from 1992 to 1996, he reached the Final of the NatWest Trophy in 1993 but a number of people who mattered were unhappy with his leadership and his autobiography in which he, possibly not unjustly but certainly unwisely, criticised some of his players, precipitated his dismissal. Happily, the breach was healed and he became a Vice-President.

An enthusiastic club cricketer, his clubs included Bromley (1999-2007, 2009-2010), East Grinstead (2008), and Eastbourne (2011-2012). While with Kent he worked with Shepherd Neame as a brand manager and on leaving the county he and his wife ran a guest house in his native Sussex. Sadly the venture ended with the tragic death of his wife, the news of which reached him while he was playing club cricket with his son Luke. Alan Wells is currently Director of Cricket at St. Bede's School, Hailsham. Son Luke became a regular in the Sussex team before joining Lancashire in 2021.

*Further reading:*

Wells, Alan. *The Captain's Year*. Two Heads. 1994.

**Vincent John Wells (No.744).**

*Born:*06.08.1965, Dartford.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm, medium pace bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1987-1991

Educated: Downs School, Dartford & Sir William Nottage School, Whitstable.

Limited-overs Internationals: Nine for England (all while with Leicestershire)

Parents: Jack & Patricia Wells.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	14	25	1	482	58	20.08	0	3	11
<b>Overall</b>	196	306	22	9314	224	32.79	18	46	134

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	814	33	414	18	23.00	5-43	1	0
<b>Overall</b>	16153	707	7920	302	26.22	5-18	5	0

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	15	10	4	203	100*	33.83	1	0	7
<b>England</b>	9	7	0	141	39	20.14	0	0	7
<b>Overall</b>	267	250	26	5722	201	25.54	4	27	77

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	180	2	106	7	15.14	3-17	0	3.53
<b>England</b>	220	3	189	8	23.62	3-30	0	5.15
<b>Overall</b>	9137	101	6761	250	27.04	6-20	3	4.43

### Twenty20 Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play								
<b>Overall</b>	4	4	0	63	23	15.75	0	0	2

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	Did not play							
<b>Overall</b>	96	0	137	6	22.83	3-39	0	8.56

Talent spotted while playing for his school, Vince Wells appeared for Kent in the Warwick Pool Under-25 competition in 1985 and made his Second Eleven debut in the following year against Middlesex at Ealing. Playing primarily as a batsman, he appeared in 14 Second Eleven matches and scored 326 runs with two half centuries with a top score of 86 v Sussex at Hastings.

In 1987 he made his first team debut behind the stumps in the Sunday League against Somerset at Canterbury and scored over 1,000 runs in all Second Eleven matches including one century, 153\* v Essex at Ilford, and nine half-centuries.

Wells' first-class debut in 1988 was a torrid affair against West Indies in an emasculated Kent side lacking seven first team players and containing one other debutant (David Sabine). In a match finished in two days in which only four Kent batsmen managed double figures, 0, six and 1 for 51 was about par for the course. In the shorter game, seven first team appearances were more rewarding, seven wickets at 14.43 placing him top of the limited overs averages and, in an otherwise disappointing Second Eleven season, he also finished leading wicket- taker in the Bain Clarkson 55-over competition.

The Kent squad was rather over stocked with medium pace bowlers and, despite in 1989 scoring 1,221 runs (avge.43.61) for the Second Eleven with two hundreds, three 90s and eight other scores over 50, Wells was never given a real chance to establish himself as a first team batsman. From 1989 to 1991 he played only 19 first team matches in all competitions, 12 of them in 1990 when he finished top of both the Championship bowling averages (12 wickets (avge.21.41) and the List A batting averages (136 runs avge.68.00). The former was due largely to 5 for 43 v Leicestershire at Grace Road, the latter to 100\* against Oxfordshire in the NatWest Bank Trophy, an innings which earned him the Man of the Match Award. Even so, he was not in the squad for the next round. 1990 was the only time in his career with Kent when he was given a run of four successive Championship matches, the last four of the season. Batting number three, he responded with scores of 40, 28, 58, 9, 50, 11, 34 and 46.

It was not enough; in 1991 he played only six first team games and despite heading the Second Eleven Championship averages with 930 runs (avge.54.71) and a top score of 205 (three sixes, 25 fours) against Leicestershire at Grace Road, he left at the end of the season. The President's Report in the 1992 Kent Annual stated that he was 'released' but in fact he was offered a one-year contract and declined in favour of a two-year contract with Leicestershire. Coach Colin Page still had faith. In the same Annual he took the view that Wells was about to 'go from strength to strength'.

Kent's loss proved Leicestershire's gain. As often happens, a change of county and more opportunity unlocked his potential – 8,412 first-class runs (avge.35.05) and 262 wickets (avge.26.68); 5,053 runs (avge.25.26) and 222 wickets (avge.27.18) in List A matches. Twice he topped the 1,000 runs in a season and in 1996 and again in 1998 played a key allround role in Leicestershire's Championship winning sides.

He captained his adopted county from 1999 to 2002. Of his 20 centuries for Leicestershire, four were double centuries notably in 1996 when in a remarkable spell between 20 June and 1 August he scored 200 v Yorkshire at Bradford, 201 v Berkshire in the NatWest Trophy and 197 v Essex and 204 v Northants, the three latter all at Grace Road. First capped for England aged 33, he played nine ODIs and was in the squad for the 1999 World Cup. In 2003 he had one moderately successful season with Durham but retired somewhat unexpectedly for a career in teaching.

Although frustrated by the lack of opportunity with Kent, Wells was prepared to accept that 'It was just a question of wrong time, wrong place'. It was perhaps his misfortune – or possibly Kent's – that his career ran almost exactly in parallel with that of Matthew Fleming. Both were genuine all-rounders who bowled medium-pace and joined the staff within a year of each other. Judged over the whole of their careers, Wells' figures are in general slightly the better, but it was widely accepted in Kent cricketing circles that Fleming was destined for the captaincy and few can have doubted that the Old Etonian would get the preference. Nevertheless, there are still some followers of Kent who wonder if the County made the right choice.

Wells is currently an assistant housemaster and Director of Sport and Head of Cricket at Sutton Valence School. He has maintained his contacts with Kent and coaches at the Academy as well playing cricket for local clubs including Whitstable (2004), Gore Court (2005), Bexley (2007-2008) and Chestfield (2006 & 2009-2011), where he became President as well as turning out for Lord's Taverners and Lashings. In his younger days he played football for Dartford and as a teenager was on the books of Leyton Orient.

#### **Robert William Wilkinson (No.680).**

*Born:* 23. 12. 1939, Rotherhithe, London. *Died:* 19.03.2020, St Thomas' Hospital, Lambeth, London.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1959-1963 Second Eleven Cap 1958.

Educated: Central Foundation Boys' School, Moorgate.

Parents: Richard Edward Wilkinson & Elsie Elizabeth Wilkinson ((née Abel).

#### **First Class Career Record**

## Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	23	39	7	635	63	19.84	0	2	11

## Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1098	42	626	10	62.60	2-31		

A great-nephew of Bobby Abel, Bob Wilkinson's career figures are unremarkable, but he was highly regarded by the Kent Cricket Sub-Committee and, but for serious illness, might well have been a member of Kent's trophy-winning sides of the 1970s. An aggressive batsman who liked to play strokes and a useful bowler with, on his day, a highly-effective out-swinger, he was an outstanding schoolboy cricketer who on one occasion scored 80 in an all-out total of 100 and went on to take all six opposition wickets to fall. Coached by (among others) Claude Lewis at Eltham Baths, he was given a month's trial straight from school in 1956 and made his Club & Ground debut on June 30 that year against First Guards Brigade at Shorncliffe. A month later he played the first of his two Second Eleven matches, v Middlesex Seconds at Enfield.

With a father in the growing trade of installing metal windows, Wilkinson joined the staff in 1957 and played 20 Second Eleven matches (including friendlies), collecting 19 expensive wickets but registering his maiden half-century, 63\* v Wiltshire at Tonbridge School. In the following season he finished second highest Second Eleven wicket taker with 31 at 22.54 as well as hitting over 400 runs. In addition to scoring 64\* and taking 5 for 51 against Surrey Seconds at Canterbury, he hit 60 against Pakistan Eaglets at Broadstairs and 87 v the Royal Navy at Chatham. He was awarded his Second Eleven Cap and in the 1959 Kent Annual the Committee report expressed the view that 'the most encouraging feature of the Second Eleven was the consistent form shown by the two young colts, Luckhurst and Wilkinson.' Both were thought to hold out 'high promise for the future'.

In 1959 he made his first-class debut. Drafted into the side against Middlesex at Gravesend due to injuries to Fred Ridgway and Alan Brown, he disappointed with the ball but, in the words of *Wisden*, 'compensated with some attractive batting.' Beginning with a modest 3\*& 10 and recovering from the setback of a pair at New Road, he scored 43 and 30 when Kent won narrowly on a green wicket at Westcliff, 31 v Sussex at Hastings, 35\* v Worcestershire and 63 v Leicestershire, both at Mote Park and 52 v Nottinghamshire at Worksop. With a gift for scoring quick runs when needed, his final record of 529 runs (avge.20.24) did not perhaps reflect his value to the side. For the Second Eleven he scored his maiden century, 119 v Suffolk in a non-Championship match at Ipswich.

Wilkinson began 1960 with 41\* v Lancashire at Hesketh Park, when Kent won by an innings. *Wisden* judged that 'on an imperfect pitch', only Bob Wilson (58), Wilkinson and Fred Ridgway (26) 'played Statham assuredly', the two last-named adding 58 for the last wicket. There followed a run of low scores, terminated in early June by a fractured bone in his hand. Fit again in July he scored 69 against Hampshire Seconds at Southampton and 64 v Huntingdonshire at Canterbury but was unable to regain his first team place and in the following winter illness struck. He was diagnosed with tuberculosis in both lungs.

Following successful treatment and against most expectations, by May 1962 Bob Wilkinson was back playing club cricket. For Honor Oak, one of the strongest clubs in south-east London, he scored over 1,000 runs and showed much of his former talent, notably against Cyphers when he hit 95 out of a team total of 195. Several match-winning performances with the ball included 8 for 51 v Old Alleynians and 8 for 35 v Metropolitan Police.

He re-joined Kent in the following year, appearing in 16 Second Eleven Championship matches and even regaining his place in the first team, albeit briefly. In the Second Eleven Championship he hit over 400 runs with two half-centuries, 61 at Northampton and 50 at The Oval and three times was out in the

40s as well as claiming 16 wickets. On his one first team appearance, against Essex at Maidstone, he was unfortunately dismissed without scoring in his only innings and did not get a chance to bowl. At the end of the season, on the advice of his specialist who considered he would not be fit enough for six-day-a-week cricket, he retired.

With hindsight, the specialist's diagnosis may have been overly pessimistic. For another four years he continued to excel for Honor Oak, where he had first played in 1958. While pursuing a successful career as financial controller with a transport company, he generally played on both Saturdays and Sundays and became a mainstay of the club. In 1966 he again scored over 1,000 runs and among several notable bowling performances were 6 for 20 v Epsom and 5 for 9 v Dartford in 1964, 7 for 29 v Barclays Bank in 1965 and 6- for 23 v Epsom in 1966. In 1968, his final season when he was restricted to Sundays only, he hit centuries against Epsom and Dulwich Hamlet.

### **Simon Charles Willis (No.766).**

*Born:* 19.03.1974, Greenwich.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler, wicketkeeper.

Kent 1993-1999.

Educated: Wilmington Grammar School.

Parents: Ray & Janet Willis.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	16	21	6	506	82	33.73	0	5	37/3

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	14	10	3	119	31*	17.00	0	0	15/1

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

With Steve Marsh firmly established and relatively injury-free, Simon Willis never progressed beyond reserve wicketkeeper, but he was first choice Second Eleven wicketkeeper from 1993 to 1999 and, like several other Kent stumpers, he has contributed very considerably off the field. He scored his maiden century for Kent Colts in 1991 and in the following year headed the Colts' team averages with 63.50 with a top score of 103\* against Sandwich. His Second Eleven debut was in 1990 against Middlesex Seconds at Ealing, playing as an off spinner/all-rounder with Graham Kersey (*q.v.*) behind the stumps. He played ten Second Eleven matches in 1991 and 21 in the following year but it was not until Kersey moved to Surrey that he became regular second team 'keeper.

In 1993 he made his first-class debut, under Marsh's captaincy against Zimbabwe at Canterbury, and in Second Eleven matches that season contributed over 600 runs and 29 dismissals. Against Derbyshire Seconds at Folkestone, he hit 102, sharing a 169 run fourth-wicket partnership with Matt Walker (93). In 1994 he did even better with over 900 runs, 38 dismissals, seven half-centuries and 113 from 112 balls in the TCCB Challenge Competition for Second Eleven Players.

For the rest of his career his first team chances came intermittently varying from one in 1993 and 1994, to nine in 1996 but at the end of the 1999 season there came a change of direction with his appointment

as Cricket Administration Manager. As early as 1994 he had become involved in youth coaching and in 1997 took part in a Kent Cricket Board coaching scheme for primary schools. He qualified as a coach at ECB Level 4 and also obtained ECB Executive Management & Coaching Skills qualifications. He subsequently became Kent's Head of Cricket Operations (2000-2001), Second Eleven Coach & Academy Director (2003), Coaching Co-Ordinator (2004-2006), and Professional Cricket Manager (2007-2008). From 2009 to 2016 he was High Performance Director, 'responsible for overseeing the identification and development of future young players throughout the Kent system.' He left to assume a similar position with Sri Lanka.

Simon Willis achieved considerable success in club cricket and in 2000 established a Kent League record with an innings of 234 for St. Lawrence against reigning champions The Mote. He is married to a daughter of Alan Ealham (*q.v.*) and is a brother-in-law of Mark Ealham (*q.v.*).

### **Robert Colin Wilson (No.658).**

*Born:* 18.02. 1928. Bapchild.

Kent 1952-1967

Left-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler

Kent Cap. 1954. Second Eleven Cap. 1952.

Educated: Upton Lane Secondary School, Sittingbourne & Sheerness Technical School.

Parents: William Wilson & Clara Wilson (*née* Shoobridge).

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	365	644	38	19454	159*	32.10	30	109	200
<b>Overall</b>	367	647	39	19511	159*	32.09	30	109	201

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	109	3	90	4	22.50	3-38		

### **List A Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	5	5	0	67	44	13.40	0	0	2

#### **Bowling**

Did not bowl

Considering his record, it is surprising that throughout a long and successful career Bob Wilson only twice played for teams other than Kent. He was never picked for a Test Trial, for the Players, for MCC at Lord's or of course for England, although he certainly **looked** better than quite a few who were. The nearest was 12th man against India at Lord's. The two odd matches were for MCC v Scotland at Greenock in 1961 and Arthur Gilligan's Eleven v Sussex in the 1966 Hastings Festival. Without wishing to offend, neither was a match likely to attract much notice.

And yet, few counties have been blessed with a more consistent batsman. Once he became established in the first team, he passed his thousand runs in 13 successive seasons, from 1954 to 1966 and in 1964 exceeded 2000, the last Kent cricketer to do so. In eight of these 13 seasons he averaged over 30, 46.31 in 1964. He shared in 75 century partnerships and of the post-war generation of Kent batsmen only Colin Cowdrey scored more runs.

Stocky and compact in build, Wilson was exceptionally strong on the back foot, he had most of the typical left hander's strokes but excelled in the off and cover drives and the square cut. Among his contemporaries, few were better in the run chases which were such a feature of three-day matches and the frequency in which he was top scorer in low scoring games is testimony to his quality when pitches were in the bowler's favour. In the field at third man, fine leg or mid off he was among the best on the county circuit with a quick pick-up and throw.

He of course played on uncovered wickets for the whole of his career and in all but one of his seasons the majority of his matches were on out grounds which, with notable exceptions, were often apt to offer more help to bowlers. 20 of Wilson's 30 centuries and seven of his ten nineties were played on out grounds. He scored runs against most of the leading bowlers of the day, his centuries including hundreds from attacks including many of the greats including Trevor Bailey, Tom Cartwright, Jim Laker, Peter Loader, Tony Lock, Derek Shackleton, Don Shepherd, Fred Titmus, and Jack Young.

One of four sons of the Head Groundsman at Bowater Paper Mills, Wilson played little cricket at school until 1945, his final year, but at quite an early age he joined in practice sessions with the Bowaters Club, little more than retrieving the ball in his early days, but gradually moving through the stages, he reached the senior side. While embarking on an engineering apprenticeship with Bowaters, he became a first team regular, playing for the company team on Saturdays and Gore Court on Sundays, although still finding time to fit in matches for Bapchild, his father's club and family's home village.

He came to Kent's notice through the long-established fixture between Gore Court and Kent Club & Ground. Opening the batting on 9th May 1951 Wilson carried his bat for 36 as Gore Court were bowled out for 87, principally through Ted Witherden (8 for 17) who was playing his first match for the County. In the corresponding fixture on 14th May 1952, he again opened and finished 107\* as the home side won by three wickets.

Approached by the Club & Ground skipper Tom Crawford, who was also a long-serving, highly influential, committee member, Wilson was invited to play a series of matches for the Seconds and Club & Ground with a view to possibly joining the staff. As it turned out, he graduated from club cricket with Bowaters to first-class cricket with Kent in the space of little more than six weeks. A week after his century he appeared, initially as an amateur, for the Second Eleven against Hampshire at Southampton. Batting number four and faced with bowlers including Malcom Heath. Richard Carty, Jimmy Gray, Peter Sainsbury and Mervyn Burden, all of whom went on to successful first-class careers, he scored 50 & 17, sharing in the first innings a third-wicket partnership of 96 with Tony Woollett (71). His second appearance was at The Oval, caught at the wicket for one off Peter Loader but when he next appeared in Kent colours, for the Club & Ground in June, he was on the staff and a professional cricketer. After a low key start with 13 against Bank of England at St. Lawrence and 32 at Maidstone against Kent Constabulary there followed in successive innings, 66 at Aylesford Paper Mills, 91 at Bromley, 128 at Foxgrove Road, Beckenham and 100\* at the Crabble served to reinforce first impressions.

On 2nd July, still with only two Second Eleven matches behind him, he found himself making his first-class debut, batting number nine against Yorkshire at Headingley. After fielding to a Len Hutton century (189), he was bowled by Johnny Wardle for two but, batting one place higher, held on for 17\* as Kent's later order collapsed in the second innings. In the next match, v Warwickshire on the Courtauld's ground, Coventry, he scored 52, adding 143 for the fifth-wicket with Dickie Mayes (105) against, among others, Tom Pritchard, Charlie Grove and Eric Hollies.

After one more first team game, 23 and 1 (stumped in both innings) against Somerset at Taunton, it was back to the Seconds where he scored 35 v Wiltshire at Sevenoaks, 40 against the same opponents at Marlborough and 35 against Buckinghamshire in the Second Eleven Championship Challenge match at High Wycombe, rounding the season off with a Second Eleven cap. For the Club & Ground, he scored one more century and as a means of enhancing his reputation he could hardly have chosen better,

120 and an opening partnership of 245 with Witherden (129) against Band of Brothers at Canterbury. In all Club & Ground matches he averaged 80.22.

Wilson was fortunate in having an unusually accommodating manager at Bowaters, a Scot with no great interest in cricket as it happened. Possibly with some friendly persuasion from Crawford, he was prepared to allow his young apprentice, while playing cricket in the Summer, to carry on with his apprenticeship in the winter, an arrangement which continued for four years.

As sometimes happens, 1953, Wilson's first full year as a professional cricketer, was something of an anti-climax. Picked for only three first-class matches, his top score was 35, against Cambridge University at Folkestone, and for the Seconds he averaged a modest 22.80 with just one half-century. For the Club & Ground he did better, averaging 42 but he still finished seventh in the averages with only one century, against Bank of England, again at Canterbury.

The 1954 season brought a complete transformation. By September he had played in every first team match, usually batting number three, with a County cap and over a thousand runs (1,433 avge.27.03) under his belt. In his first outing, in the Parks, against an Oxford side captained by Cowdrey and including M.J.K. Smith and future county colleague Jimmy Allan, he came to the crease with the score 1 for 3, Arthur Fagg, Arthur Phebey and Jack Pettiford all having departed without scoring. In about three and a quarter hours he scored 101 with nine fours, checking the collapse with a fifth-wicket stand of 103 with Witherden (45).

There followed two half-centuries v Worcestershire at Gravesend, another against the Champions at The Oval, 74 (top score) v Middlesex at Lord's where he finished the match with a full pelt running catch in front of the Pavilion rails and 71 (top score again) against the pace of Frank Tyson and the wiles of George Tribe at Northampton. In the return with Middlesex, the second fixture of Canterbury Week, he registered his maiden Championship century, 131 in five and a half hours including a third-wicket partnership of 196 with Cowdrey (95). On his favourite ground, Dover, he faced Fred Trueman at his most dangerous, top scoring with 25 when Kent were bowled out for 76 (Trueman 8 for 28). In the second innings he was top scorer again, 48.

In the fine summer of 1955 Wilson's aggregate dropped to 1,241 (avge.31.02) and he did not reach three figures until the last match of the season but there were nine half-centuries. In a remarkable match against Northants on a bowler-friendly pitch at the Nevill, Wilson, top scorer with 57 in the first innings when the team was bowled out for 161. On the last morning Kent were four wickets down in their second innings, still needing 51 to avoid an innings defeat. Wilson and Cowdrey then came together and added 227 in 180 minutes, Wilson 90 (15 fours), Cowdrey 139. Eventually set 203, Northants were bowled out for 60. Against Worcestershire at Dover, he scored 73 in a bowler dominated match in which only two other Kent batsmen reached 20 and against the South Africans he was again top scorer with 70 when Kent were dismissed for 175. At Folkestone his 107 was his second century against Middlesex and included a 114 run third-wicket partnership with Allan (67). On the last day Wilson's 63\* saw Kent through to a nine wicket-victory and a hugely satisfying double.

A wet season, he scored one century in 1956, against Somerset at Gillingham, and there were seven half-centuries but he was dismissed for single figures 17 times including five ducks. He took part in four century partnerships, three with Phebey including their first together as openers. Nine times he was his side's highest scorer, four times when Kent were disposed of cheaply, notably 29 against Warwickshire at Dover when Kent managed only 87. As a curiosity, in Tunbridge Wells Week he was run out in three successive innings.

Although hardly a vintage year for Kent, for Wilson 1957 was his best season to date, opening throughout and finishing leading scorer with 1,831 runs, (avge.36.62) with three centuries, 10 half-centuries and, unusually for one who spent most of his time on the boundary, 30 catches in 28 matches, spread around ten bowlers.



He took part in eight century partnerships, the highest 179 v Middlesex at Lord's in the opening game of the season (Phebey 86, Wilson 92). He shared three all left-handed second wicket-century partnerships with the rather forgotten John Pretlove. In the first, against Leicestershire at Gravesend he scored 157 in five hours with 1 six and 25 fours, adding 160 for the second-wicket with Pretlove (101) and 126 for the third with Cowdrey (86). His century was ended by a high full toss from Charles Palmer who, from time to time, bowled his own version of Arthur Conan Doyle's fictional 'Spedegue's dropper'. When the ball eventually came to earth it dropped behind the batsman and, in attempting to play it, he demolished all three stumps.

Missing four matches through injury and illness as well as Old Trafford completely rained off, 1958 was a disappointing season. Up to Canterbury Week his top score was 63\* against Cambridge, but he hit 127 against Hampshire (20 fours) in the opening game of the Week and 95 against Northants in Dover Week. It took him five hours 20 minutes, almost three hours for the first 28, and incurred *Wisden's* disfavour but only two other Kent batsmen reached double figures and Kent won by 69 runs. He finished with a fairly modest 1,028 runs (avge.25.07).

In many respects 1959 was an improvement on all previous seasons with 148 & 86 at Southampton, 144 & 87 v Warwickshire at Tunbridge Wells, 131 v Glamorgan at Dartford and eight century partnerships, three for the first wicket with Phebey, four with Stuart Leary, the highest 173 for the third-wicket against Worcestershire at Maidstone (Wilson 91, Leary 95). When Kent were bowled out for 171 at Kettering, apart from Wilson (87), no Kent batsman reached 20. With 1,808 runs (avge.39.30) he was Kent's leading scorer and second in the Club averages.

Peter Richardson had joined Kent from Worcestershire and now qualified, in 1960 he took over as Phebey's partner, Wilson batting mainly at four but moving up to three at the tail end of the season. Beginning well with 58 v Lancashire at Dartford, 75 at Ilford and 100 at Cardiff Arms Park, although it did not prove a vintage season -1,314 runs (avge.29.86) - the highlight was the return with Glamorgan at Rectory Field when he scored 159 (1 six, 20 fours), which would remain his personal best. With Phebey (155), 304 were added in five hours. *Wisden* had sometimes grumbled in the past about Wilson's slow scoring but rated his 117 in under three hours at Weston-super-Mare 'a grand knock).

In 1961 Wilson experienced his most statistically profitable season to date – 1,933 runs (avge.36.47) - with five centuries, nine half-centuries and eight century partnerships but it in some respects his record was curiously patchy. Again starting well with 88 v Somerset at Gillingham, 132 & 53 at Southampton and 145 v Worcestershire at Gravesend but throughout the whole of June his top score was 42. July began with, in successive innings, 74 & 117 v Surrey at Blackheath, 104 v Lancashire at Folkestone, 76 at Swansea and concluding the month with 71 & 88 at The Oval. Despite missing a match through injury, he ended only 32 short of 800 runs in the month. In sharp contrast, August commenced with three successive ducks, including a pair against Yorkshire at Scarborough. At Grace Road, Kent were bowled out for 67, Wilson 14, joint top scorer with David Halfyard, but in the second innings he registered 115. his fifth century. For the remainder of the season runs became scarce again, yielding 190 runs.

Again exceeding 1,500 runs, Wilson was remarkably consistent throughout the 1962 season, hitting 108\* against Warwickshire at Coventry in May, 101 v Essex at Romford in June and 135 v Surrey at Blackheath in July. His ten half-centuries included 95 at Trent Bridge in August. Although Kent lost by an innings, possibly his best efforts were against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, 84 & 61 in a match in which only two other Kent batsmen reached 20. Very much a part time (right-arm) off spinner, at Pontypridd he claimed the wickets of Brian Hedges, Peter Walker and John Evans for 38 runs in nine overs.

Although falling below the 1,500 mark – 1,346 (avge.33.65) – in 1963 and only twice reaching three figures, in the averages in *Wisden*, he still finished in the top 20. He again began well at Taunton, top scorer with 89, and 52 against Yorkshire at Hull in a 91-run opening partnership with Brian Luckhurst (59); only one other Kent batsmen reached 20. In the next match, against Northants at Dartford, he hit

121 (1 six, 17 fours) putting on 199 for the second-wicket with Richardson (105) and against Essex at Mote Park scored 91, helping Mike Denness (110) to his maiden hundred. This was the first of three games in which he led the side, winning one and drawing two. In the return with Northants at Kettering he equalled his highest score with 159\* (3 sixes, 17 fours) in 345 minutes, putting on 283 for the third-wicket with Leary (158).

1964, Wilson's benefit year was by a considerable margin, his best season ever. 2,038 runs (avge.46.31) with four centuries, three times out in the nineties and with 11 other half centuries. He finished sixth in the national averages and second to Cowdrey in the Kent averages. In May he played successive innings of 119\* at Ilford, 95 at Southampton and 92 at Chesterfield, each including a second-wicket century partnership. At Edgbaston Kent were dismissed for 162, Wilson 86 in 210 minutes, no other Kent batsman contributing more than 19. In the month of August, he scored 894 runs including 130 v Hampshire in Cricket Week, 101\* at Wellingborough and 156 v Middlesex at Lord's as well as five half-centuries. He took part in 11 century partnerships, the highest 193 for the second-wicket with Denness (101) at Southampton. In all, there were six hundred partnerships for the second-wicket, one for the third, three for the fourth and one for the fifth.

He captained the team against Lancashire at Blackpool and Northants at Dover, both drawn and in May that season made his first appearance in the Gillette Cup competition, scoring 5 against Lancashire at Old Trafford. His benefit raised £6,679, a record for the time, albeit a short-lived one.

Wilson had planned to make 1965 his final season. Having up to that stage little business experience beyond cricket and engineering, he had been considering his future and had embarked on a two-year training course with the Shell Group prior to joining their marketing organisation.

As usual, he began well with half-centuries in each of the first three matches and 103 in the next, against Leicestershire at Gravesend but he could not quite reproduce his 1964 form. Nevertheless, he played some valuable innings, Leading the side against Essex at Maidstone, his 94 in 260 minutes was top score in the match. At close of play, Kent needed 40 with four wickets in hand. From his early days with Kent, he was often seen at his best when others struggled. When Kent were beaten by Yorkshire at Gillingham (Close 11 for 116) he was top scorer (68) in Kent's second innings and captaining in the following fixture, at Hastings, he top scored in both innings (72 & 50) when Kent lost by 24 chasing 184 in 140 minutes. Captain when Kent won in the return with Essex at Leyton, he was top scorer again with 101 in 250 minutes, what proved to be his last century.

At the end of the season his 1,251 runs (two centuries, 10 half-centuries) and averaged a respectable 32.07 and, leading the team in 12 matches, won three, lost two, drew seven.

By the end of the season, it became clear that the proposed move to Shell was not going to work out, not least because it would probably mean moving to London. Kent had already accepted his resignation but, after conferring with Les Ames, Wilson arranged to re-sign and stay for two more seasons.

In 1966 Wilson passed his 1,000 runs for the 13th and last time. Missing seven of Kent's 30 first-class matches, his 1,025 runs (avge.27.70) was his lowest return since 1953. Even so, only Denness, Luckhurst and Cowdrey finished above him in the county averages.

Among his six half centuries were 74 & 53 v Middlesex at Gravesend – top scorer in both innings, 88 – his highest of the season – v Northants at Mote Park, where he shared a 154 run second-wicket partnership with Denness and 53 & 59 v Hampshire at Gillingham where he again shared a century second-wicket partnership with Denness (97). He was top scorer in the first innings here and top scored again at Dover with 44 when Kent were bowled out by Brian Statham and Ken Higgs for 122 and 135. He also reached his personal best in the Gillette Cup, 44 v Hampshire at Southampton when, with Luckhurst (65), 106 were added, again for the second-wicket. The next highest Kent score was 12.

In his final season Wilson played in the first six matches with a top score of 29 but was in the Seconds for most of mid-season. By the end of July three half-centuries, including 90 v Middlesex Seconds at Wembley brought a recall and he played one of his best innings against Yorkshire in a memorable Canterbury Week. This was the game in which Evans returned to the side after eight years in retirement. With both sides cherishing Championship ambitions and watched by a large crowd, in their second innings, faced with a pitch drying in the sun after rain and handicapped by Luckhurst batting with a broken bone in his hand, Kent collapsed for 100 of which Wilson, suffering from a dislocated finger, scored 50, his highest of the season and the last half-century of his career. Only two other batsmen reached double figures.

Bob Wilson's last first-class match was against Warwickshire at Dover, dismissed by Tom Cartwright in both innings, for 27 and 0. Although still doing some coaching, his subsequent career was in the different world of building societies, originally with the Hastings & Sussex at Maidstone, later as manager at their Tenterden branch. Following the merger with Hastings & Thanet (ultimately part of Nationwide), he returned to Maidstone and for the last 13 years as manager of their Sittingbourne branch.

He was a member of the Kent CCC Committee from 1981 to 1998 and is one of the leading organisers of the Hoppers Club. At Sittingbourne in 1955 he married Marlene Martin. There were two daughters, one of whom married Steve Marsh (*q.v.*).

Wilson scored over a thousand runs against 11 counties, led by Northamptonshire, 1,620 (avge.47.64) and Middlesex, 1,535 (avge.40.39) and registered a hundred against every other county except Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, Sussex and Yorkshire, three against Essex, Glamorgan, Leicestershire, Middlesex, Northamptonshire and Somerset. Against touring teams, he scored 574 runs (avge.27.33) with a top score of 83 against Pakistan.

Bowlers who enjoyed most success against Wilson were -:12:D.Shackleton 11: F.J. Titmus. 10:J.A. Flavell, B.A.Langford. 9:D.B.Close, G.A.R.Lock, J.B.Mortimore, J.B.Statham, N.I.Thomson. 8: J.C.Laker, A.S.M.Oakman, K.C.Preston, C.T.Spencer.

### **Edwin George Witherden (No.651).**

*Born:* 01. 05.1922. Goudhurst. *Died:* 06.05.2019, Goudhurst.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm off spin bowler.

Kent 1951-1955. Second Eleven Cap. 1951.

Educated: Goudhurst Grammar School.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	40	71	9	1380	125*	22.25	2	5	13

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	822	28	371	9	41.22	5-32	1	0

Ted Witherden was no stylist and did not please some of the pundits, acquiring the bulk of his runs from deflections, dabs, pushes and nudges but, blessed with immense powers of concentration, he could be frustratingly adhesive. Unusually for a batsman of his type, he was quick on his feet and a good player of spin but his method did not lack critics. The judgement of the late Bob Arrowsmith in his Kent history was not untypical. Tony Woollett (*q.v.*) he writes 'looked a good player. The same could not be said of Ted Witherden'. Although his record for Kent is ordinary, the feeling persists that Kent may have missed something. Regular shifts up and down the batting order may not have helped; in a short first-

class career he batted in every position except three, five and eleven. There seems little doubt that he was under-used as a bowler, notably more so after Doug Wright took over the captaincy.

The son of a policeman, Witherden was aged 16 and playing for Sandwich Town when he first came for a trial with Kent. The trial was unsuccessful, and it would be nine eventful years before he came for another. In 1940 he enlisted in the Buffs (Royal East Kent Regiment) where his service included guarding Winston Churchill at Chartwell and a prolonged spell on ground defence duties at RAF Hawkinge, a lively posting with the Luftwaffe frequent callers, some of them only a few minutes flying-time away.

In 1943 he was shipped out to South Africa and on to Mombasa where he joined Third Battalion, Northern Rhodesia Regiment whose officers and most NCOs were European. Promoted to Sergeant, Witherden served in Madagascar and Abyssinia (now Ethiopia) before sailing to Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) for jungle training. In late 1944 the Battalion landed in Chittagong in what is now Bangladesh. There was evidence that, faced with African troops, the Japanese made a point of targeting white officers and NCOs and, before going into action, all Europeans were issued with black camouflage cream. As part of the 22nd East African Brigade, the Battalion fought the Japanese through the dense jungles of the Arakan, supplied much of the time entirely by air. Witherden finished his war on the border with Siam (now Thailand) as a 24-year-old Company Sergeant Major, one of the youngest in the Army.

After three and a half years overseas, Witherden came to Canterbury for a second trial in 1947 and was judged 'a fair bowler and fair bat but too old'. That seemed conclusive but it was an odd time in Kent cricket history and in 1950, by which time he was on the coaching staff at Tonbridge School and playing for Leigh, he was given three Second Eleven games in August. He responded with 5 for 42 v Wiltshire at Chippenham, 4 for 48 v Devonshire at Torquay, 4 for 24 and 5 for 96 v Norfolk at Lakenham, ending the season top of the bowling averages with 19 wickets at 13.52. Although older than all but one of the uncapped players and considerably older than most of them, he was offered a place on the staff for 1951.

Few new players have made better start for Kent. On his first appearance, for the Club & Ground v Gore Court he took 8 for 17, next day 7 for 51 v St Lawrence and two days later 5 for 75 (including a young Ken Barrington) for the Second Eleven at The Oval. Picked for the first team at St Lawrence against Minor Counties, he took 5 for 32 in the second innings. Retained in the first team against Worcestershire, he was disappointing but his final record for the Second Eleven in Minor Counties Championship matches was 534 runs (avge.76.28) with centuries against Norfolk at Lakenham and Wiltshire at Swindon, 36 wickets (avge.17.88), for the Club & Ground 71 wickets at 8.70 each and over 500 runs. He was awarded his Second Eleven Cap.

He was perhaps unlucky to be chosen for only one first team match in 1952, against Warwickshire at Mote Park but for the Second Eleven he had another outstanding season – 844 runs (avge.49.64) with two hundreds, one 90 and again 36 wickets. In the Kent Annual it was announced that for 1953 he would be Supervisor of Colts and would 'act as assistant to the coach'.

At one stage 1953 looked like a turning point. Another excellent Second Eleven season, 397 runs (avge.56.71) again with two centuries, led in July to a recall to the first team for the Blackheath 'Week'. In the second match, against Surrey, Kent were bowled out for 63 (Loader 9 for 28), Witherden alone offering resistance with an unbeaten 26. When Kent batted again, coming in at 46 for 4, he batted five hours for 125\*, adding 143 for the eighth-wicket with skipper Bill Murray-Wood (93) which, with help from the weather, secured a draw.

In the next match, v Warwickshire at Mote Park, his second innings 51, 'a dour display' according to *Wisden*, averted an innings defeat. In the second game of Maidstone Week when, despite short-pitched Worcestershire bowling which earned a caution from the umpires, Kent won by an innings and he was again top scorer with 100 in three hours. With Peter Hearn (86), 143 were added for the fifth-wicket. It

did not last. There followed a pair in the next game, against Middlesex at Lord's, and only two more double figure scores for the remainder of the season. He ended fourth in the first team averages with a respectable 388 runs (avge.29.84).

1954 began well with 45 & 41 v Oxford University, 65 against Derbyshire which included a 151 run sixth-wicket partnership with Godfrey Evans (109) and 72 against Worcestershire, both in Gravesend Week. Thereafter, he played in another 19 matches and scored several useful 20s and 30s but, there was only one innings of substance, 72 v Essex at Rectory Field.

In 1955 Witherden was chosen for only six first team matches but twice more his gift for occupying the crease came in useful. At Southampton, an unbroken eighth-wicket partnership of 63\* with Doug Wright (Witherden 46\*, Wright 35\*) denied Hampshire victory. At Yeovil, on his final first team appearance, a stubborn 69 came close to doing the same to Somerset. In both cases he was Kent's highest scorer in the match. At the end of the season, he left Kent to become professional with Norfolk.

In his first season with Norfolk, Witherden headed both batting and bowling averages and in 1959 he scored a record 1,031 runs (avge.79.30). Three times he totalled in excess of 800. From 1956 to 1962 he totalled 4,794 runs (avge.45.65) with 13 centuries and took 104 wickets. On his first appearance for Norfolk against his former county, at Tunbridge Wells in 1956, he scored 94 and followed with 80\* in the return at Lakenham. In the following year his first century for Norfolk was against Kent, 108 at Aylesford. On leaving Norfolk he became professional at Bishop's Stortford College.

In 1949 he married Jean Dadswell in Tonbridge. In 1984 his son Nigel played for Bishop's Stortford against Old Hill at Lord's in the Final of the Younger Cup; his grand- daughters Rebecca and Lucy played 20/20 cricket for Hertfordshire.

### **Lindsay Jonathan Wood (No.728).**

*Born:* 12. 05.1961, Ruislip, Middlesex.

Left-handed batsman, left-arm spin bowler.

Kent 1981-1982. Second Eleven Cap 1982.

Educated: Simon Langton Grammar School, Canterbury & King Alfred College, Winchester.

Parents: Denis John & Joan Edna Wood.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	2	2	0	5	5	2.50	0	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	4	4	0	12	5	3.00	0	0	0

#### **Bowling**

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	330	12	182	4	45.50	4-124		
<b>Overall</b>	564	22	277	6	46.16	4-124		

In common with other Kent left-arm spinners who came into the game while Derek Underwood was in his prime, Lindsay Wood was never going to find it easy to win a regular first team place with Kent. Underwood was quite unlike any other left-arm spin bowler of his time and one can, if so inclined, speculate as to why Kent never experimented seriously with him bowling in tandem with a more orthodox left-arm spinner. As things stood, like Andy Hooper and Peter Topley before him, Wood never had a realistic hope of much first team cricket except when Underwood was on England duty.

Lindsay Wood was living with his parents in Wye when he made his Second Eleven debut against Middlesex Seconds at Roehampton in 1979. At the time he was still studying (Teacher Training & Physical Education) at King Alfred College but, despite playing only five matches he headed Kent's

Second Eleven averages with 17 wickets at 14.82 which included 4 for 50 v Hampshire at Canterbury and 4 for 59 & 6 for 30 v Sussex at Sittingbourne.

In the following season he joined the staff and, although again restricted to the College vacation, he was leading Second Eleven wicket-taker with 31 wickets at 16.42. Against Surrey at Norbury he had match figures of 11 for 99 and 9 for 145 v Sussex at St Lawrence.

With only 16 expensive Second Eleven wickets in 1981, it would have been a disappointing season for Wood but for an impressive first team debut against Essex at Chelmsford. Handed the ball when Brian Hardie and Alan Lilley had opened with 98 from 73 balls, he dismissed both in his first four overs and, although suffering later at the hands of Keith Fletcher (165\*), he added Ken McEwan and Keith Pont to his haul at a cost of 124 runs from 43 overs.

In 1982, his final year at College, Wood made one more first team appearance, a sparsely attended match against the Indian tourists, but, without doing anything spectacular for the Second Eleven apart from 6 for 86 v Middlesex at Ealing, he was again leading wicket-taker and was awarded his Second Eleven cap.

Following a football injury, 1983 was a complete blank but after a winter in Australia he returned for his best Second Eleven Championship season in 1984, 43 wickets at 25.34 plus another twelve at 17.24 in the Warwick Pool Under-25 limited over competition. High points included 7 for 57 v Essex at Dartford, 4 for 61 & 5 for 34 v Hampshire at Dover and 6 for 56 v Glamorgan at Usk. For the first time there were signs of progress with the bat – 54 v Sussex in the Warwick Pool Under-25 Competition at Hastings and 43 v Lancashire Seconds at Canterbury.

For a brief period, it seemed Wood might have a career with Kent. According to the Annual Report in the 1985 Kent Annual 'It is most encouraging to see Lindsay Wood in such good form: his performance in taking 43 wickets when he played very little cricket in the first six weeks of the season confirms his recovery from injury. – he will, I am sure, confirm his potential'. Coach Colin Page, not customarily over-generous with praise, went further. He thought Wood's a 'tremendous performance'. 'I had doubts regarding his fitness for a long while, but he has proved he is now fit enough to bowl long spells and his bowling has improved beyond recognition. He spent the winter in Australia and if he can maintain his form, I am sure he will become a bowler to be reckoned with'.

It was not to be. Although bowling more overs (326.5) than anyone else for the Seconds, his 21 Championship wickets cost 43.42 and, he was 'released'. Without explaining the volte-face, Colin Page in the 1986 Annual took the view that 'It is very unfortunate to lose Lindsay but with Derek Underwood continuing in the County side there is literally no place for him in the First Eleven'. The arrival of Richard Davis and Laurie Potter's decision to switch to left-arm spin cannot have helped.

Like several others who did not quite make it with Kent, Wood joined Derbyshire for the 1986 season, presumably as a replacement for Dallas Moir. He made two first team appearances and took 21 wickets at 23.19 for the Second Eleven but decided at the end of the season to make his career in education. Possibly he had seen how the game was going. In the 1983 *Cricketers' Who's Who* under 'Views on Cricket' he wrote, and he is surely not alone in his opinion, 'The use of complete covering of a wicket for three days is killing off the spinner'. In 1988 he married Beatrix Pearson in Thanet.

#### **Anthony Frank Woollett (No.644).**

*Born:* 20. 09.1927, Lambeth, London. *Died:* 26. 01. 2004, Wokingham, Berkshire.

Kent 1950-1954 Second Eleven Cap 1949.

Left-handed batsman

Educated: Maidstone Technical School.

Parents: Norwood Heron Woollett & Alice Amie Woollett (*née* Goodhew).

#### **First Class Career Record**

## Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	44	81	4	1445	96	18.76	0	5	16

## Bowling

Did not bowl

One of six children (five boys, one girl), Tony Woollett joined the RAF in 1944 straight from Maidstone Technical School and, cheated of his ambition to become a pilot by defective hearing in one ear, he became an apprentice at the RAF Technical Training School, Halton. During his time in the service he played in RAF teams at both cricket and football (goalkeeper).

He was at Halton when he came to Kent for a trial in 1947. The verdict was ‘good bat, watches ball well and has good defence’ and he made two appearances for the Second Eleven that season, opening the batting v Gloucestershire at Bristol and Norfolk at Dartford where he reached his top score, 31. He also played two games for the Club & Ground. The Kent General Committee minutes for 19th February 1948 indicate that he was to be engaged ‘if he buys himself out of the RAF and joins the nursery for the start of the season’. He was to ‘get £100 if and when he receives his cap’.

In 1948 Woollett duly bought himself out, left Halton and joined the staff, appearing in seven of Kent’s twelve matches in the Minor Counties Championship. Compiling 50 against Devonshire at Instow, 71 against Sussex at Aylesford, was twice dismissed in the 40s, he only once failed to reach double figures.

His next season, 1949, could be seen as the high point of his career. With Dickie Mayes as his regular opening partner, he missed only one game and comfortably headed the Second Eleven batting averages with 798 runs (avge.49.87) with three centuries, 168 at The Oval, where he hit Tony Lock for six out of the ground, 110 against Wiltshire at Canterbury where he put on 253 for the first-wicket with Mayes (142) and 212\* in the return at Trowbridge where the same pair put on 158 for the first- wicket (Mayes 79) and 257\* for the second-wicket with Robert Morris (108\*). There were also three half-centuries. Apart from bare figures his performance received no mention in the 1950 Kent Annual, although he was awarded his Second Eleven cap.

In 1950, although not matching his Second Eleven form of the previous season, he was given his chance in the First Eleven, against Leicestershire at Folkestone, following an innings of 97 for the Seconds v Norfolk at Dartford, in July. He scored one and 13 and was left out of the next two matches but, brought back against Essex at Clacton where he contributed 24 to an opening partnership of 53 with Arthur Fagg (57) only to be dropped again for Canterbury Week. He was back in the side for the final four matches and in the penultimate game, v Nottinghamshire at Dover; he scored 37 of a 93 run opening partnership with Fagg (63).

For the remainder of Tony Woollett’s career he would be in and out of the side. People who played alongside him felt he should have been given more chances in the first team and perhaps spent too much time in the Seconds. In retrospect, Kent’s selection policy at the time sometimes seemed irrational and some on the staff considered that aspiring batsmen should be given longer to settle into the rigours of the county circuit. On the other hand, if selection seemed inconsistent so too were most of the batsmen.

For Woollett 1951 was disappointing. Although he averaged 43.63 for the Second Eleven with two centuries, half a dozen first team games, four in May, one in July, one in August, yielded only 92 runs with a top score of 28. Next season was better. Given a run of seven games at the end of the season, against Derbyshire in Canterbury Week he scored 84 against Les Jackson and Cliff Gladwin (following a first innings duck). He also contributed 41 to an opening partnership of 103 with Arthur Phebey at Worcester.

Playing in 17 of Kent's 30 first team fixtures, the 1953 season was the nearest Tony Woollett would come to being a regular first team cricketer, Recovering from injury, he missed the first eight matches but started well with 34 and 73 at Bath only to be dropped after one more match. He missed the first game of Tunbridge Wells Week but the second, against Sussex, was the first of a run of eight first team appearances during which he scored 50 at Romford and 78 & 40\* in the return at Rectory Field. In the next four matches however his top score was 13 and he was dropped again.

Restored for the second match of Canterbury Week against Middlesex, his 49 was top score as Kent's first innings folded for 129 and he remained in the side for the final seven matches. Against Yorkshire at Dover he hit 96, his personal best, adding 111 for the second-wicket with Fagg (72) and 138 for the third with Colin Cowdrey (79). Consistency however remained a problem. There were 12 single figure scores and his final record was 698 runs (avge.24.06).

Starting in mid-May, Woollett was picked for a run of five matches in 1954 but never really got going. Three times he passed 20, the highest 34 v Leicestershire at Gillingham. In the penultimate game he suffered a pair at The Oval, caught off Laker in the first innings, run out in the second. For the Seconds he hit three half-centuries and averaged 45.66 but at the end of the season he was one of four 'not re-engaged'.

On finishing with Kent in 1954, he became a sales representative for Sharps Toffee with a territory including Berkshire which led to his settling in the county. He remained with Sharps (absorbed by Cadburys during his time with them) and retired in 1990.

In 1955 Woollett played for Reading CC and a few games for Berkshire with a top score of 51 v Devonshire at Reading. In 1961 he joined Wokingham CC to whom he gave 42 years' service, not only as an all-rounder – at club level he developed into a talented and highly accurate swing bowler – but as coach. In 1970 he founded a Colts Section which, with an annual intake of 50/60, has produced numerous talented cricketers for Wokingham and further afield. A memorial bench was erected to his memory and was moved to a site overlooking the new ground when the Club left their Wellington Road ground in 2012.

He maintained his contacts in Kent cricket and was in regular and enthusiastic attendance at the Hoppers' Club tent in Cricket Week. Throughout his life he retained his interest in aviation, expressed both in painting and scratch-built models of aircraft which won him numerous prizes at model engineering exhibitions.

In 1951 Tony Woollett married Frances Eleanor Tutt (1930-2006) in Maidstone. There were two daughters and one son.

### **Robert Andrew Woolmer (No.704.)**

*Born:* 14. 05. 1948, Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, India. *Died:* 18. 03. 2007, Kingston, Jamaica.

Right-handed batsman, right-arm medium pace bowler.

Kent 1968-1984. Kent cap: 1970.

Educated: Yardley Court & Skinner's School, Tunbridge Wells.

Tests: 19 for England. Limited-overs Internationals: 6 for England.

*Wisden* Cricketer of the Year. 1976

Parents: Clarence (Charles) & Stella Katherine Woolmer.

### **First Class Career Record**

#### **Batting and Fielding**

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	279	428	68	12634	203	35.09	28	58	195/1
<b>England</b>	19	34	2	1059	149	33.09	3	2	10
<b>Overall</b>	350	545	75	15772	203	33.55	34	71	239/1



### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	10w/m
<b>Kent</b>	18872	866	7810	334	23.38	7-47	12	1
<b>England</b>	546	16	299	4	74.75	1-8	0	0
<b>Overall</b>	25823	1131	10868	420	25.87	7-47	12	1

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	M	I	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100s	50s	Ct/St
<b>Kent</b>	273	221	35	3781	112*	20.32	1	15	89
<b>England</b>	6	4	0	21	9	5.25	0	0	3
<b>Overall</b>	291	236	35	4078	112*	20.28	1	17	98

### Bowling

	Balls	Mdns	Runs	Wkts	Ave	BB	5w/i	Econ
<b>Kent</b>	12543	241	7137	349	20.44	6-9	3	3.41
<b>England</b>	321	3	260	9	28.88	3-33	0	4.85
<b>Overall</b>	13473	263	7722	374	20.64	6-9	3	3.43

Bob Woolmer left India when seven years old, gaining his early education at Yardley Court Preparatory School, Tonbridge, founded by A.F. Bickmore (*q.v.*). Aged 11, young Woolmer captained the school eleven and from Yardley Court moved to Skinner's School at Tunbridge Wells. He played club cricket with Tunbridge Wells CC in 1964 before joining Kent, aged eighteen. He was engaged primarily as an off spin bowler but changed to medium pace swing bowling at the suggestion of coach Colin Page.

The seeds of enthusiasm for the game were sown in his early years through his father who had been a good club cricketer, once scoring 150 for Tonbridge. He pays tribute to his father in his Benefit Brochure (1984) who placed a bat and ball in the three days old son's cot with the words, 'son, I hope this will be your life.'

In its *Five Cricketers of The Year* tribute, *Wisden* recorded, 'If ever a youngster could be said to eat, drink and sleep cricket, then surely it was Bob Woolmer'. On his debut in the Kent side, he proved how well he had digested his early cricket intake by hitting 66 for Kent Club & Ground at Dartford on his first appearance and the instincts of Colin Page bore fruit early on when Woolmer's medium paced swing bowling, in 1967, his second year, headed the Second Eleven bowling averages, with 26 wickets at 15.11.

As he became more confident in his batting, he was beginning to develop into a genuine allrounder. but realised that, looking at Kent's strong batting line-up, he would need to improve that side of his game if he was to hold a regular place. During an early winter in South Africa, he used the opportunity to make improvements to his batting technique to provide more flexibility on his position in the batting order.

That time was well spent for he became an important part of the side that was to achieve great things in the 1970s. By the middle of that decade, he was a regular opening batsman, a role which he also performed occasionally for England. He hit centuries against all but three of the at the time sixteen other first-class counties and took a special liking to the Sussex bowlers, scoring five centuries, including a career best 203. His average against them of 47.20 also included three half-centuries.

He was linked with Alan Ealham and Graham Johnson in the Kent Committee's 1969 Annual Report as one of a trio of young professionals whose form gave 'high hopes for the future'. That was based on his performance in 1968 when, on his first-class debut, against Essex at Maidstone, he scored 50\*

against an attack including John Lever and Keith Boyce. Making another five first-class appearances that season, he scored 154 runs at an average of 30.80 which included 32\* against a Rest of the World at Canterbury which featured Wes Hall, Peter Pollock and Eddie Barlow in their attack. Used sparingly as a bowler, his 15 wicketless overs were spread across five games.

In 1969 he played 17 first-class games which provided more bowling opportunities through absences due to Test calls and injuries. After his promising first season his batting fell away, his 17 innings yielding just 164 runs but he made the most of his bowling and finished the season third in the averages with 21 wickets at 22.95, including 7 for 47 in the second innings of the opening game of the season against Sussex at Canterbury. He took another five, including 4 for 12, in the next match against Middlesex at Lord's but throughout the rest of the season bowled only another 116 overs.

Woolmer was one of three young players awarded their County Caps in 1970. Towards the end of the season, he secured a regular place in the Eleven and his medium pace bowling gave added strength to the attack in the County's first Championship success in 57 years. He took second place behind Derek Underwood in the averages with 32 wickets at 24.28 and his 20 innings brought him 269 runs at 16.60. His first experience of the limited overs game saw him top the Player's Sunday League bowling averages, with 32 wickets at 16.87.

He played three matches at the start of the 1970 season as a bowler batting at number nine but with limited success apart from two wickets against Lancashire at Hesketh Park. He did not return to the first team until the second match of the Tunbridge Wells Week when, after scoring 114 against Middlesex Seconds at Gillingham, featuring a 175 run opening partnership with David Laycock (77), he was brought in to share the first team opener spot with Johnson against Essex and in the second innings scored 58. In two further matches, against Essex in the return at Harlow and Middlesex at Lord's, he did little with the bat, but took 5 for 24 & 4 for 41 in the latter. He was dropped for four of the next six matches, including the whole of Canterbury Week, but returned for the final seven match final run-in as Kent clinched the Championship. Though making a modest contribution with the bat he claimed 18 wickets including 6 for 53 at Weston-super-Mare, 3 for 31 v Leicestershire at Folkestone and 5 for 40 in the final fixture at The Oval.

Woolmer's value was further evident with his performances in support of the Second Eleven's Championship success and in the Player's County League. In the former he topped the batting averages with 49.58 in 15 innings and was third in the bowling averages with 33 wickets at 19.75. He quickly adapted to the limited overs game, topping the League's bowling averages with 32 wickets at 16.87, a strike rate of one wicket every 3.81 overs.

He was a marginally more regular First Eleven performer in 1971 and in the later games struck a rich vein of form with the ball, his 34 wickets being his best so far. He scored 487 first-class runs (avge.25.63) and led the Second Eleven averages with 738 runs at 61.50. He showed good all-round promise against Gloucestershire in Tunbridge Wells Week with a first innings half-century and 5 for 38 and again took five wickets in the victory over Middlesex at Lord's. He appeared in all five Gillette Cup games which included 4 for 37 in the Third Round at Leicester and 3 for 20 in the Semi-Final against Warwickshire at Canterbury. He played in 11 of the 16 John Player Sunday League games, as they were now known, his figures including 3 for 14 v Glamorgan and 3 for 19 v Gloucestershire, both at Gillingham, and 3 for 23 at Derby.

In 1972 he played in 18 of the 20 Championship games plus the Australians and 18 of the 23 limited overs games, now increased to three competitions. In first-class matches he showed, further improvement topping the bowling averages with 44 wickets at 20.59 and 449 runs at 28.06 with two half-centuries. The County won the John Player League title for the first time, Woolmer top scoring with 46 at The Oval. In the first game of Canterbury Week, he dismissed six Glamorgan batsmen at a cost of 42 runs in the second innings, a major contribution to Kent's victory by seven wickets. A second victory in the Week, by nine wickets against Sussex, followed with Woolmer taking 6 for 70 & 7 for

65 at a cost of 135 runs. On to Worcester where there were a further four wickets and a third successive victory.

He was called up to play for England for the first time in the Prudential trophy against Australia at Old Trafford, claiming the wickets of both Chappells and Doug Walters for 33 runs, and remained for the remaining two matches at Lord's and Edgbaston. Consequently he did not play for Kent again until the final game at Bradford when his two wickets and 22 runs helped to secure runners-up spot in the Championship. It had been his most successful season so far.

Woolmer played in 19 of the twenty Championship matches in 1973, contributing good allround performances with bat and ball. His 568 first-class runs for Kent in 29 innings included eleven not outs which helped to bring him his best average so far, 31.50 despite a relatively modest top score of 56. His wickets tally was more expensive than in the previous season, 45 at 27.91 in all first-class matches. There were some miserly spells – 4 for 67 at Northampton, 4 for 38 at Edgbaston and 4 for 12 at Fenner's. He played an important role in the three limited overs competitions, Kent winning both the Benson & Hedges Cup and the John Player League. He and Norman Graham were the joint top wicket takers in the latter each with 23, Woolmer's at 13.69. He played in all seven Benson & Hedges Cup games, taking ten wickets at 20.07.

Woolmer was back to the international scene in 1974 when he was chosen to represent England in the first one-day international against India at Headingley. Not required to bat, he bowled his eleven allocated overs, taking two wickets at a cost of 60 runs.

He enjoyed his best season so far in the first-class game scoring 840 runs (avge.28.00) including his maiden hundred, 105\* at Taunton in his fourth match of the season, followed by two more, 103 at Hove and 112 v Derbyshire at Folkestone. He also had his best season with the ball, second in the Kent averages with 56 wickets at 19.01. Despite his greater consistency with the bat he remained in the middle order, for the most part between number five and seven.

In the three limited overs competitions he made useful contributions. He played in all five Gillette Cup games including the victorious final, scoring 50 runs in his three innings, in all of which he was not out with a top score of 18\*. His bowling played a crucial part in all games, with 10 for 130 in the Gillette Cup, 12 for 134 in the Benson & Hedges and 19 for 376 in the John Player League with a best of 3 for 19 at Hove. He bowled his full allocation of overs in the Gillette and Benson Hedges competitions and all but three balls in the John Player.

Woolmer made his Test debut against the Australians in the Second Test at Lord's in 1975, one of three debutants in the series led by Tony Greig. The selectors may well have been persuaded of his potential by three performances against the tourists, for Kent and MCC. In the game at Canterbury in late June he and Colin Cowdrey batted well in Kent's first victory against the Australians in 76 years with an undefeated seventh-wicket stand that had been interrupted by Woolmer's retirement following injury. His contribution was 71\*. Just one week later, playing for MCC he scored 55 and 85 against them and took four first innings wickets which included a hat-trick, reserve wicketkeeper Richie Robinson and Jeff Thomson, both caught at the wicket by David Bairstow, and Dennis Lillee bowled.

He reached the thirties in his two innings for England at Lord's, was twelfth man in the Third Test at Leeds but, reinstated and promoted to number five for the Fourth and last at The Oval, played a match-saving innings of 149. His six hour, 36 minutes century was the slowest ever by an England batsman in an Ashes Test. His performances earned him second place in the England batting averages.

For Kent he exceeded his previous best first-class tally of runs with 835 at 37.95 from 23 innings which placed him fourth in the batting averages. The season marked the start of a slow decline in his bowling, his 24 wickets costing 30.91 apiece. It was the first sign of back problems which severely restricted him in his later years.

He moved up the batting order early in the season and in his fourth game, at Chesterfield, he shared a third-wicket partnership of 222 with Denness (171), his contribution being 125. That was one of two hundreds he made in the season but just missed out on two more, being dismissed for 98 at Edgbaston and 97 at Hove. Compared with earlier seasons he had only limited success in Kent's Benson & Hedges Cup win and their third place in the John Player League rankings.

In 1976 he was Kent's outstanding batsman, scoring 1,461 runs and averaging 56.19. He hit three centuries, had a highest score of 143 and topped the averages, Kent again won the John Player League and the Benson & Hedges Cup, Woolmer playing a significant part in both successes. However, his back problems were beginning to restrict his bowling.

When Test calls permitted, he became Kent's regular opening partner with Johnson and rarely failed in that role. He opened the innings in eleven of his 14 matches and two of his three centuries were when he opened and, in that position. He also scored nine half-centuries, three of which were in the nineties.

Woolmer had secured his place in the England team and played in all five Tests against a strong West Indies side which won the series 3-0 with two drawn. He scored 245 runs (avge.27.22) in the Tests with a highest score of 82 in the first at Trent Bridge. His third century of the season was 114\* against the tourists before the start of the Test series in which he also took 2 for 28 and 3 for 25.

In the winter of 1976/77 Woolmer was selected for the MCC tour of India, Sri Lanka and Australia. It was not a successful experience, due largely to problems in coming to terms with the slow turning pitches. He played in two Tests against India, the First and Third, with a top score of 22 and, although he opened in the Centenary Test at Melbourne, his scores were nine and twelve and did not bowl. He seemed under less pressure in other first-class matches, hitting three half-centuries and his 20 innings in all first-class matches on the tour totalled 498 runs (avge.24.90). His bowling was used sparingly with seven wickets at an expensive 42.71 runs each.

1977 proved another good all-round season. He played a major part in Kent's Championship success, although on this occasion it had to be shared with Middlesex. His runs were fewer than in 1976 but 844 at an average of 44.42 put him in second place behind Alan Knott, both heavily involved in the Test series against Australia. Although he bowled only 118 overs for Kent, he took 18 wickets at a cost of 14.33, enough to place him at the head of the averages. Beginning with 56\* against Middlesex at Lord's in a game abandoned after 41 overs, his scores were 112 at Bristol, 114 & 0 at Derby, 22 & 122 in the return against Middlesex at Dartford, 55 against Hampshire at Canterbury and by the beginning of June he had 481 runs at 80.16. The remarkable start did not however continue, his final century, 101\* at Hove, not arriving until the penultimate game of the season. High scores against Sussex were becoming the norm.

His role as opening batsman was extended to the limited overs games in all three competitions. In the two knockout cups he scored 239 runs in his seven innings including 64 against Gloucestershire in the Benson & Hedges Final, having taken 13 wickets at 14.61 each in the competition. In the John Player League, he scored 42 against Worcestershire at Folkestone and took 3 for 17 at Chesterfield and 3 for 24 against Sussex at Mote Park.

He played in all five Tests of the successful Ashes series, scoring 394 runs at 56.28 which placed him second in the averages. In the Jubilee Test at Lord's he was the outstanding batsman with 79 (run out) and 120 in five hours with 13 fours which included a second-wicket partnership of 132 with Mike Brearley (49). He followed this with a second successive Test century at Old Trafford, 137 in six hours 30 minutes with partnerships of 142 for third-wicket with Derek Randall (79) and 160 for the fourth with Tony Greig (76).

Woolmer had been one of the later recruits to Kerry Packer's World Series and in the aftermath Kent had all but one (Knott) of their Test players available for the whole of the 1978 season. Woolmer had initially been opposed to joining Packer and there were suggestions that he became motivated largely

by 'curiosity and challenge'. His Test career obviously suffered by his decision, as well of course through his subsequent involvement in the 'rebel' tour of South Africa in 1981.

Kent were outright winners of the Championship and of the Benson & Hedges Cup, in the final of which he won the Gold Award for the fourth time.

With no Test calls and available for all competitions, Woolmer hit 1,000 plus first-class runs for the second time, with 1,245, including two centuries, from 34 innings, an average of 40.16. This placed him third in the Kent averages. He scored 439 in 22 one day innings, averaging 19.95. When used in the Championship he bowled economically, his twenty wickets coming at 14.60 with second place in the averages. In the one-day games he bowled 178 overs (only Underwood bowled more) with a good economy rate. His 27 wickets put him in second place in the averages at 19.66.

Woolmer continued as regular opener and up to the end of June had scored consistently with five half centuries including 92 and 50 in the win against Middlesex at Canterbury. In the following match against Northamptonshire at Dartford he made 109 in Kent's 377 for 5 dec. and the following week a second innings 92\* at Old Trafford. His 137 against Leicestershire included a stand of 121 with Asif Iqbal (104). This was the first match of Canterbury Week and Kent's eleventh Championship win of the season. He missed two of the last six but scored two further half-centuries including 56 against Sussex in the final game. He played in twelve matches in the John Player League scoring 242 runs and taking 15 wickets.

After the heady days earlier in the decade, the final season of the 1970s was a disappointment for the County, fifth in the Championship but 100 points behind runaway winners Essex. The John Player was a 'nail-biter' down to the final game against Middlesex at Canterbury. Had Kent won they would have again been John Player Champions. But it was to be runners-up spot for the second time.

1979 was however, another successful season for Woolmer with the bat. He topped the county's first-class averages, scoring 1,382 runs in 39 innings and averaging 40.64. It was the fourth time he had scored in excess of 1,000 runs in a season and his 169 against Yorkshire at Canterbury in mid-August was, at that point, his career best. It was followed by 105 in the next match at Bournemouth. Before that he had three figure scores against the Sri Lankan tourists, a second innings 101\* at Canterbury in early July, followed later in the month by 117 against Derbyshire at Chesterfield. His bowling however continued to decline. In his 107 overs he took just three wickets and conceded 301 runs. He had become much more suited to the one-day games, taking 26 wickets at a little more than three runs an over.

In the two knockout Cup competitions Woolmer's contributions were insignificant, apart from the Semi-Final of the Gillette at Taunton in which he took 4 for 28 including the wickets of Viv Richards and Ian Botham but Kent were bowled out for 60 (Garner 5 for 11). In 14 John Player League matches he only once exceeded 30 with seven single figure scores but his 18 wickets at 15.44 apiece included a remarkable spell of bowling at Chesterfield, 6 for 9 from eight overs.

Kent entered the 1980s with their lowest position in the Championship since 1956. Their next to bottom placing was due almost entirely to the failure of the batsmen and although Woolmer's average of 31.07 placed him second, he scored over 400 runs fewer than in the Championship season two years earlier. He scored two centuries including 171 against Sussex (again!) at Hove which exceeded his previous highest achieved a year earlier.

His start to the season held promise. In the first game against Northants. he scored a half-century in each innings, in the third a second innings 102\* at Bournemouth to give Kent their first of two wins in their Championship season. The next game was his 171 at Hove, 445 in the first four matches., more than 50% of his season's total. He then missed four matches in June and July and not until the second match of Canterbury Week did he register another half-century, 81 against Warwickshire, contributing to Kent's second win of the season. In all, he missed six matches, mainly due to back trouble, limiting him to 54 overs and five wickets.

He had a greater all-round role in the one day games, finishing top of the batting averages and recording his first and only one day century, 112\* in the season's first John Player League match at Trent Bridge. He also scored two half-centuries in the competition as well as 91 at Headingley in the Second Round of the Gillette Cup, finishing top of the one-day batting averages with 423 runs, average 35.25.

He was selected for the first two Tests against the West Indies purely as a batsman. Against their formidable bowling attack, he scored 109 runs in his four innings with a top score of 46 and, averaging 36.33, only 4.55 less than Geoffrey Boycott, but he was not retained for the rest of the series.

Woolmer was rarely at his best with either bat or ball in 1981 but took over the responsibilities of captaincy on three occasions, recording two Championship successes and coming within a single wicket of a third victory. In 21 first class matches he scored 934 (avge.27.39) with one century, 119\* in the second match of the season at Edgbaston and four half-centuries but in ten innings he was dismissed in the twenties and thirties when he looked set for higher things.

He was selected for the first two Tests against Australia but did not reappear in any of the remaining four. He did not bowl and in his four innings scored only 30 runs.

He did no better in the John Player League with 157 runs with a highest score of 41 against Surrey at Folkestone and, no longer considered one of the front line bowlers, his four wickets in the competition each cost 40 runs. Yet he had an inspired series in the Benson & Hedges Cup, his batting carrying Kent to the semi-final stage. In six innings he scored 252 runs winning the Gold Award for his 56\* against the Combined Universities at Canterbury and 79\* against Essex at Dartford. Those two awards brought his total to five in the competition, the highest number by a Kent player. He was also twice named Man of the Match in the Gillette Cup.

In 1982 Woolmer suffered a fractured cheek bone during the first innings against Hampshire in early July during Maidstone Week which kept him out of action for six weeks. Up to that point he had scored 699 runs (avge.41.11) including a career best 203 against Sussex at Tunbridge Wells, another hundred against Oxford University in the Parks as well as three half centuries. When he returned in the third week of August, he scored 67 against Gloucestershire at Folkestone but did not bat in the second innings and played just one more Championship game, leaving him with 809 runs (avge.42.57), a more than respectable average but his lowest aggregate for an English season since 1973.

In the one-day competitions he played thirteen times scoring 226 runs including a half-century in the Benson & Hedges Cup against Essex. He bowled 107.5 overs in the one-day games and took 14 wickets. Four wickets came in the four Benson & Hedges matches in which he bowled but at an expensive 37.75 runs per wicket. In the John Player League, he took 10 wickets at a cost of 248 runs.

Now in his mid-thirties, it was evident that Woolmer's career as a player was drawing to a close. His bowling, apart from the one-day competitions, was no longer effective although his batting still produced valuable first-class runs, mainly as an opener. In 1983 he missed his thousand runs by just six, averaging 47.33, the second best of his career. Nevertheless, the number of first-class games had now fallen below 20, 13 in 1982, 14 in 1983. It was generally recognised that, on his retirement he hoped to continue as a coach.

He began the season well with 63 at Chelmsford followed on his next appearance by 118 out of 188 against Middlesex at Dartford but suffered a foot injury which kept him out until early July. On coming back he scored 97 v Glamorgan at Canterbury, followed immediately by 129 & 92 v Lancashire and 64 & 110 v Somerset, both in Maidstone Week, rounded off by 61 at Abbeydale Park, Sheffield, a run since his return of six innings for 553 runs, average 92.16. Further injuries forced him to miss half of the remaining twelve games, but he did reach a fourth century, 120 against Surrey at Canterbury.

He played a full part in the one-day games, scoring 312 runs in 17 innings at an average of 19.50 and a highest score of 50. But his bowling again proved ineffective with just 14 wickets at a cost of 33.64. Woolmer had given notice that 1984 would be his final season, due to his back problems and his susceptibility to injury. He had been granted a Benefit for his final season.

Kent had steadily improved its Championship record from the earlier years of the decade and in 1984 finished in fifth place, winning eight of the 24 games and losing only three. Due to injury he played in just eight games, scoring 427 runs for an average of 38.81, again placing him top of the Kent averages. He played in only four one day games, all four of them in the Benson & Hedges Cup in which he opened the innings, scoring 77 runs. He bowled in all four games finishing with just three wickets at a cost of 102 runs.

It was at Bristol in the opening Championship game of the season that he scored his last century, 153 with 28 fours in under four hours, including a fourth-wicket stand of 207 with Aslett (140). It set the tone for an innings of 412 for 7 dec. in 99.1 overs. His season ended, appropriately at Tunbridge Wells in mid-June. He scored 58 in an opening partnership of 84 with Laurie Potter in the first innings against Yorkshire but his final, brief appearance came at the start of Kent's second innings against Sussex when he retired hurt before scoring.

His first-class playing career ended where he had played club cricket as a sixteen-year-old. He was totally committed to cricket for the remainder of his life. He loved South Africa and following his retirement moved there with his wife and two sons.

It was whilst with the Avondale and Bolland clubs that he turned all the cricketing ideas bubbling in his head into a coaching philosophy, building a reputation as one of the game's outstanding coaches. He had gained his qualifications as a 21-year-old and the following year he began coaching in South Africa. He joined Warwickshire in 1991 for a highly successful three years, followed by five rewarding years with South Africa, winning ten Test series out of sixteen. He built an outstanding one-day team, a leading force in that format. In 1999 they reached the semi-finals of the World Cup, losing to Australia in a tied game at Edgbaston, but with an inferior run-rate.

Following that defeat he resigned from his South African post and worked briefly for the ICC in cricket development before a further three years with Warwickshire. Whilst less successful than his earlier term, there was a runners-up spot in the County Championship and a Benson & Hedges Cup success.

He was appointed Pakistan coach in 2004 with mixed results against India but followed by a more successful series in England in 2006. They were one of the favourites for the 2007 World Cup in the West Indies but were eliminated following an unexpected defeat by Ireland.

Just hours afterwards he was found unconscious in his hotel room and was taken to the University Hospital where he died shortly afterwards. The discovery led to an investigation by the Jamaican Police who claimed he had been strangled. It was two months later before that was refuted by overseas pathologists and a further six months before an open verdict was declared by the Jamaican inquest.

Speaking from Cape Town following the inquest, his widow and sons expressed their satisfaction with the verdict and the evidence that he had died of natural causes.

In recognition of his services to Pakistan cricket he was posthumously awarded the Sitara-i-Imtiaz, the Star of Excellence.

*David Robertson*

**Timothy Neil Wren (No.753).**

*Born:* 26. 03.1970, Folkestone.

Right-handed batsman, left-arm fast medium bowler.

Kent 1989-1997

Educated: Harvey Grammar School, Folkestone.

Parents: James & Gillian Wren.

### First Class Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	30	34	13	141	23	6.71	0	0	12

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>10w/m</b>
<b>Kent</b>	4024	108	2416	66	36.60	6-48	3	0

### List A Career Record

#### Batting and Fielding

	<b>M</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>HS</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>100s</b>	<b>50s</b>	<b>Ct/St</b>
<b>Kent</b>	45	17	11	46	7*	7.66	0	0	8

#### Bowling

	<b>Balls</b>	<b>Mdns</b>	<b>Runs</b>	<b>Wkts</b>	<b>Ave</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>5w/i</b>	<b>Econ</b>
<b>Kent</b>	1773	13	1428	36	39.66	6-41	1	4.83

Big and strongly built, Tim Wren's potential was first spotted when opening the bowling for the Ashford Club and in 1987 he made his Second Eleven debut, v Glamorgan at Folkestone. He managed only one expensive wicket but, although a confirmed tail-ender, he made the first of several more than useful contributions with the bat in second team cricket – 31\* in a last-wicket partnership of 80 with Mark Ealham (52). He made another half dozen Second Eleven appearances in 1988 and had his days of success, notably with 5 for 50 against Middlesex at Harrow and 4 for 48 against the same opponents at South Hampstead in the 55-over Bain Clarkson competition.

In 1989 Wren became virtually a second team regular with 13 Second Eleven Championship appearances and another six in the limited-overs competition. He also made his first team debut in a Refuge Assurance y League match against Leicestershire at Folkestone and in the winter widened his horizons by playing for Universals in Zimbabwe. Not until 1990 was he offered a contract. Making his first-class debut in Canterbury Week against Worcestershire, he had match figures of 3 for 95 including the prized scalp of Graham Hick but in four subsequent appearances he proved expensive and his record at the end of the season, six wickets at 81.50, placed him at the foot of the bowling averages.

With Kent able to call on Martin McCague, Alan Igglesden, Tony Merrick, Chris Penn, Richard Ellison and later Duncan Spencer as well as the medium-pace of Matthew Fleming, Ealham and Vince Wells, breaking into the first team was not going to be easy for Wren and, even though he added left-arm variety to the attack, over the next three seasons his only first-class cricket was against the universities and one match against Zimbabwe B during Kent's 1993 pre-season tour.

It sometimes seemed however that Kent's pace bowling battery was more injury-prone than most and in 1994 his chance came when, thanks to a variety of afflictions among the quick bowling fraternity, he played two matches in July. He was then dropped but Kent's pace bowlers continued to fall by the wayside, and he returned for the final five matches of the season. While his overall record was unremarkable, 17 wickets at 31.35 and another eight in List A matches at 39.12, in the Championship, in Somerset's first innings at St Lawrence he achieved his career best 6 for 48, the last five in 44 balls. Against Yorkshire in the Axa Equity & Law Sunday League at Mote Park his 3 for 29 included three in four balls, among his victims Richie Richardson.



In each of the next two seasons Tim Wren appeared in seven first-class matches and, although in 1996 he produced one of his best performances in first team cricket, 5 for 49 v Northants at Wantage Road, increasingly he found himself predominantly a limited overs cricketer. In 1995 he headed the List A averages with 18 wickets (avge.24.00) in 12 matches. Against Somerset in the Benson & Hedges Cup at St. Lawrence, after bowling two wides in his first two overs, he produced his best performance, 5 for 9 in 17 balls, finishing with 6 for 41, a record for Kent in the competition. In 1996 he appeared in 15 of the 25 one-day fixtures but seven wickets at 68.86 apiece was disappointing to put it no stronger.

When not required for the First Eleven, for much of this time Wren had been the backbone of the Second Eleven attack. From 1990 to 1993 he was Kent's leading wicket-taker in the Second Eleven Championship and in the limited overs competition in 1991 and 1992. In 1992 he bowled 536.4 overs in the Second Eleven Championship and took 58 wickets, one short of the County record, at 28.03.

In 1997 Tim Wren was chosen for one first-class match, against Cambridge University at Canterbury in which he took two wickets and one in the Benson & Hedges Cup at Bristol in which Kent bowled only nine overs. For the Second Eleven he took 25 fairly expensive wickets but against Northants Seconds at Luton he had the consolation of hitting his highest score, 83 (6 fours, 4 sixes) in an eighth-wicket partnership of 112 with Simon Taylor (25\*). Unfortunately, he was less successful with the ball – 0 for 36 & 1 for 101). At the end of the season, he was not re-engaged.

There was no doubt about Tim Wren's ability to swing the ball but on occasions his control let him down and, above all, he probably lacked a yard of pace for consistent success on bland, modern covered wickets. He subsequently worked as a plumbing and heating engineer.