Past player survey

The results
The study

In Spring 2013 we examined the lives of more than 500 professional cricketers asking them about their playing career, their transition to a second career and how they felt about that career. We identified what those players who are now thriving did whilst they were playing to create that success and what the warning signs are in players that suggest they will struggle in their second career.
The sample

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of players</th>
<th>506</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oldest</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Youngest</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average age now</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average playing career</td>
<td>11 years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The splits

In this data set we present the views of:
1. All the players – the complete cohort
2. Older players – those retiring before 2000
3. Younger players – those retiring after 2000
4. Players who took two years or more to gain control
5. Players who were satisfied with their transition
The typical past cricketer is…

- White (92%)
- Turned professional after school (57%) or university (27%)
- Is married (55%) or in a long term relationship (19%)
- Has not been divorced (76%)
- Has two children (40%)
- Enjoys a close circle of friends (52%)
- Needed to find work after stopping playing (88%)
- Is in long term secure employment (52%)
- Had a playing career that surpassed (14%) or met (39%) their expectations
- Satisfied (50%) or very satisfied (34%) with their second career
- Financially secure as long as they keep working (46%)
- Paid to be involved in sport (53%)
- Satisfied with their health (73%)
- Suffers no health consequences from playing sport (68%)
- Has no mental health issues (86%)
- Is on good or excellent terms with his club, team and the PCA
- Is extremely proud of having played sport (78%)
But let’s not forget past players who…

- Have no-one close (4%)
- Are disappointed with their career (14%)
- Sustained a career ending injury (15%)
- Are regularly looking for work (12%)
- Less than satisfied (13%) or dissatisfied (3%) with their second career
- Concerned about finances or financially insecure (18%)
- Don’t have much to do with sport (5%)
- Dissatisfied with their health (14%)
- Suffers health consequences from playing sport (20%)
- Has received help for mental health issues (5%)
The national wellbeing survey

Each year the government conducts a national survey of well being. We measured the well being of current and past players to compare them against the national result. Surprisingly recently retired cricketers score significantly lower than the UK population and older past players.
Scorecard 1 - Playing

- Playing
- Transitioning
- Second career
- Well being
Scorecard 1: Satisfaction with playing career

This scorecard looked at players’ opinion of their playing career. A greater proportion of players who were not in control after two years of retirement or who have reported health addiction of financial problems are disappointed with their playing careers.

Could disappointment with playing career be a precursor to future problems?
Reason for stopping playing - sample = 505

- I had achieved what I set out to do and chose to stop playing: 5%
- I could no longer play at the level I wanted: 10%
- I chose to give up playing to pursue a second career: 25%
- I reached the end of my contract and chose not to renew: 15%
- I wanted to play but could not get a contract: 30%
- I sustained an injury which ended my career: 10%
- My body had had enough: 5%
Scorecard 2 - Transition

- Playing
- Transitioning
- Second career
- Well being
Scorecard 2 is about the efforts the player’s made to prepare for a career outside of sport.

Those who retired after 2000 are happier with their preparation than those who retired before 2000.

Those with problems in their second career are more likely to rate their transition as poor.
Those with problems today rated their transition as poor.
Players who take advice have a better transition

Players with a better transition have fewer problems in their second career

Training is the most used type of advice

Players not taking advice is a precursor to them saying they had a poor transition

Players who have a poor transition are more likely to have problems in their second career
- Families have the most influence followed by the PCA.
- Whilst clubs do not discourage they do not encourage
Ten things past players recommend for improving transition

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Recommendation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Think ahead, plan and prepare</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain experience and qualifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use the PCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Appreciate your playing days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make contacts and take advice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket isn’t everything; you are a long time retired</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use your experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Look after your money</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seek a career/pastimes outside of cricket</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Scorecard 3 – Second career

- Playing
- Transitioning
- Second career
- Well being
A second career is important

![Urgency of work - sample = 486 graph](image)
Top players have better careers after sport:
Of those who played more than 10 internationals

- 53% earned more than £50k in their highest paid year
- 27% had no longer term injury
- 79% looked after themselves well or were model professionals
- 50% attained a coaching qualification
- 26% were able to save enough so full time work was not a priority
- 66% had work lined up when they retired
- 43% got control within 6 months of retiring
- 83% were satisfied with their career after sport
- 50% earned more than £50k last year
- 85% are financially independent
- 72% stayed in the sport and are still paid
- 81% are proud
But what is it like for those nearer the average?  
Of those who played more than 100 first team games for their county

- 18% earned more than £50k in their highest paid year
- 50% had an injury that kept them out of the game for between 2 weeks and three months
- 54% looked after themselves well or were model professionals
- 52% attained a coaching qualification but 35% did not attain a qualification
- 9% were able to save enough so full time work was not a priority
- 52% had work lined up when they retired
- 43% got control within 6 months of retiring
- 89% were satisfied with their career after sport
- 31% earned more than £50k last year
- 35% are financially independent
- 57% stayed in the sport and are still paid
- 84% are proud
The vast majority are satisfied with their post playing career

Even amongst those reporting problems two thirds are satisfied with their career

Those most satisfied with their career are those most satisfied with their transition
Scorecard 4 – Wellbeing

- Playing
- Transitioning
- Second career
- Well being
The vast majority of players are satisfied with their well being. Those who took longest to find control are least satisfied with their wellbeing – suggesting a difficult transition has an impact on players’ health. Satisfaction with transition makes a difference to well being – those who how transition well are more likely to be healthy.

### Scorecard 4 Satisfaction with well being

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Significantly healthier</th>
<th>Satisfied with health</th>
<th>Dissatisfied with health</th>
<th>Significantly less healthy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All players (sample=482)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired after 2000 (sample=227)</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retired before 2000 (sample=255)</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not in control after two years (sample=160)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly satisfied with their transition (sample=58)</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Highly dissatisfied with their transition (sample=181)</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Players stay in touch with PCA and other ex-players

Contacts after sport - all players (sample=482)

- Excellent
- OK
- Limited
- I have no contact

Legend:
- Your last club
- Your team mates
- The PCA