

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

Issue no.22

IN THIS ISSUE

Graham Gooch / Natalie Sciver
Alex Tudor / Zafar Ansari

PLUS

Kent's Squad Of '95

Rookie Season

READY OR NOT?
SIX YOUNG STARS TO TRACK





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STENCIL

PCA LEAD SPONSORS:



Inside this issue of the players' membership magazine, read about how the Association is supporting future, present and past cricketers.



It's looking like yet another summer of real importance for the game as our sport and its players face ever more pressure to maintain its standing and exact value. We are forever defining and redefining its position as the landscape shifts. It is set within a global cricketing context that shows no sign of standing still.

As an organisation we are no different. As the players' union body, like the game itself, we share a collective duty to remain relevant. If necessary, we may even have to go as far as reevaluating our position to the point of reinvention - as the game itself continues to do.

Informed by your responses to what has amounted to an exhaustive process of surveys and forums, you'll see that we've reshaped how your representative body presents itself, visually and by word.

To do that most successfully we felt we needed to seek an independent partner to help us understand and reflect better what the sport's stakeholders and the wider membership thought of us and what we did. The hope was that we'd then better understand this as employees and, as

a consequence, present and protect the views and interests of the players with an even firmer grasp of our role. Keeping things simple, we've distilled that feedback to four core values. Communications Manager Luke Reynolds has written about the process, starting on page 48.

More widely, in my capacity as PCA Director of Development & Welfare, I'd like to point you in the direction of the work being done at Academy level in promoting positive mental health. It's a first for us and runs in support of work we already do in the field. It highlights the PCA's fierce and ongoing commitment to protecting and looking after professional players of all standing and length of service.

We hope you enjoy Issue No.22 of Beyond the Boundaries. It goes without saying that we value your feedback.

IAN THOMAS

PCA Director of
Development & Welfare



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joys of pencil and paper

THREE POINT TURN: PICKING FOR ENGLAND

England announce a new initiative in the selection of the next generation of internationals. Here's the breakdown.

POINT ONE

The introduction of a new scouting system is to be phased in as a replacement for a designated selection panel. Chief national selector (chairman of selectors in old money) James Whitaker left his post at the end of March. Making way for the appointment of a new lead selector, with decision-making informed by a network of scouts.

POINT TWO

Specialist scouts are already in role within England's player pathway programme. They include former England players Geoff Arnold, Jack Birkenshaw, Bob Cottam, John Emburey and Mike Hendrick.



In dialogue: England supremo Andrew Strauss in conversation with Middlesex's Dawid Malan.

POINT THREE

Focus is said to now fall on the identification of the specific players with the talents and skillsets identified as being needed by the national team when competing abroad.

KIT AND KABOODLE

Former Worcestershire man Shaftab Ahmad Khalid launched cricket brand SSK Cricket in London recently. The family-run business designs, manufactures and distributes cricket apparel and equipment supported by, what the former England A offspinner describes as 'unique and fearless designs', fired by his own 'love and dedication' to the game. "Having played cricket for several years, my vision was to create a brand that is unique, affordable and caters to the needs of all cricketers," said the 35-year-old entrepreneur. "I would like to thank my family and friends for their continuing support, especially my wife for the ideas and creativity to help launch the SSK brand." With the SSK brand looking to grow in 2018, there is opportunity for selective sponsorship deals.



sskcricket.com #TeamSSK sskcricketuk@gmail.com



AROUND 13,000 FT

Reach For The Sky

Mid November saw former England men Dean Headley, Simon Jones and Darren Maddy skydive to raise money for the PCA Benevolent Fund Legacy Year Appeal. "It was a bit surreal," said 48-year-old former fast bowler Headley. "It was like looking down at a great big map."

Rescheduling out of summer meant a bitterly cold 120mph descent. With the experience of jumping out of a perfectly good plane described as a calming experience rather than the nerve-frazzling adrenaline rush of perception and something Headley would recommend to others. "It's an easy thing to do," said the veteran of 15 Tests. "It's something to try as an individual fundraiser, or as a group. Or maybe even as a pre-season team building activity?"



The new T20 competition is the focus for this issue's column from the chairman. He writes that tapping into players' experiences from around the world will be vital in making it the very-best league it can be.



It is rarely *not* an interesting time for the game these days and this winter has proven no exception to that rule. Taking up a good proportion of the organisation's time has been looking at how the sport structures the new T20 competition, calendared to be in place in 2020. As chairman I have been part of various working parties, assessing how the event might look, how it will be governed and structured and how it will present itself as a spectacle to rival Australia's Big Bash and India's mighty IPL.

Particularly enlightening and enjoyable has been a series of focus groups, run to gain insight from those that play the game all across the cricketing world. One featuring Essex's Ryan ten Doeschate, Yorkshire's Tim Bresnan and Nottinghamshire's Stuart Broad proving particularly vital. All three of these great players have accessed 'best practice' and all know their own mind. It has been useful to gain their feedback on subjects ranging from competition structure to how mothers were successfully targeted for attendance at games in Australia. From the importance of offering up a game-a-day TV schedule, to how the sport looks in stadia and on air. Above all of this, a desire

to see full grounds is imperative and something the players regard as integral to the positive presentation of the new tournament when it arrives.

I know that the players' input has been well received by the ECB. And with domestic cricket having sat behind a paywall since 2005, breaking cover for the first time - exposing the game to a new generation of fans - is going to be key in converting interested viewers into passionate matchday attendees and advocates.

With new competition revenue comes fresh opportunities for the players and associated challenges to be met by the PCA. Seeing our members rightly and properly rewarded for playing their part in making the competition the success everyone wants it to be is important. Adding funds should also mean that the PCA is able to deliver even higher levels of member benefits, services, support and insurance. A game-wide win-win situation.

DARYL MITCHELL
PCA Chairman



COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY

Colchester-born Matt Hunn chose to keep things local for his winter downtime. "In-between working hard on my game, I was offered the opportunity to work with the commercial team at Kent," said the 24-year-old seam bowler. "This was a highly-rewarding experience that gave me an insight into the business side of sport."

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF FOR CLARK

Former Leicestershire man, Steve Clark, has started a new position as a Project Management Consultant with P2 Consulting, the world's leading project and programme management company.

Previously working in the field of derivative sales in the City of London, Clark used the PCA education funding scheme to become Prince 2 qualified. He then actively networked on LinkedIn, speaking and meeting with contacts for industry advice before an invitation to formal interview. A great example of what can be achieved with a focused plan and perseverance.

LEEDS

Linley Giving It The Beans

Trained barista Tim Linley is about to open the doors on his own coffee shop in Headingley, Leeds. The former Surrey seamer retired due to injury at the end of the 2015 season and after months of refit and refurbishment opens Coffee On The Crescent in the Hyde Park area of the city in mid April. "If you have got a passion and you want to explore that avenue then the help is there from the PCA. You just have to ask," said the winner of a PCA Scholarship Award in 2017.

@CoffeeOnTheCrescentLeeds

Number 2, The Crescent,
Leeds LS6 2NW



LONDON

Wide World Of Sport

Surrey top-order man Arun Harinath has kept himself busy over the winter with a work placement at a top City marketing agency. "I've been with CSM Sport & Entertainment, said the 30-year-old lefthander. "It involved working alongside a team dealing with the management and promotion of high profile people in the sports industry. This allowed me to build on a 2016 placement with the NFL."

Arun Harinath and Matt Dunn enjoy a laugh during a match between Sussex and Surrey at Hove.



AN OVER AT...

Colin Metson

54, former Middlesex and Glamorgan stumper

1

Where did your love of cricket begin?

I spent a huge amount of time at Winchmore Hill cricket club in North London. I was in Middlesex's junior section from the age of 12 and was one of the lucky ones that went the distance.

2

Were you always a wicketkeeper?

I was. And I was batting down the order even then. But Middlesex coach Don Bennett liked the look of me, which helped. I was on the staff aged 17 and made my debut against Derbyshire at Derby in 1980.

3

Why did you move clubs?

First team appearances were reliant on Paul Downton being in the England side. I had a pretty good run with Middlesex right until the point that he dropped Australia's Allan Border in a Test match! He was then back full-time and batting in the top six. I was 24 and feeling blocked. There was, at that time, opportunities for wicketkeepers at either Glamorgan or Somerset. As it turned out, Neil Burns went to Taunton from Essex and I moved to Wales.

4

What did you make of the change?

The standard wasn't as high as it was at Middlesex - that was a dressing room of internationals. I joined Glamorgan at the same time as Alan Butcher came from Surrey and Ravi Shastri signed as our overseas. Hugh Morris was captain and Matthew Maynard was just starting out. It was a side with potential but still felt good to not be fighting for my place every week.

5

When did you play your best cricket?

Between 1991 and 1995. We won the Sunday League in 1993 and finished second to Middlesex in the championship. The highlight was standing up to medium-pacers Steve Barwick and Roland Lefebvre for the last four overs of 40-over games. With the opposition regularly needing 30-odd to win and feeling in sight of victory, the pair would bowl yorker after yorker to close out games for us. This happened, I'd say, nine times out of ten.

6

What has kept you busy after cricket?

I'd always worked during the winters. My first 'proper job' was as a project coordinator with an international freight forwarding company. That lasted until 2004, where I joined the Sports Council of Wales, the equivalent of Sport England. I became Glamorgan's Director of Cricket in 2011 until a restructuring saw six director-level roles go down to four. My wife and I now have an indoor play centre called Adventure Island (Barry). We've owned it for just short of five years now.





Save The Date Thursday October 4 at The Roundhouse in Camden is the time and place, as the NatWest PCA Awards elbows its way to the front yet again for what is the sport's biggest and best party. An evening of music, fun and celebrating success with a host of county and England greats.

Email Daisy Newman for details - daisy.newman@thepca.co.uk

Look After Yourself

Blenheim Palace played host to 16 current and former professional sportsmen for a one-day entrepreneurs workshop.

The PCA/RPA joint-initiative was delivered by Fab Accelerator and offered expert advice and experience to those setting up on their own. "We know professional cricketers have the work ethic and focus necessary to become successful entrepreneurs, said business owner Gary Frank. "But they showed beyond any doubt that they have the ability as well."

The day highlighted the skills and qualities needed to be a successful self-starter, with business acumen far from the top of the list. For former Kent

allrounder, Adam Ball, the day helped him recognise his own potential.

"The way they got us thinking was very interesting and opened my eyes up to how creative I actually can be when I put my mind to it."

For Warwickshire's Olly Hannon-Dalby, the experience of tackling the exercises alongside current professionals from another sport was as useful as the content itself. "I really enjoyed sharing ideas with the rugby lads. It was great to understand that some of the worries we have aren't restricted to cricket."

PCA PDM Charlie Mulraine worked on the project alongside the RPA's Head of Personal Development, Ben McGregor.

"Frank and his team from Fab described the day as 'inspiring'. I'm confident that the players all have the skills needed to do their own thing once they've retired from the professional game."



DALE HITS 50 AT WORLD CUP. POSSIBLY

Life begins at 50, or 49 if the rules allow it. That's the hope for former Glamorgan allrounder Adrian Dale who has recently 'switched allegiances' to debut – albeit a few months young – for New Zealand Over 50s in a recent series against Australia.

Dale moved to Auckland in New Zealand's North Island after retiring from the game in 2004 and currently works for NZ Cricket as General Manager of Community Cricket. Turning 50 in October means the veteran of 251 first-class matches is likely to be in-the-nick-of-time available for selection for the inaugural Over 50s World Cup in Australia at the end of the year. An event to which England will also be sending a team.



NOTTINGHAM

Raising The Bridge

Trent Bridge's iconic Radcliffe Road Stand is currently undergoing something of a facelift, seeing the addition of a new multi-million pound top floor. The added upper layer – rising three floors above the existing media accommodation at the world's third oldest Test ground – will provide additional broadcast space, plus a state-of-the-art bar and restaurant. Affording 'diners and winners' panoramic views across the ground and surrounds, the scheme is scheduled for completion ahead of England's ODI against Australia on June 17.

Off-Season Activity

- for now and the future

Nathan Buck

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

"I spent two days a week, from October to December, working with Macildowie; a recruitment company based in the Midlands. At 26 I felt I needed to. From just this small amount of time exploring a different industry, I feel more rounded and no longer fear coming out of the game as much as I did."

Freya Davies

SUSSEX & ENGLAND WOMEN

"It's always been important for me to have a clear plan if cricket did not work out and while in the England Academy I graduated from the University of Exeter with an LLB Honours in Law. All parties were understanding, which allowed me to do what I needed to gain a 2:1 and to be awarded a rookie England contract. Post-cricket I've an ultimate intention of becoming a solicitor."

Michael Richardson

DURHAM

"I started a CIMA qualification this winter to help the transition into the corporate world, should that be the route I go down after cricket - and passed the exam I sat this winter. It's the start of a long road but the qualification is globally recognised and well regarded. The course material can be done remotely - and in my own time - so hopefully I can keep the momentum going."

Georgia Elwiss

ENGLAND WOMEN

"While at Loughborough University I became really interested in nutrition. I began a one-day-a-week internship at Mac-Nutrition, enabling me to learn how to operate a small business. I completed an IOC Diploma in Sport Nutrition, over two years of part-time study. I am now a qualified nutritionist and can work with clients alongside my cricket and after I finish playing."

Harvey Hosein

DERBYSHIRE

"I approached PDM Charlie Mulrairie and asked if there were any opportunities. He had a contact at Smith & Williamson, a financial services and investment management company. They were offering a rounded experience across all aspects of the business. I was quick to get my name down."

Alice Davidson-Richard

KENT & EWSA

"Graduating from the University of Leeds, I knew I wanted a job that allowed me to carry on training for cricket. I became an Exercise Specialist (PT) at a local gym and I have been working there for just over a year now. It changes from four days a week in the off-season, to a single day as cricket ramps up."

Jack Shantry

WORCESTERSHIRE

"This winter I have been spending time with the club sponsors Blackfinch, courtesy of the WCCC and the PCA programme. They are a fast-growing firm, working in investment and financing. It was especially useful to understand the different routes their team members had taken to get into the world of finance and progress."

Josh Poysden

WARWICKSHIRE

"I've been doing an online course in Education & Training through Virtual Learning UK. I spent most the winter in Sydney, meaning the course was perfect to do alongside this. I found it easy to manage the study and able to complete the assessments when I wanted. The course tutor has also been extremely helpful."

Cricket Falls In Line 2018 sees the game follow ball sports around the world by adding provision for players to be sent from the field of play to the statute book.

ECB operations manager, Alan Fordham, intimated that the new powers were in play to protect cricket's standards rather than added to address any perceived crisis of conduct. With four levels of behaviour under scrutiny and review, Level 3 and 4 breaches constitute 'sending off' offences. All are a response to MCC updating the Laws of the game in October 2017.



Just play.
Have fun.
Enjoy the
game.

**Mitchell
Claydon,**
kentcricket.co.uk
player profile

AUSTRALIA

Making It Official

Kent seamer Mitchell Claydon has had a busy winter spent enjoying coaching duties as part of the Big Bash.

Whilst the role offered the 35-year-old invaluable hands-on experience in T20 cricket it was his development as an umpire as the prime motivator.

The former Durham man has taken every opportunity to officiate. Everything from schools cricket to second grade matches. If cricket commitments allow, the veteran of over 100 first-class matches will be looking to stand in a number of games during the coming English summer.



A SHAKE OF THE MONEY TREE

PCA members with currency exchange requirements can find themselves preferential transfer rates, courtesy of an extended partnership with industry experts, Worldwide Currencies.

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COMMUNICATIONS CHANGES AT PCA

Luke Reynolds has been promoted to PCA Communications Manager with Tom Birtwistle joining as Communications Executive in a restructure in the comms team.

Luke joined the PCA in the summer of 2013 as Social Media Executive for the Team England Player Partnership department, before progressing to Communications and Marketing Executive in early 2017. Luke has recently overseen the PCA rebrand, new website and mobile application.

Tom held a joint role with Bolton Wanderers and the Bolton Wanderers Community Trust and will bring his experience of working with digital media in professional football to the PCA.

The new structure will see a refined approach to communications. Push notifications on the app, a simplified website and a digital media strategy will add to existing channels, which include your Beyond the Boundaries magazine.

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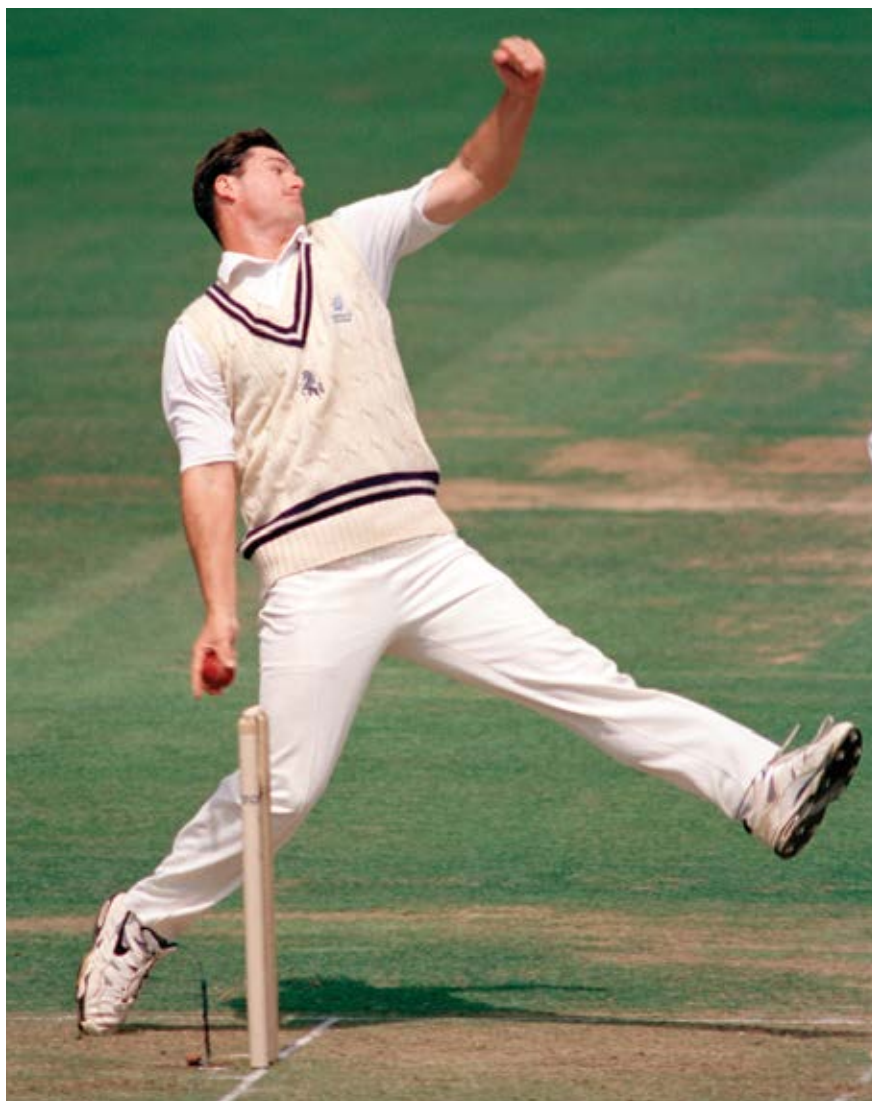
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Where Are They Now?

Together again - Kent's class of '95. Tom Jones did the detective work.

One-day finalists and Sunday League wizards, Kent won the 1995 AXA Equity & Law League with a side of local heroes and a gun overseas star. It was the fourth time they'd got their hands on the 40-over trophy, holding off Warwickshire and Worcestershire on 'goal difference' alone.

But the side's visit to NW8 that summer for a Lord's final was a heartbreaker. With not even a masterful 112 from Aravinda de Silva enough to haul in Lancashire's first innings 274-7 in 55 overs, Kent falling 35 runs short. Led by skipper Steve Marsh, those 11 valiant Kentish Men, or Men of Kent, on July 15 were...

MARK EALHAM The former England allrounder combines bowling coach duties at Kent with the Head of Cricket role at The King's School, Canterbury.

DAVID FULTON After retiring in 2006, opening batsman Fulton joined the media and is now a reporter with Sky Sports.

TREVOR WARD Settling in Leicestershire after a spell with the Midlands, Ward is now cricket professional at Uppingham School.

NEIL TAYLOR Long-time number 3, Taylor is working as a part-time batting coach with Kent Academy and in local schools.

ARAVINDA DE SILVA After retiring from cricket, de Silva remained



Clockwise: Martin McCague was also the club's top wicket-taker during the Sunday League triumph with 21 victims; All smiles as Kent lift the Sunday League trophy on the balcony at Canterbury. Aravinda de Silva in scintillating form during the B&H Cup final at Lord's v Lancashire. The squad at the start of the summer.



in the international game as chairman of Sri Lankan Cricket's selection committee. Holding post for 13 months, he is now Deputy Chairman of a large motor business, Ideal Automobiles.

GRAHAM COWDREY Van Morrison-loving Cowdrey is employed by the ECB as a Cricket Liaison Officer officiating at first class-matches around the county game.

MATTHEW FLEMING A former Royal Green Jacket, England one-day allrounder Fleming was also President of the MCC and an ECB director. The hard-hitting righthander has also held several senior roles in his family's wealth management business and is currently a partner at StoneHage Fleming.

STEVEN MARSH The swashbuckling wicketkeeper-batsman held a longstanding

position on the PCA executive roster before moving into the finance industry as a foreign exchange broker.

MARTIN MCCAGUE The wholehearted former England fast bowler embarked on a career in the booze business with brewers Shepherd Neame and is now Director of Sales at wine wholesalers Matthew Clark.

DEAN HEADLEY Another former England fast bowler, the Kent and Worcestershire man set out in the paper industry but is now Cricket Master at Stamford School in Lincolnshire.

TIM WREN Left-armed Wren worked as a plumbing and heating engineer in the off-season during his playing days and continues to do so in the family business in Folkestone.

SECR ETCR ICKER TER.

A county pro reaches out for advice in confidence, following a challenging workplace experience. His PDM responds.



Dear PDM,

A placement has left me feeling totally out of my depth, when working in areas and on projects I knew nothing about.

The environment was so alien to me, with people using industry language that I didn't understand. I was being asked to use computer software that was unfamiliar to me - and for hours on end.

It has been so demoralising an experience, I have to say, it has really made me question whether I would be prepared to do another work placement any time soon.

Dear Cricketer,

Thank you for sharing an experience that didn't prove itself to be the positive, affirming one you were seeking. While the spell didn't match up to your expectations I would like to highlight some positives you might take away.

Firstly, the resilience you showed. You stuck it out and upheld your end. Just completing the placement is a massive positive. It shows that you can overcome a tough situation.

Secondly, it's a tick in a box. Even if it hasn't shown itself to be the job or industry for you, you can chalk it off the list and move on to the next opportunity. Knowing more about yourself and more of what you're likely to enjoy, with the benefit of the experience you now have.

Thirdly, you've added skills that weren't there previously. You have gained office experience, IT skills and industry insight and knowledge.

With all of the above comes overarching personal growth as a bonus. When you compare the person you were prior to this work placement to the person you are now you will notice different things about yourself and realise new strengths and skills are there. You will also be able to identify areas to further develop and that is only going to stand you in good stead in the long term.

Congratulations are deserved. On everything you achieved. On to the next challenge.

—
For more on how to make yourself most effective in the modern workplace go to page 60

Getting The Best Of You

Four PCA Members have been rewarded for their outstanding off-field efforts by being named PCA Personal Development Scholarship Award winners for 2018.

Current players Ollie Sale of Somerset and Luke Wells of Sussex joined former county pros Michael Roberts and Joe Gating to win the prestigious awards in 2018.

The scheme, now in its sixth year, sees PCA members take part in a wide range of Personal Development initiatives, with the award throwing the spotlight on some of the best examples of cricketers getting 'on the front foot'.

The membership competes in three categories: Newcomers, Current and Past Players. After a written application stage, the shortlisted candidates are invited for a panel presentation at Edgbaston, offering their thoughts on the Personal Development process, before answering questions on their submissions.

THE NEWCOMERS AWARD

Aimed as it sounds at those fresh to the idea of Personal Development and saw Somerset's Ollie Sale top the pile. Ollie graduated in 2017 with a first class Honours Degree in Business Management from Newcastle University, having previously co-founded 'Student Bubble' in 2016, a web- and mobile-based platform that assists undergraduates across seven UK cities source accommodation.

Commenting on his achievements Sale said: "Part of the reason I've tried to be so proactive with my personal development in recent years is to provide a platform if cricket doesn't work out. I've had some injuries already in my career and that has opened my mind to a life beyond the game, as I know I won't be able to play forever".

CURRENT PLAYER AWARD

Sussex's Luke Wells is in the process of completing a degree in History through the Open University, highlighting the discipline required to study remotely whilst an active player. The lefthander was adamant that the change in focus offered by his studies was having a positive impact on his cricket. The soon-to-be-father said: "I've had my best seasons since taking up the books again. I hope it continues."

PAST PLAYERS AWARD

This is shared in 2018 by former Hampshire players Michael Roberts and Joe Gating.

Gating, who has spent the majority of his career at Sussex, is studying an Open University degree in Sport, Fitness and Coaching. The flexibility of this remote study option is allowing the 30-year-old to take a sabbatical from teaching at the Norwich School in Norfolk, to develop his coaching experience at the Darren Lehmann Cricket Academy in Adelaide.

Roberts, who successfully completed the Barcelona Marathon last year in aid of the PCA Benevolent Fund, is currently working at London Irish Rugby Club as a Sports Psychologist, having balanced a job in the City with gaining Masters Degrees in both Sport Psychology and Applied Sports Psychology.

Winners receive a financial award against the costs of courses as well as serving as PCA Personal Development Ambassadors for 2018.

The next round of applications for scholarship awards fall due in November 2018. Contact your PDM if interested, especially if you have secured work experience or gained qualifications this winter.



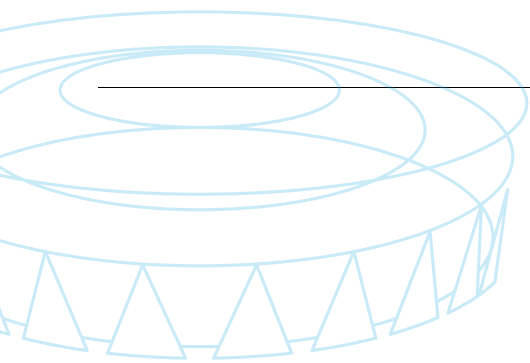
BANGING HEADS, TOGETHER

As a result of a new law, teams will be able to make 'like-for-like' player replacements in the event of one of their ranks sustaining a concussion or a suspected concussion in county cricket or Women's Super League.

"This is a change made in the interests of player safety and health," said ECB chief medical officer, Dr Nick Peirce. "And while concussion is not as common in cricket as in contact sports such as rugby, our research has shown an average of around 15-20 incidents in first and second team cricket during each of the last few seasons."

Protocol is in place for a five-minute on-field assessment to be the starting point in the decision-making process. With the outcome of that discussion ruled on by the cricket liaison officer away from the middle.

Alan Fordham, the ECB's head of cricket operations, said that agreeing what constitutes a suitable and fair replacement would need some flexibility and interpretation in ensuring that no strategic benefit was gained.



CRICKET TO SAY 'MAYBE' TO LONDON STADIUM?

It emerged last year that the England and Wales Cricket Board is considering high-capacity venues at the request of the International Cricket Council for the staging of World Cup matches.

The 60,000-seat London Stadium is much larger than any UK cricket ground and would fit the bill. But there are hoops to get through...

However, a number of other feasibility issues must be addressed. To stage cricket, the stadium's seating configuration would be similar to that used for athletics, rather than as employed by tenants West Ham United for football matches.

Obstacles to overcome include the cost-effectiveness of turfing the entire playing area and the suitability of drop-in pitches, which are rarely used in the UK.

Eleven traditional cricket venues - Lord's, The Oval, Trent Bridge, Edgbaston, Old Trafford, Headingley, Cardiff, Southampton, Chester-le-Street, Taunton and Bristol - are in line to host matches.

Of that list, Lord's has the highest capacity - hovering around 30,000.

However, the ICC is keen to replicate the 2015 World Cup in Australia and New Zealand, which saw attendances in excess of 90,000 in Melbourne, and games held at other large stadiums in Sydney, Adelaide and Auckland.

Of those, Auckland's Eden Park, traditionally a rugby ground, has dimensions that left the straight boundaries incredibly short.

London Stadium has previously been considered by Essex for domestic Twenty20 matches.

New! In Cricket

The stuff you might easily have missed. At a glance. Terrible headlines.



THREE OUT

Nottinghamshire's Alex Hales and Yorkshire's Adil Rashid agree white-ball only contracts with their counties. Swing bowler Reece Topley will also focus on limited overs cricket with Hampshire due to medical advice.



PLAYER MOVES

Batsman Sam Northeast has signed a 'long-term' contract to join Hampshire from Kent, the south coast club winning the race for the 28-year-old's signature ahead of a field reported to be the 'greatest ever' in for an English player.



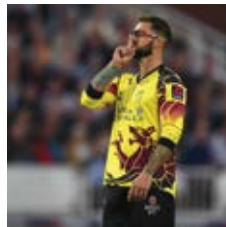
TALL BOWLER

Australia's mile-high seamer Billy Stanlake has agreed terms with Yorkshire. The 6'7" Adelaide Strikers man joins the Vikings for a summer in the Vitality Blast.



ICE RINKS

The first day of Spring and with a fortnight until the counties embark on the now traditional round of pre-season, sub-zero, woolly-hatted friendlies, according to social media, all 18 county home grounds find themselves under blankets of snow.



ICE DRINKS

Somerset's combative allrounder Peter Trego took it upon himself to provide soup and hot drinks for rough sleepers in his hometown of Weston-super-Mare during the coldest part of the winter, garnering support from local businesses.



ICE BRINK

The Swiss alpine resort of St Moritz hosted teams from across the globe for a game of cricket played on a frozen lake. Former England men Matt Prior and Monty Panesar featured.



COACH TRIP

Former Gloucestershire and England bowler Jon Lewis has taken the helm of the England U19 side as head of England's Young Lions programme. He replaces Andy Hurry who returns to Somerset as Director of Cricket.



MVP UPDATE

As England's winter white-ball campaign ends there are two new faces topping the MVP Rankings. David Malan led the way in T20s while allrounder Chris Woakes finished highest in ODIs.



WONDER WYATT

Danielle Wyatt hit a career-best 124 from 64 deliveries as England women beat India in the recent T20 tri-series, amassing 15 fours and five sixes in a record-breaking run chase.

Giving 100 & 10 Per Cent

A sample group of 418 past professionals completed a recent survey asking a variety of questions about their lives inside and outside the boundary ropes. Here are some of the more revealing answers offering real food for thought.

84.62%

OF PLAYERS INDICATED THEY WOULD HAVE LIKED TO HAVE ACCESSED THE CURRENT LEVELS OF SUPPORT AVAILABLE IN TRANSITIONING OUT OF THE SPORT

37%

EXPERIENCED FINANCIAL DIFFICULTY WITHIN FIVE YEARS OF RETIRING FROM THE SPORT

One in nine

REPORTED SEEING THE MISUSE OF SLEEPING OR PAIN MEDICATION

Only 26 per cent

PLAYED MORE THAN 100 FIRST-CLASS GAMES

16%

OF PLAYERS SURVEYED SAID THEIR MENTAL HEALTH HAD SUFFERED AND THEY HAD SOUGHT HELP

12%

SUSTAINED AN INJURY THAT ENDED THEIR CAREER

Only eight per cent

OF PROFESSIONALS SAID THEY DID NOT NEED A CAREER AFTER PLAYING

99%

BELIEVE THAT CURRENT PLAYERS WERE RIGHT TO RECEIVE PROGRAMMES THAT SUPPORTED THEIR TRANSITION FROM THE GAME

8%

DIVORCED WHILST PLAYING AND 20 PER CENT SEPARATED WITHIN THREE YEARS OF FINISHING THEIR PLAYING CAREER

If I Knew Then...

Former Surrey, Essex & England man Alex Tudor offers his 'young self' the benefit of a lifetime spent in cricket.

“ **Be wary of social media.** Don't get drawn into arguments with keyboard warriors out there. What you say and how you behave hangs around.

“ **Cricket doesn't get any better than playing the game with and against your heroes.**

“ **Be humble.** Be true to yourself. Sign autographs. And if you can't sign an autograph right that minute when you're asked, tell the person you will be back to sign for them.

“ **There is no excuse for being a poor fielder.** If you can't do it well, you will not play at the highest level. Gone are the days of being just a batsman or bowler.

Alex Tudor will be captaining the PCA England Masters across the summer, visit thepca.co.uk/pca-england-masters for the full list of fixtures



“Get out and meet people. You never know, you might be meeting your future boss.

“Take onboard everything the coach tells you. Take it in and train hard.

“Learn some skills as a bowler. Have a good yorker and even if you miss with it a first time, find the confidence to go for it again.

“Despite how you might think things are going, you’re only an injury away from it all being over. Take the opportunity to experience everything that presents itself.

“Do other things. It helps you relax and play your best.

ON THE ROAD

The pre-season period saw PCA's Ian Thomas, Ali Prosser and Rich Hudson lead meetings at all 18 county clubs.

Accompanied by the region's Personal Development Managers, sessions saw members brought up to speed on how the Association supports the membership across a whole range of subjects. With one matter high on the agenda being the new T20 competition. Player Contracts Advisor Rich Hudson's input was a new addition to proceedings, offering a wealth of knowledge and experience in this field.

RUBBING SHOULDERS WITH THE BEST

It has been a winter of discovery for Essex gloveman James Foster. Whilst maintaining commitments as a coach at Forest School, the former England man received the call to join Khulna Titans as an assistant coach. It also proved an opportunity to access the knowledge of head coach and former Sri Lanka run machine, Mahela Jayawardene.



MOZAMBIQUE

Out Of Africa

Former Lancashire and Leicestershire batsman Iain Sutcliffe has set up a charity identifying high-potential cricketing scholars in Africa, with the aim of nurturing their skills and attributes through the implementation of a cutting-edge leadership, coaching and character education programme. Called the Young African Leadership Program (YALP), the first recipients of the scholarship awards have been identified as students in Mozambique, attending the innovative Enko Benga International School in Tete.

The heart of YALP's vision is to inspire and equip the next generation of future African leaders, drawing upon the expertise of leading educators to deliver innovative leadership programmes which have been quality assured by Oxford University.

If you would like to make a contribution to the charity or get involved, then please visit the website yalp.org.uk



Zafar Ansari

Former Surrey and England allrounder on his career, then and now

WHAT WERE YOUR CRICKETING ASPIRATIONS GROWING UP?

Becoming a professional cricketer was always something I committed to, but not something that I specifically targeted. Even though I dedicated plenty of time and effort to playing cricket to the highest level, it was always a case of if it was going to happen, it would happen naturally.

TO CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY FROM SCHOOL - HOW DID YOU MANAGE ACADEMIC PRESSURE WITH BEING AN ASPIRING PROFESSIONAL CRICKETER?

I trained every day and spent a lot of time in the gym. I would say I put in as much training time at university as I would have done within a usual county set-up. Academically, the pressures could be stressful but it was always in the knowledge that there would be a couple of hours in each day where I could escape the books and work on something different.

HOW DID YOU MANAGE THE TRANSITION FROM UNIVERSITY TO BECOMING A FULL-TIME PRO?

One thing that really helped was enrolling on a Masters degree straight away. Although it

was part-time and self-driven it replicated my university life in terms of maintaining an academic challenge, which I think I needed.

I had done well in white-ball cricket during my summers between university terms and felt established in that area. In terms of the four-day game, because at university you are playing against people that are generally of lesser ability, it is difficult to prepare yourself for the challenges of Championship cricket.

IN SEPTEMBER 2015 YOU WERE NAMED IN THE ENGLAND TOURING PARTY FOR THE SERIES WITH PAKISTAN, BUT IT DIDN'T QUITE GO TO PLAN?

No, I think that's fair to say. I picked up a thumb injury when fielding on the same day I was selected for England. In hindsight it was quite an important moment in my career as I had been playing well for a couple of years, so the call-up felt a logical and natural progression. I was then picked the following year for tours of Bangladesh and India, but the selection felt more in recognition for what I had done previously rather than a reflection on my form at the time.

CAN YOU DESCRIBE YOUR INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES?

It was amazing to be awarded an England cap and the memory of taking wickets is something I cherish. It has only been 18

months since it happened and I still live those moments and enjoy the fact that it happened. I actually travelled with a couple of injury issues - a bad back being one and a thumb injury the other. I felt physically underprepared and not really in a position to make the most of the opportunity.

YOU RETIRED SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING HOME FROM THAT ENGLAND TOUR. HOW DID THAT COME ABOUT?

I was looking forward to the season ahead. Even if I never played for England again, I could be proud of my achievements and work hard to have a successful county career with Surrey. But I began to grow ambivalent to the day-to-day experience of playing. The feelings around failing at times, balanced with the joys of success, are something I have always been able to manage quite well but that balance was becoming harder and harder to reach. I took some time to reflect on what I felt and spoke to my family. Essentially it happened quite quickly, but I knew it was the correct decision.

TELL US ABOUT LIFE AFTER CRICKET?

I am working as a Youth Advocate for Just for Kids Law, alongside studying for a law conversion course. The role involves acting as a non-legal representative for young people aged 16-25. Any young person who has issues around immigration, homelessness, housing or education, they become my client and I act on their behalf. I also work alongside them to help them understand the situation they find themselves in and also understand their legal rights. That can be quite confusing for a young person when dealing with multiple agencies.

“It was amazing to be awarded an England cap and the memory of taking wickets is something I cherish


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Eastern Bloc'er

Natalie Sciver is one of England Women's most influential performers. BtB met up with the star allrounder after a day's training with the national team at Loughborough to talk about growing up abroad and her rise to international success.

PORTRAITS: SAM BOWLES



Born in Tokyo, England allrounder Natalie Sciver came to cricket later than most. Stints in the Netherlands and Poland, courtesy of globetrotting parents, saw the sports-mad youngster playing football more than committing to any ball-striking sports. A permanent return to the UK and school at Epsom College in Surrey saw the talented cove choose the summer game over a number of other strong contenders.

Naturally athletic, tall and strong, the 25-year-old's talents were quickly recognised and a career in the game placed on fast-track. It was a rise that saw Sciver join the England senior ranks in 2013, making her debut against Pakistan.

A veteran of four Tests, 44 ODIs (with two hundreds) and 40 T20Is, Sciver was a World Cup winner in 2017. Described as 'our Ben Stokes' by England captain Heather Knight, she lives and trains in the Midlands.

WHAT WERE YOU LIKE AT SCHOOL?

I just liked getting outside and trying to play every sport I could. I enjoyed mucking around playing football with the boys at break time. I was certainly more interested in that than I was learning. I did the bare minimum that I could in order to get through ... and not much more.

WERE YOU ALWAYS SPORTY?

Yes, I think I was. Did I think I was any good? I guess so, but I wasn't and I'm still not someone to talk myself up. When I was at school in Poland, I'd play football in the boys' team and in the same afternoon play in the girls' team as well. And I'd still try to get to every corner of the pitch. I'd say that I was pretty natural at picking up most sports.

DID YOU ENJOY SPORTS FOR THEIR OWN SAKE OR WAS IT WINNING THAT WAS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING?

I guess it was an element of both. I just liked to be active. I'm not sure how influenced by winning I was at that stage. I'd play in the park or in the garden - there wasn't really a consequence to it other than the fact that I enjoyed it so much. But I did mainly play boys' sports growing up. I was a decent basketball player but I mainly played with boys. Girls didn't really seem to like or play

sport in Poland. I had girls who were friends from other things I did.

WHAT WAS YOUR EARLIEST CRICKETING MEMORY?

Nothing organised at all in Poland. My dad went to Cambridge at Jesus College and there was an annual reunion which saw a group of families return with their children for a weekend. Parents would play one day then kids the next. After a while I started playing in the dads' team and they didn't much like it, as I recall. They had started to slow down a bit and I was a bit quicker. I remember it as always being the highlight of the year.

YOU MUST HAVE EXCELLED AND IMPROVED FAST?

It wasn't the first ball-striking sport I tried, but I joined a club when I first came back to the UK. I was still playing football at the time, but ended up deciding to go with cricket as I related better to the cricket girls than the football crowd. Then it came down to a practical decision. I was at a school with Saturday lessons and I wanted a day off at the weekend. One of them had to go. I thought that on balance I would enjoy cricket more.

WAS THERE A BREAKTHROUGH MOMENT FOR YOU DURING THOSE EARLY DAYS?

I think there probably was. I played in the Women's Super Fours competition. I got into it late, didn't really know anyone and was absolutely terrified when I started out. My first game was a bit of a blur. All I can remember is being told off by Claire Taylor for not calling when we were batting together. Luckily I had a second opportunity and made a fifty in not as many balls and from there I got an England call. I guess that was one of those moments where I felt like I'd done alright. It was the year before I went to university at Loughborough, which also worked out well.

HOW DO YOU COPE WITH THE CHALLENGES OF BEING AN ALLROUNDER IN THE MODERN GAME?

Everyone strives for consistency in how they play and perform. And also in the numbers they create. Twenty-over cricket makes those statistics less easy to maintain. You are always going to make low scores and get out because of

In one-day mode: Natalie Sciver guides the ball for more runs.

the demands of the format. As a bowler people are going to hit you for sixes, as well. This pressure means that skill levels keep going up and up. Internationally, the game is definitely more competitive across the board. It's great that scores are rising. As no-one wants to see a side put together a scratchy total of 80. It's not what the game is made for.

YOU PLAYED IN THE BIG BASH RECENTLY. HOW WAS THE EXPERIENCE?

I enjoyed it. Australia's cricket is certainly improving and getting to a place where they want it to be. The Indians aren't far behind - the same with West Indies cricket and also in South Africa. As I said before, it's a stronger game than ever.

WHEN YOU'RE NOT PLAYING AND TOURING, HOW DO YOU LIKE TO SPEND YOUR TIME?

Building a property empire with Kathrine Brunt! We've houses in the Loughborough area and I like to get my hands dirty in doing them up. The latest project needed paving out the back, but at the moment it looks like we've built a moat. You need to put your wellies on just to take the bins out. The longer-term goal is to buy some land and build on it. That's the plan anyway.

WHEN HAVE YOU FELT MOST LIKE A CELEBRITY?

Around the World Cup this year, I suppose. When the final was over. Doing a lap of Lord's and signing autographs. I was one of the last out there. Once I'd started I couldn't stop.



The Best Of Everything Natalie Sciver's Greatest Hits



FAVOURITE TV SHOW?

There is no wifi where I live, so it's DVDs at the moment. 'Grey's Anatomy' has a bit of everything for everyone.

FAVOURITE ALBUM?

Maroon 5's 'Songs About Jane' is my all-time favourite. I'm also listening to and enjoying the latest Foo Fighters record, 'Concrete and Gold'.

FAVOURITE SPORTS PERSON?

David Beckham was a hero in football, Andrew Flintoff in cricket. He was an allrounder and someone who could have an impact on a game.

FAVOURITE GAME?

Cluedo. The last time I played any game that wasn't a drinking game was probably about five months ago! Games night is always fun on tour. Competitive though!



Seven-game veteran:
Gloucestershire's
James Bracey at PCA
Rookie Camp 2018.

A photograph of a person in a blue jacket and black cap, seen from behind, looking towards a man in a blue jacket. The person has a black backpack on. The man is looking at the person with the backpack. The background is a plain wall.

STANDING AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN

A first season in the professional game can be exciting and daunting in equal measure. Read about six rookies looking to make an impact in 2018, plus a half-dozen newbies that left their mark on the modern game.

An eighth annual Rookie Camp happened at Edgbaston in mid February, with the day-long event bringing together cricketers, all having recently signed their first professional contracts.

The roster included players from 11 counties, plus members of the MCC Young Cricketers and England women's academy, with all exposed to talks and workshops on topics that covered all points between anti-corruption, legal support, social media training, gambling addictions and contract negotiation.

It was also the opportunity of young cricketers to talk to and gain knowledge from seasoned professionals. Q&As with former England cricketers Ryan Sidebottom and current Leicestershire captain Michael Carberry afforded the opportunity for internationals to pass on their experiences of a career enjoyed, but played under pressure. PCA Chairman and Worcestershire batsman Daryl Mitchell said, "I'm sure the players will leave here having learnt a great deal. Back in my days as a rookie we didn't have this."

Ian Thomas, Director of Development and Welfare at the PCA, added, "It's really encouraging to see these players come in and understand what the PCA can do to assist them. These players are just about to start an extremely important and exciting journey and it's crucial that we give them the best possible education and support throughout."

ECB CEO, Tom Harrison also featured, commenting on how the PCA

always places the players' needs to the fore. As a former county cricketer with Middlesex and Derbyshire, Harrison is someone with first-hand experience of the good work undertaken by the players' union body. "I have been a member since 1993 and the PCA Rookie Camp has been a vital addition to a young player's education programme. For young cricketers to make the most of these opportunities they need to be listening to the wonderful advice the PCA is giving."

"The PCA play a vital support role in helping manage the increasing pressures that are put on today's players."

A unifying force across the day was the unilateral understanding of the importance of day. From young cricketers getting to grips with marrying their aspirations on the playing fields with an appreciation of the role and responsibilities associated with being a professional sportsman. To veteran players looking to support those aspirations via knowledge gained at the cricketing coalface. To administrators and business professionals looking to support across the piece.



Speaking from experience: Leicestershire's Michael Carberry takes questions from the floor.

21st Century Boys Six county cricketers of the modern era whose first seasons top all others



Name: Joe Root

County: Yorkshire
Year: 2011
Runs scored: 937
Average: 36.03

The 2011 summer saw a fresher-than fresh-faced 20-year-old right-hander put together a season of substance in Division One of the county championship with a maiden first-class hundred (160 v Sussex at Scarborough) the highlight. Reaching three-figures coincided with the Sheffield-born cove's elevation to the England Lions programme, prompting Root to admit at the time, "I was as surprised as anyone". Consistent performances across all forms of the game has proven less of a shock and sees the current England Test captain rated as one of the world's very-best. His 13 Test hundreds and ten ODI tons, aged just 27, means power to add.

PLAYERS IN ATTENDANCE: Hamidullah Qadri, Callum Brodrick, Alfie Gleadall, James Taylor (Derbyshire), Gareth Harte, Matthew Potts, George Harding (Durham), Connor Brown, Kiran Carlson (Glamorgan), James Bracey, George Drissell (Gloucestershire), Sam Evans (Leicestershire), Tom Lace (Middlesex), Tom Banton, Ollie Sale, Fin Trennouth (Somerset), Gus Atkinson, Ryan Patel, Will Jacks (Surrey), Sunny Singh, Henry Brookes (Warwickshire), Pat Brown (Worcestershire), Jordan Thompson, Harry Brook (Yorkshire), Dom Manthorpe, Kash Ali (MCCYC), Sophie Ecclestone, Alice Davidson-Richards, Freya Davies and Katie George (Women's academy)

ON THE COVER

Stars in the making, here  are some names to look out for in the coming months and years



Gareth Harte

Age: 24

County: Durham

Role: Right-hand batsman and right-arm medium-paced bowler

Journey: The former MCC Young Cricketer has played Second XI cricket for Kent, Sussex, Middlesex and Somerset, before making his Twenty20 debut for Durham in July 2017. The South African-born allrounder discovered his passion for the sport playing school cricket in Johannesburg. Harte has also played and coached in Hong Kong.



Sunny Singh

Age: 21

County: Warwickshire

Role: Left-hand batsman, slow left-arm orthodox spin bowler

Journey: Indian-born Sunny Singh, moved to England with his mother and sister when small and was talentspotted attending the Chance to Shine programme. After five wickets on county debut against Hampshire and a second five-for against Somerset, Singh has a contract extension with the Bears until the end of the 2018 season.



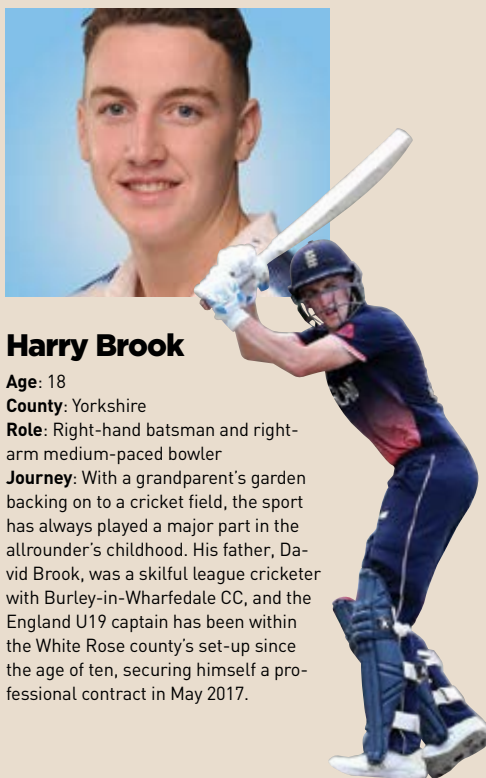
Sophie Ecclestone

Age: 18

County: Lancashire

Role: Slow left-arm orthodox spin bowler

Journey: Ecclestone started playing cricket at the age of five alongside her sport-loving brother, her formative years spent at local club, Alvanley. Where a 15-year-old Ecclestone went on to secure match-winning figures of 3-15 on First XI debut. 2017 saw Ecclestone named as part of England's Ashes squad for last winter's multi-format series.



Harry Brook

Age: 18

County: Yorkshire

Role: Right-hand batsman and right-arm medium-paced bowler

Journey: With a grandparent's garden backing on to a cricket field, the sport has always played a major part in the allrounder's childhood. His father, David Brook, was a skilful league cricketer with Burley-in-Wharfedale CC, and the England U19 captain has been within the White Rose county's set-up since the age of ten, securing himself a professional contract in May 2017.



Tom Lace

Age: 19

County: Middlesex

Role: Right-hand wicket-keeper batsman

Journey: Coming from a family of avid cricket-lovers, 'keeper Lace played county age group cricket from the age of ten, making his debut for the club's Second Eleven against Worcestershire at the age of 16. Lace signed a three-year summer contract in October 2017.



Kiran Carlson

Age: 19

County: Glamorgan

Role: Right-hand batsman and right-arm off-spin bowler

Journey: Seven-year-old Carlson enjoyed playing football, rugby, and cricket until he realised aged 15 that he was 'too small' for rugby. As well as studying Civil Engineering at Cardiff University, Carlson secured a record-breaking start to his career aged 18, when claiming figures of 5-28 against Northamptonshire - the best-ever figures on debut from a spin bowler for Glamorgan. In his second match, Carlson became the youngest player to score a first-class century for the county.

5

Name: Will Tavaré

County: Gloucestershire

Year: 2014

Runs scored: 953

Average: 38.12

Nephew of former England top-order man Chris, Will Tavaré has emerged as a fitting bearer of the moniker. Aged 24, the Gloucester man added his name to the list of debut centurions, the opener compiling 143 v Hampshire. His season-long success prompted the ECB to send the right-hander to Sri Lanka as part of a group of four young cricketers (Scott Borthwick, Tom Westley, Ben Foakes) identified as likely to benefit from the opportunity of overseas experience.



Name: Amjad Khan

County: Kent

Year: 2002

Wickets taken: 63

Average: 31.8

Fellow Dane Ole Mortensen introduced the Copenhagen-born teenager to county cricket when the former Derbyshire swing bowler recommended his charge to Kent coach John Wright. He returned the faith shown in him by bowling rockets in his opening season, taking five-fers against Yorkshire, Lancashire and Sussex. In what proved an injury-blighted career, the quick played a single Test and lone T20I for England in 2009.



3



4

Name: Steve Kirby

County: Yorkshire

Year: 2001

Wickets taken: 47

Average: 20.85

The renowned firebrand and current MCC head coach burst onto the county scene when taking 7-50 on first-class debut for Yorkshire against Kent. Then 24, his start in the game looked far from inevitable, following on as it did from a misfire with Leicestershire due to back problems, a spell as a pro in the northern leagues and 18 months selling lino. Kirby turned out for four counties over a 13-year career, his impact in 2001 proving a decisive factor in the Tykes winning their first championship pennant for 33 years.



WORLDIES!

The greatest
first-seasons in sport,
ever...



NANCY LOPEZ LPGA

ROOKIE SEASON: 1978

Nancy Lopez's fledgling season wasn't just the best rookie year in LPGA history, but in the whole history of golf. Period. Lopez remains the only player to win Rookie of the Year, Player of the Year, and the Vare Trophy award in the same season. Effectively creating for herself a 'field of one' by winning every tournament she entered.

JOE JACKSON MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

ROOKIE SEASON: 1911

No 'Top Rookie Season' list is complete without the name of 'Shoeless' Joe Jackson. With an astonishing 233 hits, seven home runs, 83 runs batted in, a .408 batting average and .468 on-base percentage, shoes or no shoes, Jackson carried the hopes, dreams and nigh-on everything else of the now defunct Cleveland Naps that season.

AYRTON SENNA FORMULA ONE

ROOKIE SEASON: 1984

Bouncing back from qualifying 17th in the Brazilian Grand Prix, Senna scored his first World Championship point at the South African Grand Prix; replicating that result two weeks later in Belgium. Senna's second place win at the Monaco Grand Prix later that year would be his first podium of many.

DANICA PATRICK INDYCAR RACING

ROOKIE SEASON: 2005

Considered a pioneer for women in motor-sports, Patrick is the only woman to win an IndyCar Series race. Ever. Her first season saw Patrick secure three pole positions earning her The Indianapolis 500 and IndyCar Series' Rookie of the Year' title, surpassing even Tomas Scheckter's 2002 maiden voyage.

WILT CHAMBERLAIN NBA

ROOKIE SEASON: 1962

Chamberlain's 1962 stats include 37.6 point and 27.0 rebound average, and a .461 field-goal percentage. Wilt 'The Stilt' and his purported 8ft 4" 'wingspan' remains the only player in NBA history to average at least 30 points and 20 rebounds per game. A feat he accomplished a nosebleed-inducing seven times.

SIMONE BILES GYMNASTICS

ROOKIE SEASON: 2016

Winning an unbelievable four medals at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics, Biles set a country record for the most gold medals in women's gymnastics at a single games. Biles and her teammate, Gabby Douglas, are the only American female gymnasts to win individual all-around gold, and team gold at the same Olympiad.

TEEMU SELÄNNE NHL

ROOKIE SEASON: 1992-93

There have been numerous kick-ass kick-off campaigns in ice hockey history, but winger Selänne's stands fast as the greatest. He quickly became one of Winnipeg Jets' very-best offensive players, boasting a record of 76 goals in his first season, minting the nickname 'The Finnish Flash'.

DESMOND HAYNES CRICKET

ROOKIE SEASON: 1978

Haynes' 148 runs remains, not only the highest score ever made by a batsman on debut in ODIs, but also the fastest century scored. His opening partnership with fellow Barbadian Gordon Greenidge proved the stuff of legend throughout West Indies' decades of dominance across the '70s and '80s.

Name: **Kevin Pietersen**

County: Nottinghamshire

Year: 2001

Runs scored: 1275

Average: 57.95

Straight into Nottinghamshire's first team under the guidance of the legendary Clive Rice, Kevin Pietersen's exuberant batting marked him out as a force of nature as well as a forceful character. That summer saw the 20-year-old repay that faith with a 1000-run return in Division Two, the highlight being four hundreds in a seven-day period that included 254 not out against Middlesex. Pietersen went on to average more than 50 in each of his four seasons with the Outlaws before moving to Hampshire and rewriting Ashes history as well as adding to the game's lexicon with the phrases 'KP', 'dead skunk', 'switch-hit' and 'flamingo'.



Name:

Will Gidman

County: Gloucestershire

Year: 2011

Runs scored: 1006

Average: 45.72

Wickets taken: 51

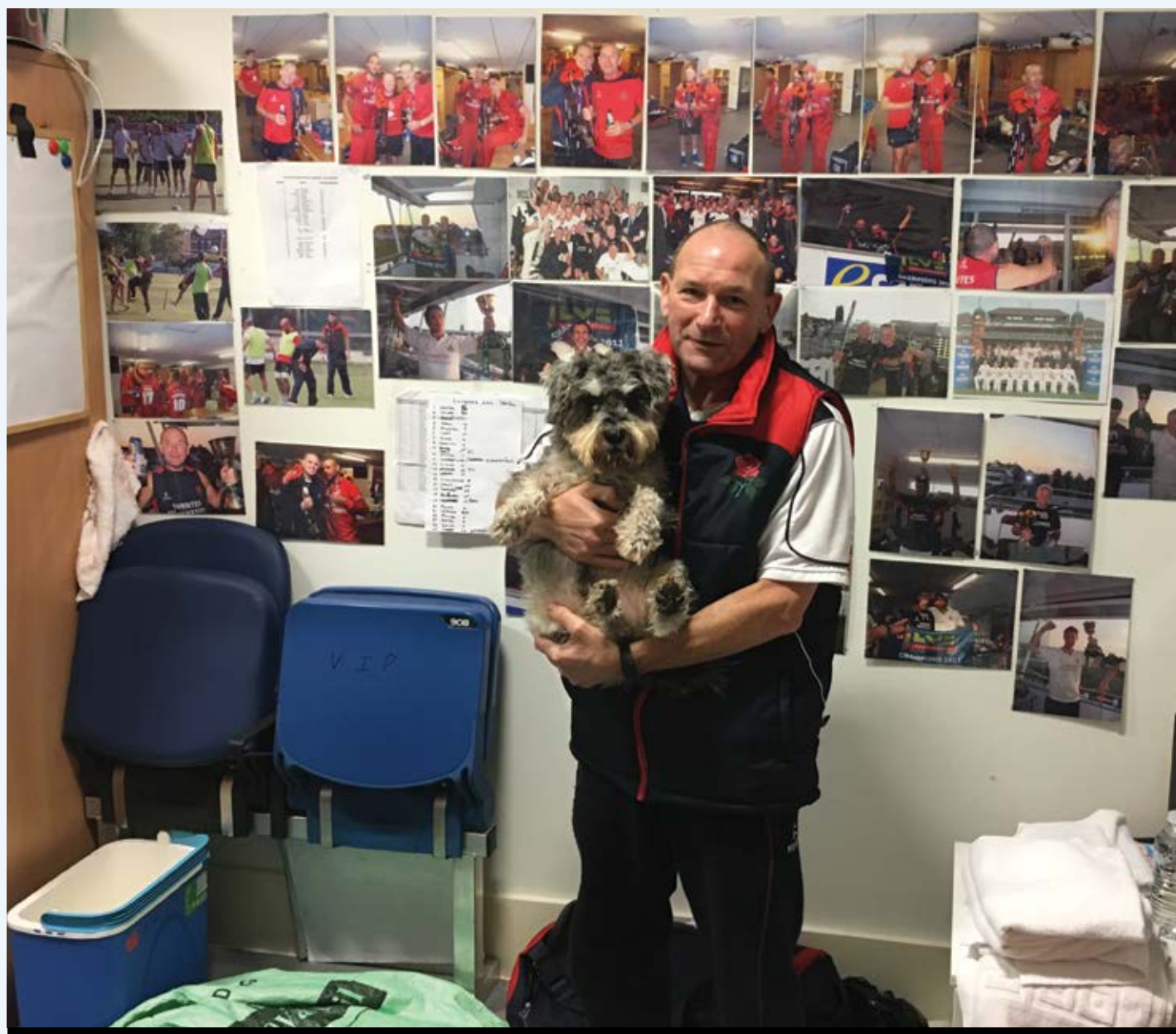
Average: 21.33

After a single game for Durham (in 2007), allrounder Gidman produced a Bothamesque display of batting and bowling in his first go proper at the county game. In a season that contained a maiden century (116 not out v Northamptonshire) and five-fer (5-38 v Kent), Gidman completed the 'modern-day double' (1000 runs/50 wickets), the first time for the county since Mark Alleyne, 15 years prior. The left-hand bat and right-arm swing bowler swapped Bristol for Trent Bridge in 2015, before upping sticks again when making a permanent move to Canterbury in 2017 after a loan spell with Kent the previous summer.



Behind Closed Doors

Mark Wallace went ‘under the bonnet’ when speaking to the people that see it all and say very little - the county dressing room attendants.





“The elite lads are top professionals on and off the pitch. The players who stand out know they are good. They’ve got that self-belief.”
Mark Nunn

There's something otherworldly about sports dressing rooms. Accessible only to the chosen few. Part inner sanctum, part hallowed ground. Governed by a set of laws and traditions not to be found in any HR handbook or New Age cultural text. A principality. At times a fiefdom. Rarely straightforward.

Consider yourself lucky to be invited in. Even honoured to be accepted. Which is why the gatekeepers to these kingdoms - the dressing room attendants - are such a unique set of individuals.

Mark 'Nunny' Nunn started at Old Trafford over a decade ago, following a 32-year career in the Fire Service. "We had been doing fire safety checks since 1990 at Old Trafford and the club's out-grounds", Nunn remembers. "I liked my cricket and got to know a few of the players. When I retired I was looking forward to enjoying a few awaydays with the lads to be honest, but Mike Watkinson phoned me up and said they needed a new dressing room attendant and that's how it all started.

"The job is full on. It's demanding and you know you are going to be there for a large chunk of time. Basically we are here at 7.30am to prepare for the day and then we leave at about 7.30pm."

With that amount of time spent at the ground it is obvious how the relationship - especially with the home players - can quickly change. Moving from helper and supporter to mentor and confidant. "You get close to the lads," he says somewhat proudly. "You spend a lot of time with them. You go through the ups and downs. You can see when it's going well or if someone is struggling. We have our room and they come and sit down with us and have a chat about anything from cricket to football to life. We try to keep everything positive and allow them to be themselves."

Nunn is a Mancunian to his core. But that doesn't stop him enjoying working with the

visiting teams. "They're all pretty good," he says. "I think we tend to enjoy the Northern teams - the Yorkies or Durham - they seem to be our type of lads. Same with the Aussies when the internationals are on..." Nunn, suppressing a laugh, finishes by saying, "Some teams can be a bit fussier. Some of the Southern lads find it a bit too cold up here."

It hasn't all be plain sailing. Nunn admits that there are always complications with different teams, "We once had a young Aussie lad who gave Ashley - my assistant - a hard time during one match. That didn't go down too well but then when he came back again a few years later he'd grown up a bit and even ended up sitting with us for breakfast every day. People change."

This regular, close-to-intimate proximity offers a unique insight into what makes players tick. "You can see it," he remarks. "VVS Laxman was one of the best I have seen at Lancashire. He was totally focused and dedicated to the game.

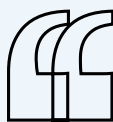
"The elite lads are top professionals on and off the pitch. The players who stand out know they are good. They've got that self-belief. But you also see some young lads come through. Sign a pro contract and get caught up in everything, enjoy the nights out too much and you think if they keep going like they are, they will be out of the door."

And Lancashire has had some success as a club in recent times. With Nunn a constant in the background. "I love being around the lads, I love seeing them winning and nothing beats it really. Peter Moores invited us down to Taunton when we won the title a few years ago which was a really nice touch and Ashley Giles took us all down to the Twenty 20 finals day win. They were even better nights than days!"

Roger Skyrme is a veteran with Glamorgan. Our phone conversation opener is typical of the man and his interests. "I'll ring you back if it cuts out," he states. "I'm just on the way to watch Caerphilly Schools against Bridgend Schools. There's a

Top: Organised chaos inside Old Trafford's inner sanctum.
Below: VVS Laxman in Lancashire colours v Durham in 2009.





midfielder I need to go and have another look at for the Swans.”

Obviously, this is not your average conversation starter. Particularly not on a Wednesday evening. But then Roger isn't your average bloke.

Approaching 20 years as the club's dressing room attendant now, but two decades inside cricket pales into insignificance compared with a lifetime spent around top-level football. “I've been scouting for Swansea City for the last few years,” Skyrme states proudly, before continuing his story. “I had ten years scouting at Fulham and worked for Chelsea before that. I was Academy Manager at Newport County up until a few years ago and managed Wales Under 18s and have also held a few roles with the Welsh FA.”

Talking about the differences between the two sports he notes, “Cricket's a totally different environment, but I think Twenty20 is getting closer and closer to the feel of a

I think the guys working with the Academies - the PCA and the coaches - do a good job in making sure that most of the youngsters coming through are well-grounded and respectful
Roger Skyrme

Glamorgan's resident cricket and football specialist, Roger Skyrme.

football match around the dressing rooms. The game can have the same changes of momentum, one side being on top then another coming back, tactical changes etc.

“Cricket has changed a lot since I started. I don't want to say it's more professional because players have always been focused on the game but it's more sophisticated in a way, things like alcohol after the game, it used to be six lagers, six bitters now hardly anyone has a drink.

“Sometimes it can feel like you're at the beck and call of the players and some can be a pain in the arse,” he chuckles. “But that's very few to be fair. Some can be aloof to start with but

never rude. I think the guys working with the Academies - the PCA and the coaches - do a good job in making sure that most of the youngsters coming through are well-grounded and respectful. This can be a little different in football!”

Skyrme recognises that one of the key skills in any environment is to be able to walk into a room and assess what the mood is. “I think that's pretty crucial,” he says emphatically. “There are times I know I shouldn't be there and there are times it's fine. I've learnt to recognise these through experience and through getting to know the players over the years.

“My job is to be on the periphery, so I see a huge amount of what goes on. The odd coach, once they know my background, ask me now and again what I think. I'm no cricket expert and would never comment on the game but I can see the dynamic of how people operate,” he says. “For example I

always thought I could tell how Mike Powell at Glamorgan was going to get on, just by watching his body language and how he was behaving in the dressing room. He was a good player so would often do well but I always thought I could read him.”

Looking more widely, Skyrme has experienced his fair share of access and privilege and knows it too. “I've loved doing the international games in Cardiff,” he says. “I actually rang the bell for the first day of the first Ashes Test to be played in Wales, that was great and the players are largely a pleasure to work with. India's Virat Kohli gave me his Man of the Match champagne a few years ago and we drank it after the birth of my grandchild.” It's almost possible to see the smile down the phone as he continues. “They'll do well to grow up to be as good a player as him!

“I've a few favourites,” he admits. “I've always had a soft spot for Worcestershire.”

And of course he knows how much cricketers love their pre-match kick around. “The football link is helpful and once the players know my story they immediately want to know where I've been, who I've seen and of course what I think of their performance in warm-ups.

“They all think they're playing the wrong sport,” he laughs. “Dean Cosker is probably the best I've seen. Darren Gough was pretty good, so was Brendon McCullum. Sam Billings and Joe Clarke aren't bad either. I reckon I'd have had a look at Alex Wharf between the posts if I'd seen him as a youngster too but I think most of them can probably stick to cricket.”

So what about a Roger Skyrme XI from what he sees during warm-ups? “No problem.” He replies. “I tell them that they're all on trial. Every day.”



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Vikram Solanki

Beyond the Boundaries caught up with a former PCA Chairman to talk about his role representing players on the world stage.

A hugely successful batsman with Worcestershire and Surrey, Vikram Solanki played 51 ODIs and three T20Is for England between 2000 and 2007. A county captain of respect and standing, the graceful righthander played 325 first-class matches and 402 List A games (82 T20s) in a career spanning three decades. Born in Udaipur, but brought up in Wolverhampton, the 42-year-old lives with his wife and two sons in Birmingham. He retired from the game in 2015.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO NOW?

When I retired I took a coaching position with Surrey, working primarily with the Second XI. I'm currently assistant head coach at the club. Alongside my wider role within the global game with FICA (Federation of International Cricketers' Association).

FIRST OF ALL, TELL US ABOUT YOUR TIME AT THE PCA?

I was chairman for four years between 2009 and 2013, during which time I was acting CEO for a period of six months when the organisation was without a leader.

I enjoyed my time at the PCA. The organisation does a great job for all the players; past and present. It was a brilliant learning experience for me and I'm certain others would find it equally rewarding.

WHEN AND WHY DID YOU BECOME PART OF THE FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL CRICKETERS' ASSOCIATION?

Jimmy Adams was FICA president until I took over from him in 2017. I'm passionate about the game and particularly in ensuring that players are well represented and have input in shaping the direction of their game.

TELL US ABOUT FICA AND WHAT IT DOES?

As the global players' body, FICA unites all nine of the game's domestic players' associations, representing players as a collective across issues of common interest.

FICA is guided by six principles and is committed to sharing best practice across the group as well as dealing with the evolution of global player employment and any welfare issues arising.

FICA: EXAMPLES OF OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Collating and representing player views at international/ICC level
- Negotiating standard terms and conditions under which players compete in ICC events
- Negotiating minimum standards in various T20 leagues and events
- Providing expert security advice to players/players' associations
- Input into codes and regulations under which players compete
- Collective player advocacy and support

thefica.com

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT THAT PLAYERS HAVE A VOICE INTERNATIONALLY AS WELL AS DOMESTICALLY?

Many of the decisions affecting players are made at a global level. It's also important that all of the stakeholders in the game, including in English cricket, recognise that it is a cog in the wheel of the global game. A significant portion of the game's income is generated through bilateral international cricket and ICC events. That flows down to fund most of the domestic structures in the world, including in England.

The strength of the game in England is therefore largely reliant on the strength of the game elsewhere. If the top of the game is broken or in ill health, it becomes an issue for all countries

With more and more players playing in domestic T20 leagues around the world it becomes vital they are supported internationally as well as domestically.

WHAT ARE THE BIGGEST ISSUES IN THE GLOBAL GAME, IN YOUR VIEW?

As the landscape shifts, I think trying to get the balance right between the formats is important. Also ensuring that the gap between the bigger and smaller countries is decreasing, not increasing. A third one would be in establishing clarity on global playing schedules.

WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO ACHIEVE IN YOUR TIME AS PRESIDENT?

It is paramount that players' opinions are considered. Greater engagement from national governing bodies and the ICC can only be of benefit to the game. Formalising such relationships between players' representatives and those that are tasked with governing the game has proved to be of benefit in the past.

Ultimately I would like for FICA and the ICC to move toward a formal arrangement with greater clarity and responsibility for FICA and its role in the global game.





Golden

PORTRAITS: PAUL CARROLL

After a lifetime spent at the top of the sport, cricketing legend Graham Gooch is now the PCA's latest President. He spoke with Andy Afford about what he believes readied him for the role.

"It's an honour, that's for sure." So speaks Graham Gooch, the Essex and England great. Looking every inch the statesman he now is and every bit at ease as he appears to feel, ensconced within the home dressing room at Lord's.

We meet ahead of the official announcement of his appointment as President of the Professional Cricketers' Association. He's talking about the prestige inherent in the role and placing it within the wider context of what has been an almost peerless career, on and off the field. "I do feel proud to be the figurehead for a respected organisation like the PCA and add my voice to that of the first-class players. It's an honour and a responsibility I'm proud to receive and one I will take seriously."

Leytonstone-born Gooch played the small matter of 118 Tests for England between 1975 and 1995, scoring seven of his 20 Test hundreds at the Home of Cricket, including that gargantuan 'triple' (333), made against

India. It was an innings of such assuredness and inevitability that it felt like the Essex man was out in the middle - batting in his trademark white helmet and side pieces, rather than grille - for the whole of the summer of 1990. His aggregate of 753 runs remains the record for a three-match series.

He's 65 years old this summer, with a dinner in the diary to commemorate the milestone. "I've invited Boycs (Geoffrey Boycott) and Athers (Michael Atherton). They said they're coming. I batted a lot with both of them... and a load of other people." He's making a joke and his timing in the delivery is like his batting style; decisive. It's a comment on the revolving-door nature of his partnerships at the top of England's order and was something that happened for a good proportion of his stint spent navigating his way past the new ball.

It was a time of a good deal of personal success, if not so much a golden age for the national side. "I learned a lot from Geoffrey in particular," states this maker of eight

ODI hundreds, including a breath-taking 115 in a World Cup semi-final v India at Mumbai in 1987. “Geoffrey was towards the back end of his career when I was starting mine. He was 39 and worked so hard on his game. I remember asking him why he did it - why he didn’t take it a bit easier? He said that every time he went out to bat he was putting his reputation on the line. At that time of my career, I was the opposite. I had some talent but not the structure. His words shaped me. It was why my approach was exactly the same playing for Essex as it was for England. I couldn’t cross the white line and not give it my best because my reputation was everything to me.”

Gooch played 581 first-class games, plus a further 614 limited-over appearances, and that speaks volumes for a career that delivered nigh-on 70,000 runs in professional cricket and a reputation to match. Until passed by fellow Essex



man Alastair Cook, he was England’s highest-aggregating Test batsman and remains at number nine on the all-time list of Test run-getters. And that’s after starting his international career with a pair on debut against Australia.

His career really kicked into high gear on receiving his captaincy ‘stripes’. His captain-and-coach alliance with Mickey Stewart is acknowledged as setting England on a path to modernity from a more ‘first up, best dressed’ approach to wholly focused on performance. “We both thought fitness and preparation was important,” says Gooch, a famous runner of thousands of training miles in his playing days. “Before that time people were pretty much left to their own ends. You could get picked for England and literally turn up for the flight on a winter tour and have done nothing at all to get yourself ready. I don’t run now - my hip plays me up a bit - but I

have got a bit of kit that keeps me fit, called an attack bike. I use that, rather than the roads like I used to.”

Gooch’s involvement with the players’ representative body started back in 1973. The righthander believes that it was the whole-staff outing to the PCA’s AGM at Edgbaston that stays in the memory, rather than the range of work and services offered and undertaken in the modern era. “It wasn’t the organisation it is now,” says the former England batting coach. “It was more a case of trying to get buy-in from the players back then and to talk about the big issues of the day. I’m not sure how much interaction there was with the TCCB (Test and County Cricket Board, became ECB in January 1997), as it was back then. But today, like then, I believe it is important that the players’ voice is noted and represented when speaking about any direction of travel for the sport. I regard the collective talent of the players as the currency of the game and that’s vital in shaping the best possible product.”

Gooch speaks passionately on all subjects, but considers himself as someone to formulate an opinion, rather than dive in with theory and conjecture ahead of the fact. Whether talking about the game of cricket or his passion as a lifelong fan of much beleaguered West Ham United, he is someone who knows his mind. He is also someone who commits in meaningful and measurable ways, as is evidenced by the £50,000 donation from the scholarship fund bearing his name towards the PCA’s Legacy Year Appeal in 2017.

He’s a respected and recognisable figure around the world. “I see cricket as a global entity,” he states with assurance and from experience. “We learn from each other, right across the world. It’s the sport’s job to support past players and to educate the present. In that, cricket is a family. A global one.”

Eight Good Men: Past Presidents

Gooch begins his two-year stint as the PCA’s eighth figurehead, and follows in a great tradition

JOHN ARLOTT (1968-1991)
Commentator, raconteur and broadcaster, Hampshire’s finest son was credited with successfully stewarding the players’ union through the ‘Packer Affair’ in 1977.

JACK BANNISTER (1994-1996)
A founding father of the association in 1967, the former Warwickshire bowler and broadcaster held various senior roles at the PCA, right up to his recent death aged 85.

MIKE GATTING (1996-2008)
A former England captain and passionate leader of Middlesex, Gattings’ standing and longevity in the game sees him currently

operating as ECB Managing Director of Cricket Partnerships.

SIR IAN BOTHAM (2008-2011)
This England legend was every bit a rule breaker as he was a rule maker, his status as organisational figurehead speaking volumes for his ability to unite and speak for professional cricket’s shop floor.

CHRIS BROAD (2011-2013)
Current ICC international match referee, Broad played for England between 1984-1989 as a fluent opening batsman. He now sits as the ‘second-best cricketer’ in the family in the wake of the success of son Stuart.

DAVID LLOYD (2013-2016)
Lancastrian Lloyd has been a first-class cricketer and umpire as well as an international player and coach. The ever-popular commentator continues to add insight and fun to Sky Sports’ ongoing coverage of the game.

ANDREW FLINTOFF (2016-2018)
The England allrounder’s populist appeal shows no signs of abating. Built on his Ashes-winning heroics of 2005, TV personality Flintoff remains a regular on our TV screens, hosting a variety of show genres.



VIEW FROM THE TOP

James Pyemont

Doin' The Lambeth Walk

WORDS:
ANDY AFFORD

A career in the Metropolitan Police after a stint on the county circuit isn't a beat well trod. ECB new Head of Integrity, James Pyemont, spoke to BtB about what brought him back to the sport.



Few can have enjoyed a more varied professional career than James Patrick Pyemont. To say the 39-year-old has 'packed a bit in' is something of an understatement. Like surmising that Forrest Gump travelled a bit. Played ping-pong. Then did some gadding about.

A stint between 1997 and 2002 - spent running around the county circuit with Sussex and Derbyshire - this preceded by four years at Trinity Hall Cambridge (Classics and a PGCE) - it doesn't typically look the springboard for what amounted to a first-rate career in the Metropolitan Police. Rising from Police Constable to Detective Inspector in South London, the former right-handed batsmen and scorer of a single first-class hundred against Oxford University in 2000, ended up in charge of CID Major Investigations with 90 staff at Southwark nick.

A recent career switch sees Pyemont, the father of six-year-old twins, initially in post as Anti-Corruption Manager at ECB before 'bettering himself' to very-recently be named the governing body's Head of Integrity. "I've always been driven by the idea of public service," states Pyemont, the son of double-blue Chris Pyemont (cricket and hockey), a former prep school headmaster himself. "I believe that after seeing the very best and worst of people when in the police force, that sport is one of the things that genuinely brings us together and in doing so is to be protected.

"My job is one of safeguarding and includes taking an overview on the sport, from the recreational game up and also majors on assessing player discipline. Reducing the exposure to vulnerability is also a priority. Whether that is the vulnerability of children or vulnerable adults it's important we protect people."

Pyemont continued to play some cricket whilst with the Met at Lambeth, recalling with good humour an occasion when an opponent - described by the veteran of 38 first-class matches as a 'cymbal-playing wicketkeeper' - chose to 'critique' the then beat copper from behind the stumps. "Being in the police makes everything a bit warped," says Pyemont, who is walking-and-talking as he heads home after work. "It can make all manner of things seem unimportant and trivial. The police shares the same dressing room feel, but with different fields of reference. A darker humour. Where cricketers travel around talking about games played here, hundreds scored, and stories from back in the day. For the police, buildings and landmarks are reference points for jobs attended and particularly memorable murders and violent crimes. With these similarities for experiencing highs and lows and of great comradeship, transitioning from the police can be difficult. Just the same as cricket."

He describes travelling to ECB's NW8 headquarters as different to what he's used to, citing there being fewer mice in his office at St John's Wood than at Borough High Street, and this as a small upside. He also refers to the shared qualities of police officers and cricketers, with both strata routinely finding themselves tested to the limit. "I was an attending officer during the London Bridge attacks of June 2017," he states soberly. "I'd have to say that members of the public, faced with what they experienced on that evening, showed what the human spirit truly means.

"Day-to-day detective work is problem solving; a case of following the evidence and being methodical in the detail. Whereas a leadership role

is about doing best by the staff. Being fair. Being reasonable. But when faced with what was happening on June 3 on London Bridge and Borough Market, I'm not so sure anything really prepares you for witnessing that."

With a game he loves there to safeguard, played by people he knows, understands and respects, and a philosophy of doing things for the 'greater good', fewer can be better qualified by training or in experience than Pyemont. A case where following a career-long aspiration to be someone that makes a difference truly does just that.

Now and then: ECB's James Pyemont photographed at Grace Road, Leicester, March 15 2018. As Cambridge University captain, captured at Fenner's, April 9 2000.



Our Brand Story

In February 2017 the PCA started talking with members about how they wanted to be communicated with. After listening to feedback from hundreds of current and past players, a plan was agreed as to how that might happen.

The process began when formalising a strategic timeline to include the delivery of a new website, mobile app, brand values and branding with a revised logo the last piece of the jigsaw.

While the PCA would continue to benchmark itself against its accomplishments of the past five decades, it was equally important to project forward. Revisiting the core purpose of the PCA was crucial in maintaining relevance, but also in signposting the way to project the players' collective voice across the next 50 years.

With a new core purpose having emerged and been refined, members continue to be placed at the heart of everything. With a promise to communicate all cricket-related issues and opportunities clearly.

NEW WEBSITE

The new user-friendly website is a gearshift forward. Allowing information to be more easily accessed from desktop, tablet or mobile.

Members benefit from personalised access via a unique login system. Current players are able to view their MVP Rankings as well as Personal Development Plans, while all members can view member offers, information and wider member benefits.

thepca.co.uk

Through the ages: The PCA's landmark has evolved to reflect the times and also the organisation's development in remit and influence.

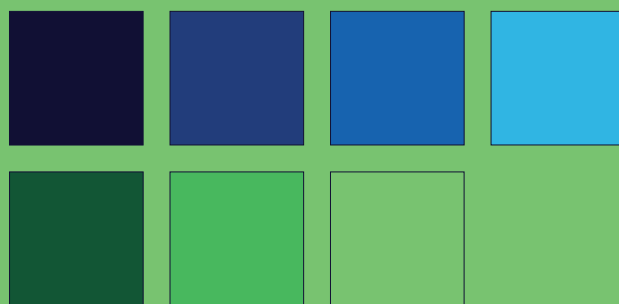


We champion the ongoing interests of professional cricketers in England and Wales

For over 50 years the PCA has worked relentlessly to improve standards for cricketers and the new styling depicts cricketers as the heart of marketing strategy and ongoing campaigns.

Tammy Beaumont MBE

Kent wicketkeeper-batsman Beaumont came through the Academy system and continues her role as a PCA Rep. She was a key member of England's 2017 ICC World Cup winning team and was named in the ICC Women's ODI Team of the Year.



According to the theory of how humans experience and relate to colour, blue and green draw association with words like 'nurturing', 'stability' and 'trust'. The palette also maintains the traditional PCA brand, extending that lineage.

WE'RE

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Right at the centre of everything the PCA does
– these specific behaviours are crucial to the
Association's continued success.



The player silhouette symbolises all professional cricketers
championed. The circle serves as the protection we offer. The
ball represents cricket itself. The typeface used is bold and
strong, exuding authority.

**We champion the
ongoing interests of
professional cricketers
in England and Wales**

The PCA is committed to continually highlighting and
promoting all cricketers' achievements. On or off the field.
The new core purpose stands as a guarantee.

Grounds For Optimism

For many cricketers, finding a suitable employer who is willing to offer flexible winter work experience can be a challenge. One source of opportunity, often overlooked, is right on the doorstep. Within a typical first-class county set-up will be many of the core business functions found in most companies. They include departments like Finance, Sponsorship & Marketing and Sales. As well as broader disciplines like Communications & Media, Operations, Administration and HR.

As a snapshot, here are some real-life executives with sporting interests and backgrounds, doing real jobs in the cricketing environment. They could all fit together in a single set-up.

Wasim Khan
(former Warwickshire, Sussex and Derbyshire batsman)
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LEICESTERSHIRE CCC**
ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
To formulate and implement the strategic goals and objectives of the business. To offer direction, leadership and guardianship of organisational philosophy, mission, strategy, annual goals and objectives.
QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Likely Requirements include a Business Management Degree and/or Masters in Business Administration (MBA), adding CV credibility and a broad formal grounding. Add in some industry experience of leading teams in a business environment, managing budgets and dealing with wider issues and challenges.

Dan Wheeldon
(former Unicorns and Yorkshire 2nd XI cricketer)
**CRICKET & COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS
MANAGER DERBYSHIRE CCC**
ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Management and tracking of the cricket budget and day-to-day needs of players - from flights to kit. Work with governing body with regards correct policy and protocol application whilst maintaining the link between the commercial and cricket departments to ensure sponsorships and marketing needs are met. Point of contact in ensuring the quality of event experience, services and facilities is maintained and sustained.
QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Good communication skills and levels of organisation, plus a capacity for work. Knowledge and understanding of the game.

Midlands-based PDM Charlie Mulraine spoke to a cross-section of people in his region’s ‘cricketing trenches’, all doing a great job for the game and their club. Using them as our guide, here is a look at what might be attractive career opportunities for cricketers, closer to home than they may be looking. And what’s needed to take that next step.



ILLUSTRATION: RYAN HEATH

Grounds For Optimism

For many cricketers, finding a suitable employer who is willing to offer flexible winter work experience can be a challenge. One source of opportunity, often overlooked, is right on the doorstep. Within a typical first-class county set-up will be many of the core business functions found in most companies. They include departments like Finance, Sponsorship & Marketing and Sales. As well as broader disciplines like Communications & Media, Operations, Administration and HR.

As a snapshot, here are some real-life executives with sporting interests and backgrounds, doing real jobs in the cricketing environment. They could all fit together in a single set-up.

Wasim Khan

(former Warwickshire, Sussex and Derbyshire batsman)

CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LEICESTERSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
To formulate and implement the strategic goals and objectives of the business. To offer direction, leadership and guardianship of organisational philosophy, mission, strategy, annual goals and objectives.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Likely Requirements include a Business Management Degree and/or Masters in Business Administration (MBA), adding CV credibility and a broad formal grounding. Add in some industry experience of leading teams in a business environment, managing budgets and dealing with wider issues and challenges.

Dan Wheeldon

(former Unicorns and Yorkshire 2nd XI cricketer)

CRICKET & COMMERCIAL OPERATIONS
MANAGER DERBYSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Management and tracking of the cricket budget and day-to-day needs of players - from flights to kit. Work with governing body with regards correct policy and protocol application whilst maintaining the link between the commercial and cricket departments to ensure sponsorships and marketing needs are met. Point of contact in ensuring the quality of event experience, services and facilities is maintained and sustained.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Good communication skills and levels of organisation, plus a capacity for work. Knowledge and understanding of the game.

David Ripley

(former Northamptonshire wicketkeeper)

HEAD COACH
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
To coach, develop, mentor and manage the professional players, coaching staff and support services. Includes final-say on selection and recruitment. Point of contact with CEO and Board with visibility and input on current and future budgets. To maintain player development records and appraisals.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Level 4 coaching qualification, ideally with first-class cricket background or management experience. Good communication skills and able to be part of or lead a team whilst remaining calm under pressure.

Ryan Duckett

(former professional Rugby Union & League player)

COMMERCIAL DIRECTOR
DERBYSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Lead all commercial revenue activity against set budgets and targets. From membership drives to match ticketing, sponsorship and hospitality to non-cricket events like concerts, conferences and dinners. Reporting to the CEO and Board of Directors.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
A business-focused degree or formal qualification supported by general sales and marketing experience.

Crofton Alexander

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING COACH
LEICESTERSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Writing gym programmes for athletes that develop their all-round ability to perform at their optimum. Everything from aerobic and anaerobic fitness levels to nutrition and recovery.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Undergraduate degree as standard. Ideally in Sports Science or Strength & Conditioning or Biological Science. Masters in Strength & Conditioning or Sports Science is desirable. Plus UKSCA accreditation and an Applied Coaching certificate is again desirable. Qualified first aider. Professional indemnity insurance. IT literate and a good communicator and listener.

Tracey Branson

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIP
MANAGER LEICESTERSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Sell the 'brand'. Then build a partnership that works for both parties - from the product and services offered to implementation. Includes the selling of all match day commercial inventory from playing shirt sponsorship, perimeter advertising, individual player sponsorship and hospitality sales

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Excellent communications skills and an enjoyment in working with people. Demonstrable resilience and a willingness to commit to long hours. Able to multi-task.

Fran Clarkson

LEAD PHYSIOTHERAPIST
DERBYSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Overseeing the health and wellbeing of the club's cricketers. From assessment and treatment of injury to musculoskeletal screening and testing. Creating squad and individual programmes, instated to reduce risk of injury and build resilient and robust players. Reporting on injuries and return-to-play times.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
BSc or MSc in Physiotherapy, plus experience gained working in high-performance sport environment. The confidence to lead and deliver medical support & provision for an elite squad of athletes.

Dan Nice

COMMUNICATIONS AND
CRICKET LOGISTICS MANAGER
LEICESTERSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
Handle the club's digital assets, ensuring a strong reputation is maintained. Generate all written content, working closely with Marketing on campaigns. Support the cricket department where possible. Everything in need of a pair of willing hands - from maintaining kit to organising travel.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Degree in Media and Psychology, plus a Postgraduate Diploma in Journalism. Gaining experience wherever possible, including work in the fields of performance analysis and cricket admin. Able under pressure, working long and potentially unsociable hours

Jasmine Chauhan

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
MANAGER LEICESTERSHIRE CCC

ROLE & RESPONSIBILITIES
networker with the ability to acquire new contacts and generate new streams of potential income. Draw in external events to the venue by finding creative ways to maximise club assets. Maintain an overview on marketing and match day processes.

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE
Media & Communications background. Plus relevant work experience. Interacting well with people from all walks of life never hurts.

CAREER

A Change Is Gonna Come

Players share their experiences of leaving the game at the PCA's inaugural Transition Conference.



KEY

Our at-a-glance guide to member services, courses and support.



EDUCATION



CAREER



FINANCE



CHARITY



OVERSEAS



DIGITAL

November saw the PCA Personal Development and Welfare Programme deliver its first Transition Conference. The two-day event was attended by past and present county cricketers and provided practical, reflective and directive workshops to aid attendees in their preparation for a second career.

Former Lancashire allrounder, Kyle Hogg, now a Promoters Rep for SJM Concerts, took time out of his schedule to talk at the conference about his journey. Having seen players around him struggle when their career ended, swing bowler Hogg was determined not to let that happen to him. "I just asked one of my friends - a 30-year music industry veteran - if I could help him out and gain some experience," said the 34-year-old. "He said yes and I remember the season finished on the Friday and at six o'clock on the Monday morning I started work at the Manchester Arena with Stereophonics."

Hogg continued to work with SJM for three winters before retiring and formally joining them. "I am pretty much convinced the last three years I had at Lancashire were my best years as I had a different outlook on how good a thing it was to play cricket. I also knew when cricket ended I had some experience behind me and a foot in the door with SJM."

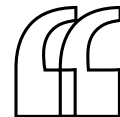
Unlike Hogg, former Hampshire and Surrey man, David Balcombe, did not walk straight into work. "My career finished a bit earlier than I'd expected,"

said the former fast bowler. "I had a couple of things in mind that I wanted to do but nothing immediate."

Through hard work and good networking, 18 months on, Balcombe is now employed as a Business Development Manager for EY. "It has been challenging the whole way through," said the 33-year-old. "Working out what I wanted to do and re-finding my identity when cricket was stripped away wasn't easy. But it's been a really great journey and I've learnt so much."

"It's been a fascinating two years in many ways really," shared former Northamptonshire batsman, Stephen Peters, who retired from the game in 2015 and works as a Client Development Manager for Aon Risk Solutions. "Last year everything was new and exciting. I was learning new skills and meeting new people," said top-order man Peters. "Then the reality started to kick in a bit in Year 2. I started getting thoughts like, 'is this me for the rest of my life now?'" posed the former England under 19 captain. "Ultimately, for all of us, the answer is 'who knows?' However, what I do know is that there are so many opportunities outside of playing. You have to put yourself out there and most of all just try new things, as you never know where they may lead."

"I loved having the chance to speak at the conference," said Peters. "I was surprised to see so many household names and familiar faces attending but it is the mark of the PCA that players of such senior standing were open to understanding what else is out there, post playing. There is such value in the thought-sharing process that the conference allowed and ultimately it makes people feel they're not alone in their pursuit of a good future."



You have to put yourself out there and just try new things, as you never know where they may lead
Stephen Peters

SOCIAL MEDIA

#rulesofengagement

The dos and don'ts of copyright and advertising within social media.



BY MATT HIMSWORTH

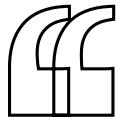
Do you have the legal right to post everything that appears across your social media accounts? What about a photograph of you? Surely you own that? Right? Well, not for certain, no.

Intellectual property works just like physical property. When Mercedes build a car, they own it until they sell it to someone else. You can only drive it if Mercedes say so. The same applies to intellectual property such as photographs and videos. The person that takes a photograph owns the photograph and he/she is the only person legally entitled to use it (by and large) unless they give permission to others.

Young sportsmen and women, somewhat understandably, like to feature images of them playing top level sport on their social media, particularly as their profile pictures. Often you'll see a profile picture of a player captured out in the middle at Lord's, Headingley or Old Trafford with some white writing across the bottom of the picture, carrying the watermarked names of the copyright holder.

Companies like Getty Images emblazon their name across photographs in order to prevent people and businesses from using them without permission. There is a small licence fee applicable if you want to remove those words and use the pictures on your social media account. All you have to do is contact Getty.

Every day social media users rip off copyright in memes, jokes and other viral content, however, it's not a trivial point. We recently acted for a



Intellectual property works just like physical property. When Mercedes build a car, they own it until they sell it to someone else. You can only drive it if Mercedes say so. The same applies to intellectual property such as photographs and videos

himsworths
legal

client that used a photograph that was owned by Agence France-Presse in a blog. It was a throwaway use of a minor image. AFP police the internet for unlawful uses of their photos and slapped a demand on our client for £4,250.

So, if you are using a Getty image of yourself, or any other agency, as your Instagram or Twitter profile picture then it's worth either getting a licence to use it or perhaps get your own picture taken. Your club or cricketing body should be able to sort you out with an image that you are allowed to use.

And what about those food supplements you're promoting? Or the bat deal you just signed and have plastered all over Insta or Twitter? It's important to know that all advertising, even on social media, is covered by the Advertising Standards Agency. The ASA require that any advertising on social media is clearly flagged up as an ad. This means that your Tweet or Insta comment should spell out to users that it is an advert. Use of a hashtag like #ad or #spon should be enough.

Matt Himsworth is the PCA advisor for social media and legal affairs
M 07799 660355 T 01727 800 237



Capturing the moment: make sure you know the rules

SUPPORT

Testimonials In 2018

The granting of a county testimonial year is an honour bestowed on but a few. These are the men whose performances across many seasons have seen them worthy of recognition and your support.

All county beneficiaries will be generously supporting the PCA Benevolent Fund as a designated charity in 2018.



Steven Croft



LANCASHIRE CCC
BETWEEN 2005-2018

Blackpool-born Croft has made over 450 first-team appearances for Lancashire including an English record unbroken run of 143 consecutive matches in 20-over cricket. Club captain from 2016, the top-order man led the Red Rose to NatWest T20 Blast glory and promotion that same season.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2011
After 77 years of waiting, it was Croft's cameo performance against Somerset at Taunton that took the championship title to Old Trafford.

stevencrofttestimonial.com

Marcus Trescothick



SOMERSET CCC
BETWEEN 1993-2018

One-club man, 42-year-old Marcus Trescothick has opened the batting for the Cidemen for over 20 years. The lefthander has compiled no fewer than 28,000 runs for the club, with the small amount of 121 first-team hundreds. A Somerset and England legend, and three-time winner of the PCA Player of the Year Award.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2005
Playing in the greatest Ashes series of the modern era, few will forget his freewheeling 90 at Edgbaston during the 2nd Test that brought England's campaign to life.

marcustrestestimonial.co.uk

Nick Compton



MIDDLESEX CCC
BETWEEN 2001-2009 & 2015-2018

Two spells with Middlesex (broken by a stint with Somerset 2010-2014), England man Compton has delivered runs across all formats for the county. Sixteen Test caps with two hundreds and grandson of the great Denis Compton, the righthander was named one of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year in 2013.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2012
A Test debut and a first-class season that delivered 1,494 runs at an average of 99.60 saw Compton named PCA Player of the Year.

thecomptontestimonial.com

Steven Crook



NORTHAMPTONSHIRE CCC
BETWEEN 2005-2009 & 2013-2018

Another 'two-spell' man, 34-year-old Crook also boasts spells with Lancashire (2001-2005) and Middlesex (2011-2013). The hard-hitting fast bowler is an impact player with bat and ball.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2013

The Steelbacks' victory in the T20 Blast was underpinned by Crooks' 24-ball 46 in the semi-final win over Essex. A performance made when all looked lost, prompting opposition captain, James Foster, to vouch for the hitman's international potential.

Ed Joyce



SUSSEX CCC
BETWEEN 2009-2017

39-year-old Irishman Joyce started his county career with Middlesex (1999-2008) before embarking on his hugely successful stint on the south coast. Playing over 250 first-class matches and racking up in excess of 300 List A appearances, lefthander Joyce remains a stalwart of Irish cricket, broken by a spell with England between 2006-2007.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2014

Seven Division One championship centuries at an average of better than 70, and a season aggregate of 1351 first-class runs, the hugely-likeable Dubliner also passed 100 caps for Ireland that summer.

edjoyce2018.co.uk

Tony Palladino



DERBYSHIRE CCC
BETWEEN 2011-2018

In a career that started at Essex (2003-2010), 34-year-old seamer Palladino has proven his worth time and time again for his adopted county offering control, wickets and buckets of sweat and effort. In 2017 he captained Derbyshire against the touring West Indians at Derby and is set to be the 24th man to top 300 first-class victims for the Midlanders.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2012

A heartstopping win over Hampshire in the final game of the season saw Derbyshire promoted as champions to cricket's top tier for the first time since its inception in 2000. Tower Hamlets-born Palladino's new-ball pairing with Tim Groenewald proving decisive over the campaign.

[facebook.com/
TonyPalladinoTestimonial2018](https://facebook.com/TonyPalladinoTestimonial2018)

Adil Rashid



YORKSHIRE CCC
BETWEEN 2006-2018

With six wickets on debut v Warwickshire at Scarborough, Bradford-born leg-spinning allrounder was always one to watch. Closing in on 500 first-class wickets, it has been white-ball cricket that has brought the 30-year-old world attention. Ten Tests, and approaching 100 combined one-day international appearances marks Rashid as an integral part of England and Yorkshire's future.

GOLDEN SUMMER:

2007

Named PCA Young Player of the Year and Cricket Writers' Club Young Cricketer of the Year as an allrounder of great promise and importance.

EDUCATION

School's Out

Learning online and gaining a degree qualification in the process sounds like the perfect way to set yourself up for the best possible future. Middlesex are leading the way on the cricket circuit - supported brilliantly by the county's local seat of learning and the PCA.



BY MARK WALLACE

Cricket continues to enjoy a strong relationship with higher education and almost a quarter of current players either hold a degree or are studying for one.

The University of Hertfordshire is playing its part in helping the game keep these impressive numbers buoyant with 15 current and two former players on its online Bachelor of Science Degree in Business and Sport programme.

The course is designed to be accessed wholly online, which means it can be completed from anywhere in the world and has been designed with top-class sports people specifically in mind.

Jarrod Lippiatt is the Programme Leader and he explained: "We've got around 75 athletes on the course at the moment and they include rugby

players and Olympic athletes, as well as cricketers.

"We've built up a fair amount of experience in the support of elite athletes and we saw there was no longer such a thing as a typical week spent training or competing. So, we worked on the idea of adding some genuine flexibility into a degree programme. The result has been a really engaging course with some great results."

As Lippiatt is quick to point out, like anything done remotely, it requires focus and discipline. "It's a case of finding time to study little and often rather than be burdened with huge chunks of work," he commented. "There is the option to take study breaks, should something come up – Toby Roland Jones was busy with the Test team last summer so took a step back – and it really is

a case of giving students control over how they go about getting their work done and finishing the course.

"We provide the opportunity for face-to-face support and we're available to answer questions and queries at every stage of the process. We've run a few study groups for Middlesex and they've been really positive sessions."

Middlesex have ten players currently studying on the course, with seamer James Harris particularly positive about the benefits.

"I'm probably like a lot of guys in that I've always wanted to study for a degree," he said. "But with cricket being a 12-month focus nowadays, I never quite worked out how best to fit it in around playing, training and, for me, location challenges."

"The Business and Sport Degree at Hertfordshire has solved a lot of those issues. Having something to get my teeth into away from the game has been great. There's a few of us doing it at Middlesex so we bounce off each other and keep each other going too."

Players have five years to complete the course on a part-time basis with credits awarded for each module completed. Study areas include: Leadership, Accounting, Business Ethics, Global Perspectives, Project Planning and Strategy among others, with options to tailor things more toward business or sport depending on a student's preferences.

It is also encouraging that students use their own experiences to inform their learning, submitting them as examples of applied practice, building a portfolio of work throughout their time on the course.

Lippiatt has been highly impressed by Harris and his classmates. "The standard of the work we've seen so far has been really high-quality – and I'm not just saying that. The transferable skills from sport into taking a disciplined approach to learning has been obvious from the cricketers on the course and will stand them in really good stead for the rest of their lives."

Speak to your PDM for more information if you're interested in looking at this or other degree options available.

herts.ac.uk



Star turn: Middlesex man James Harris scoring well off the field and on.

TECHNOLOGY

Life-changing Tech

Four products for the home to make yer mouth water...



As a PCA member you can access special deals on top-of-the-range LG products via our Partnership & VIP Programme Manager.

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Mark Hill on 07740 062970 or 01932 331 572, email mark.hill@lge.com



Clockwise: **OLED WALLPAPER TV** Model No. OLED65W7V - perfection in its simplicity, super-thin (2.75mm) design, function and form in perfect harmony **AI SPEAKER** Model No. WK7 - a smart-speaker with real portability. New **OLED TV** Model No. OLED55C8PLA - flat and curved and sure to wow **INSTAVIEW FRIDGE** Model No. GSX960SSAZ - see inside by tapping on the glass and enjoy 41 per cent less cold air loss. lg.com.uk

SKILLS

How Business-ready Are You?

Preparing well for the world of work means knowing your way around a computer. Read this tick list to see where you might fit in.



BY MARK WALLACE

Professional cricketers possess a raft of transferable skills to draw on when in the conventional workplace. Teamwork, Attitude, Problem Solving, Leadership - the list goes on and on but it's also worth remembering that many of these skills can be seen as intangible. That is, that they are not obviously noticeable at first, not easy to measure and when it comes to hitting the workplace for the first time, not things that you're going to be able to communicate easily on your first day.

Therefore, to rely on these intangibles alone is a risky business and a sure-fire way of slowing progress in whatever field you go into. Adding some quantifiable skills to your CV, especially those which you know will be needed from Day 1 is a wise move. And the wisest move of all for anyone taking steps into the workplace either permanently, part-time or via a work placement, is to have a long hard look at their computer skills. So ask yourself, 'Am I business-ready?'

If the answer 'is yes' then ask yourself if you're sure? The world moves quickly and those computer lessons you did in school or when at university might just be a touch dated by now.

Most businesses, will expect you to have a reasonable understanding of Microsoft Office, as the most universally used software. There are ten different Office desktop applications, but the most commonly used - and the ones worth getting a handle on - are Outlook for email, Excel for spreadsheets, Word for desktop publishing and PowerPoint for workplace presentations.



Adding some quantifiable skills to your CV, especially those which you know will be needed from day one is a wise move. And the wisest move of all for anyone taking steps into the workplace either permanently, part-time or via a work placement, is to have a long hard look at their computer skills.



OUTLOOK

Microsoft Outlook is used to manage your email, contacts and calendar.

Most people now know how to send an email but try and understand the tone of the business your working for – legal may be far more formal than advertising for example - get used to how to send attachments and make sure they're in the right format to be able to be read and handled when reaching their destination.

And get used to receiving plenty of emails, even if that person may only be a few desks away from you. Emails are often used not just to share information but as a way of time-stamping and proving work is being carried out. So get to know who you should be copying into your emails when you're sending them around.

On top of this the calendar function allows you to effectively organise your diary but also have your calendar viewed by others and vice-versa. Often meeting invites will appear on your calendar for acceptance and being asked to 'send me a calendar invite' is pretty common office jargon, so know how to do it.



POWERPOINT

Nobody gets away without having to present. Whatever field you're looking to get into you're guaranteed that at some stage you'll be standing up hoping and praying that your slides don't fail you.

Which means it's a good idea to get a feeling for how to put a good presentation together. The basics of PowerPoint are reasonably easy to grasp but when it comes to bringing your work to life with all the little tricks, flicks and swooshes available it's worth delving a little deeper.

Being able to embed video, mask out backgrounds and remove unlicensed logos are handy skills to have and if it does nothing else, then improving your PowerPoint skills will save you one of your most useful commodities.

Time.



EXCEL

It's not just about presenting data, it's about handling information and getting used to reading and navigating your way around spreadsheets. To do this well, knowing how to use Excel is crucial. More than anywhere else Excel can be a scary place to try and jump into without any prior knowledge and the danger of clicking the wrong button and ending up with a blank screen always seems perilously close. But thankfully workplaces are awash with once novices turned Excel addicts and the good news is once you get some basics in place it can be THE tool to make life a whole lot easier and time a whole lot more plentiful.



WORD

This is where your chunkier pieces of work will be done. Your reports, your planning sheets your blogs or pitch scripts. Get a feel for how things need to be laid out on Word.

Things like consistent font use, point size and line spacing can quickly give things a professional edge. Check your work, by using the spellcheck and be aware that when your boss gives you a word count they mean it. And don't forget where you've saved your work so it's easily found when it comes to you attaching it to an email and sending it on.

Has this brought you out in a cold sweat yet? If it has, then don't let that be the case. Luckily, the PCA is keen for its members to be as business-ready as possible. Already we've done workshops at several counties focusing on improving specific IT skills and the response from players has been that both their utilisable skills and overall computer confidence increased significantly in a short space of time.

Speak to your PDM about putting on something in your county or region. Perhaps even email them.

MOTORING

Driving On The Up

Accidents can happen. Prepare yourself by accessing this first responder-led programme.



Pre-season 2018, will see the PCA roll out driver safety awareness workshops to all 18 first-class counties, along with MCCYCs, England Men and Women's teams.

It has meant the recruitment of the Leicestershire Fire Service to run the course, the first responders regarded as a leader in this field. The course will mean utilising active firefighters in delivering the workshops, using Virtual Reality goggles to simulate the build up to a crash, the crash itself and the aftermath. The technology is held up as the future of such educational initiatives.

The tactic of 'shock and awe' is created via footage depicting the intensely graphic images that one might witness at the scene of an accident, with an abundantly clear message of 'We don't want to be cutting you out of an accident' as justification.

It is a preventative measure, in place to educate players, rather than an accusation or assumption that cricketers are reckless drivers. Sadly, cricketers are not immune to the tragedy of car accidents, with the deaths of Surrey men Graham Kersey in 1997 and Ben Hollioake in 2002 most recent examples.

ROAD STATISTICS: THE FACTS

There were 1,710 road deaths, with no statistical change on the previous time period*

A total of 27,130 people were killed or seriously injured*

There were 176,500 casualties of all severities*

Motor traffic levels rose 1.4 per cent compared with year ending June 2016

The overall casualty rate per vehicle per mile decreased by six per cent over the same period*

*year ending June 2017

TRAVEL

Preparing To Play Abroad

Arranging travel abroad starts and ends with a visa.



BY RICH HUDSON

The winters of 2016/17 and 2017/18 has seen cricketers from the UK receive significantly more attention than in previous years with regards to their visa arrangements to enter Australia and play cricket. Long gone are the days when county cricketers would travel for a summer Down Under on visitor status.

The last couple of years has seen a number county cricketers receive bans from Australia, some have had their visas rejected based on previous visits, whilst many more have been questioned upon entering and leaving the country.

With the Department of Borders and Immigration in Australia now throwing sharper focus still on the subject, it is imperative that all players intending to travel to Australia are fully informed of the visa requirements to ensure safe passage.

Put simply, it is highly unlikely that Visitor Visa status will ever be the right visa to

travel to Australia for a professional cricketer from the UK. Any player receiving any financial benefit would render a Visitor Visa inappropriate. Financial benefits may include accommodation, flight reimbursement, coaching fees, expenses amongst other things.

As of late 2017, a Working Holiday Visa (Subclass 417) would be appropriate for those players who haven't had a Working Holiday Visa before, as long as they don't work for the same club for more than six months.

In all other circumstances, a Sporting Activities Visa (Subclass 408) is required by a player. Players need to be proactive and act early in processing visa applications when making plans for the winter. The Subclass 408 visa requires the club in Australia to be registered as a sponsor, requiring numerous documents to be lodged with Borders and Immigration and then

the player must complete their own visa application. Guidance on both of these is available from both the PCA and Cricket Australia.

The PCA remains strong in its advice that players should take the potential risks associated with providing inaccurate information in visa applications very seriously. Just some of the examples seen in the last 18 months include;

- A player banned for three years from entering Australia
- A player turned around on landing in Australia and sent back to the UK immediately
- A player being interrogated on arrival, including having his iCloud, WhatsApp and emails searched for details of his arrangement with a club.
- A player who had never been banned or rejected from Australia denied a Visitor Visa to spend Christmas with his partner and her family in Australia due to prior information provided and stored on his record.

It is fair to note that until this point, issues have primarily been seen when entering Australia but it is reasonable and sensible to assume that entry to New Zealand and South Africa is likely to be tightened in the future.

When receiving any expenses or payment, players should always be fully informed of the local visa requirements and the restrictions of the specific visa they travel on irrespective of which country it is they are travelling to.

If travelling overseas in 2018/19, your PDM will be able to help you with more information.



FINANCE

The Flame That Burns Twice As Bright Burns For Half As Long

On why planning for the future needs to start today.



BY NICK RICHARDS

Few will experience the highs and lows that constitute life as a professional sportsman or woman. It's an intense period of time and a career-length, even one that goes 'full-term', of less than half that of the average solicitor, doctor or banker. It creates time pressure when planning for a life after sport, plus the day-to-day pressures of putting a roof overhead and food on the table. Taking control of finances early helps greatly when preparing for a new life and career after sport.

PENSIONS ARE NOT ENOUGH

Athletes earn good money – but only while they are playing. Even 'full-term' sports careers see retirement by mid to late thirties.

A pension used to be the primary source of income in retirement. But gone are the days of large, infrequent contributions paid into a registered scheme, accessible from the age of 35.

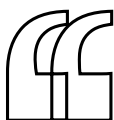
Since 2006, athletes have had to wait until the age of 50 to access pension pots. This became 55 in 2015. Athletes' retirement ages has now settled at ten years below the state pension age, meaning that by 2020, the minimum age will be 56 and will only continue rising.

Tax rules have changed, so even if an athlete is prepared to wait, those earning more than £210,000 a year can only pay £10,000 per annum into a pension plan.

These changes have hit athletes hard. Whilst the rules work for the majority of the population they do not work for the majority of cricketers. Financial planning becomes absolutely essential.

FROM HERO TO ZERO... INCOME

Playing days are probably the most expensive



For every squad of players there is only a handful of coaching and administration opportunities and even less work for would-be pundits

Important information: Tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each client and may be subject to change in future. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and you may not receive back the original amount invested.

Important information: Tax treatment depends on the individual circumstances of each client and may be subject to change in future. The value of investments can fall as well as rise and you may not receive back the original amount invested.

Contact

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time of an athlete's life. It usually goes with a sizeable mortgage, a growing family, and some serious outgoings. And earning a decent wage now doesn't mean the bills take care of themselves upon retirement. Mitigating that impact, athletes must be aggressive in saving for their future because the peak earnings years are relatively short.

True, we may be talking about the next Sir Ian Botham or Andrew Strauss but for every squad of players there is only a handful of coaching and administration opportunities and even less work for would-be pundits. Unfortunately, this means that most players won't be able to continue their career within the top tiers of the cricketing world.

CASHFLOW IS KING

In order to prevent earnings falling off a cliff, players need to think how much they might need once the spikes are hung up. Plan likely cashflow needs; if consensus is that a household needs £10,000 a month, double it. Because tax, national insurance contributions and other charges will see it halved.

Consider a broad investment portfolio. One able to ride the ups and downs of investment markets over the decades. These plans should be accessible – with cash, ISAs, rental property income – enabling the drawing of an income. But also consider holding longer term (illiquid) investments to offer diversification.

Maybe even consider investing in the development of a skill or even a trade? That is an investment that will deliver returns throughout a lifetime.

Don't forget medical cover. Athletes are used to the best and having put their bodies on the line, can often carry war wounds into retirement. But note that a 35-year-old cricketer will find cover costs considerably more than an office worker of the same age.

READY, SET, SAVE

There will always be temptation and peer pressure. But keeping up with the Joneses could mean losing everything. With bankruptcies among sports professionals all too common.

Sometimes this is because of bad advice, but more often than not, it's because players have unsuccessfully tried to sustain an unsustainable lifestyle after retiring. Enjoy yourself - as the old song goes - but remember that it's later than you think. Saving isn't easy for anyone, but it pays dividends.

CAREER

Moving On Up

Worcestershire head coach Kevin Sharp on a career of twists and turns.

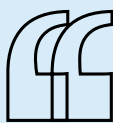


BY LAURA WYBROW

“I’ve been out of the first-class game twice as a coach and managed to get back into it,” says Worcestershire newly-appointed head coach, Kevin Sharp, who is clearly something of a stayer. The former Yorkshire lefthander is speaking from his office at New Road with its lovely view across to the cathedral, so he says. He continues to tell his story. “I had seven or eight years away from it before I took the ECB University Centre of Excellence job at Leeds/Bradford. And another two or three before returning with Worcester. In truth, I learned a lot as a coach when away from the professional game, but always missed it.”

58-year-old Sharp has very-recently succeeded fellow Tyke Steve Rhodes at the helm of the Rapids after winter changes for the newly-promoted Division One club. Sharp has stepped up from his role with the 2nd XI meaning, he says, there’s opportunity of a reshuffle lower down the coaching pyramid. “We’ve a strong core of guys,” states the Leeds-born man with the sunniest of dispositions. “Alan Richardson has come in as bowling coach and my moving up has allowed Alex Gidman to return to the club as 2nd XI coach. We’ve lots of other talented coaches too and the intention is to involve everyone and keep things fresh. It’s good that the players get to hear different voices at different times.”

Back in the day, going from playing to coaching was the swiftest of transitions for Sharp. After 13 seasons on the books with Yorkshire, he was released



I was really thrilled when I was told that it was the lads that wanted me to do the job

at two days notice in 1990, with just enough time to turn up for the TCCB Advanced coaching course he had booked himself on earlier in the summer. “It almost happened by accident,” adds Sharp, talking about the onset of a new career chapter. “I was at Lilleshall and had a call from Gordon Lord (Warwickshire & Worcestershire batsman) saying that he was taking a job with the governing body and it meant there was the opportunity of a job in Shropshire. It saw me back at grassroots level and I learned an awful lot by doing it.”

The job saw Sharp work with county age group squads, but also with some exposure to regional cricket. The opening up of the universities as part of the excellence pathway saw the veteran of 218 first-class games for Yorkshire and South African province Griqualand West return to his native county for a spell between 2001 and 2003. “I came into contact with one or two of the young batsmen from the club, which fed into returning to the first-class game proper. I was with Yorkshire for nine years until the club restructured the coaching team.”

Redundancy meant a spell without work at all, plus the prospect of more coaching roles on the margins. It took a CV sent to former team-mate Rhodes to open a door at Worcestershire. “I came to the club during a difficult time. Damian (D’Oliveira) was coaching at the club but struggling with his health (the one-club man passed away in 2014 after a two-and-a-half-year battle with cancer), so I just got my head down and tried to fit in where and when I was needed. The club offered me the role of 2nd XI and batting coach at Dolly’s passing.”

Sharp describes Worcestershire as a club punching above its weight. With a Division Two title in 2017 and a semi-final reached of the 50-over competition, plus three T20 quarterfinals in the last few years, it has been the club’s young talent that has seen the county do better than merely hold its own. “I was really thrilled when I was told that it was the lads that wanted me to do the job here,” says Sharp, clearly touched by the vote of confidence. “We’ve fluctuated between the divisions and need to consolidate in the championship. I hope that I can bring stability. We’ve added Australia’s Travis Head to the staff and Matt Rawnsley (former Worcestershire slow left-arm) has come in as CEO, it’s definitely a time for us to move forward.”

EDUCATION

Working On A Dream

Nottinghamshire's new captain Steven Mullaney is ready to embrace leadership challenges on and off the field. The allrounder knows it's a big summer for him personally - and for the recently promoted club.



BY LYNSEY WILLIAMS

The timing was perfect for Steven Mullaney when he was handed the chance to attend a PCA one-day introductory course in effective leadership.

As Nottinghamshire's new captain, succeeding veteran wicketkeeper Chris Read, he's anxious to make his mark - not only a tactician, but also as a leader.

So he was quick to grasp the opportunity to sign up for the one-day course, which was developed and delivered by international training providers, Dale Carnegie.

"It's perfect timing for me," said Mullaney. "Learning about leadership is massively important."

Course trainer, Mark De Sadler, supported 18 aspiring leaders from various disciplines in their learning of fundamental leadership skills. It enabled the group, including umpires and coaches, to learn easy-to-apply techniques to make them more successful as leaders.

"The course involves a lot of self-reflection," explained de Stadler. "Finding out just 'who I am' as a leader and as an individual, then thinking about how we can work together as a team, not as individuals within a team."

"It was a great course," added Mullaney, who has been named a captain for ECB's North v South Series in Barbados. "I've done quite a lot of leadership education in the past with Nottinghamshire but I've gained a lot from this," said the

Readied: New Notts captain Steven Mullaney has benefitted from a Dale Carnegie-led leadership course this winter.

former Lancashire man. "The biggest thing was learning about different people's personalities. The hope is that you are always going to get to the same position of consensus in the end; people just need different options in how to get there."

Warrington-born Mullaney enjoys some really close relationships within the Trent Bridge dressing room and acknowledges that this will be both beneficial and challenging in his new role. "At certain points of the season there will no doubt be some tough conversations to be had. Hopefully what I've taken from the course will go a long way in supporting me when that inevitably happens."

Mullaney is excited about taking his trophy-holding side into the summer, stating that it's a great opportunity to lead such a talented group of players at such a time. "I'm loving every minute," he said, also confirming the importance of his upcoming engagement in the Caribbean. "Hopefully I can play a part in beating the South side, and then enjoy another successful season with Notts."

Contact your PDM for advice on courses currently available.



Dale Carnegie leadership development modules cover such areas as leading strong teams and ethical leadership — strengthening confidence and capability, but equip them to build a culture of engagement where team members are confident and enthusiastic to contribute.



DEREK MORGAN (1929-2017)

The term county stalwart might have been invented for Derbyshire allrounder Derek Morgan, who has died at the age of 88.

Playing for the county for 20 seasons, from 1950 onwards, Morgan captained the side from 1965 to 1969. He remains the only Derbyshire player to have scored more than 15,000 runs, taken more than 1,000 wickets and held more than 500 catches. He also played rugby for Derby, football for Oxford United, and won county honours at hockey.

Born in Muswell Hill, the son of a colonial civil servant, Derek Clifton Morgan was educated at Berkhamsted School. National Service with the Royal Artillery brought him to Etwell, where he played his league cricket. A right-arm medium pace bowler and a resilient middle-order batsman, he was also a fine catcher, particularly close to the wicket.

Making his championship debut against Northamptonshire at Derby in 1950, Morgan was capped the

following year. He passed 1,000 runs eight times and made 556 appearances for the county, scoring 8,356 runs. His highest score being the 147 made against Hampshire at Bournemouth in 1964. A final tally of 1,248 wickets included a career-best 7-33 against Glamorgan at Chesterfield in 1963. He also held a remarkable 563 catches.

Despite being selected for the 1953 Test Trial and serving as England twelfth man on five occasions, he was perhaps never quite fashionable enough for loftier recognition.

In 1969, he led his team to the Gillette Cup Final, only to lose to Yorkshire and having enjoyed a successful benefit in 1961, half a century later, he succeeded Bob Taylor as Derbyshire President. It was yet another in a long list of roles he fulfilled with great distinction.



HUGH DAVIES (1932-2017)

Few men have made such a distinguished contribution to Welsh cricket as former Glamorgan opening bowler, Hugh Davies, who has died aged 85.

Associated with the county for more than half a century, his unstinting efforts, both on and off the field, made a most vital contribution to the game at every level.

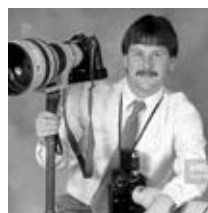
Spending his formative years in Pembrey, Carmarthenshire, Hugh Daniel Davies was educated at Llanelli Boys' Grammar School. While there, he won schoolboy representative honours at both rugby and cricket. A brisk right-arm medium-fast bowler and lower-order batsman, following completion of his National Service in the RAF, he joined the Glamorgan staff in 1955.

Sharing the new ball with Wilf Wooller, he made his championship debut that

same year against Gloucestershire at Swansea. However, having won a regular place in the side, a serious knee injury hampered his progress. Making only 52 appearances between 1955 and 1960, he scored 247 runs and took 115 wickets. His best bowling return being his 6-85 v Yorkshire at Sheffield in 1957.

After training as a school teacher at Cardiff College of Education, Davies later became Senior Physical Education Advisor for Mid Glamorgan. Playing league cricket for Llanelli, Neath and the Steel Company of Wales, he also coached at Glamorgan's indoor school at both Neath and Ebbw Vale. Elected a member of the County Committee, he later served as Chairman of the Cricket Committee.

As a native speaker, he also acted as a summariser for the Welsh language coverage of the county's games for BBC Radio Cymru. A member of the Cricket Board of Wales since its formation in 1997, from 2002 until 2011, he became its Chairman. Son Adam followed in his father's footsteps, joining both the Glamorgan playing staff and then its committee.



DAVID MUNDEN (1957-2018)

A member of a Leicestershire cricketing family, David Munden has died aged 60.

Father, Vic, a slow left-arm bowler, on the Leicestershire staff from 1946 until 1957, once played 159 consecutive games for the county. His two younger brothers, Donald and Paul plus David's uncles, were both stalwarts during the 1950s and 60s, contributing numerous important performances.

Educated at Gateway School in Leicester city centre, David John Munden then trained as a school teacher

at Borough Road College. First playing for Leicestershire in 1975, the following year he toured West Indies as a member of England Young Cricketers alongside team-mates David Gower, Mike Gatting, Paul Downton and Chris Cowdrey. He later broadened his education by spending a winter in Australia, playing and coaching for Essendon in the Victoria Premier Cricket League.

Left-handed with bat and ball, Munden batted doggedly, fielded brilliantly and in his early days bowled some very tidy leg-spin. Sadly, never quite fulfilling the rich promise of his youth, his talents were mainly confined to second XI cricket, in which he regularly captained. In his final game for the county, Munden took his leave with a chanceless 110 to see off Worcestershire Second XI by three wickets at Grace Road in August 1981.

While returning to play local league cricket, he subsequently went on to carve out a highly successful career as a sports photographer. Until cruelly struck down with Parkinson's Disease, his talents found a ready outlet at cricketing venues both here and abroad. Three years ago, initiated by four long-time friends, Phil Bainbridge, Andy Ward, Mike Heywood and Alan Cearn, Grace Road proudly hosted a fund-raising testimonial in his honour.



RICHARD DOUGHTY (1960-2018)

Gloucestershire offered the opportunity for fast-bowling allrounder Richard James Doughty to cut his teeth in the professional game, the Yorkshireman spending three years in the West Country before joining Surrey between 1985-87. He enjoyed a career high water season at the Oval in 1985, taking 34 first-class wickets at 25.50

with a best of 6-33 against Warwickshire. In total Doughty claimed 89 first-class wickets at 33 and contributed 845 runs at 20, striking the ball with gusto from the lower middle order.

Away from the sport, Doughty like so many professional sportsmen, found life after his time on the county circuit difficult. Already diagnosed a diabetic before joining Surrey, the Bridlington-born cricketer beat off cancer twice before additional health battles - plus professional and work worries - left Doughty grateful to the Professional Cricketers' Association for facilitating a stay at the Sporting Chance Clinic to treat depression. Doughty went on to repay this support by speaking courageously about his life and challenges, in the hope it would help others faced by similar circumstances.

Richard 'Dickie' Doughty passed away on February 5, 2018. He was 57.

RUSSELL EVANS (1965-2017)

Born in Calverton, Nottinghamshire, in 1965, Russell John Evans represented his native county on six occasions between 1985 and 1992. The younger brother of Notts allrounder Kevin, Evans Jnr made a highest score of 59 against the touring Sri Lankans at Cleethorpes in 1988, before going on to forge a reputation as a skilful and heavy-scoring batsman playing for Lincolnshire in the Minor Counties.

A 20-year working career at bat manufacturing giants Gunn & Moore gave way to founding his own cricket equipment business, B3, themselves based in Nottingham, the venture running as companion to a career as a first-class umpire.

Evans joined the ECB's Reserve List of Umpires in 2011 before being appointed to the First-Class Umpiring Panel proper in 2015. Where Evans went on to officiate with distinction in Women's One-Day and T20 Internationals.

His standing amongst his peers also

saw his appointment as the Umpires Representative to the ECB's Cricket Discipline Commission. That respect further highlighted when hearing the news of Evans' death England took the field on the opening day of the 2nd Ashes Test at Adelaide wearing black armbands.

Evans died on the evening of November 30 2017 as a result of complications following routine surgery and is survived by wife Alison and the couple's two children Kelly and Bradley.

England players marked the passing of umpire Evans during the 2nd Ashes Test at Adelaide.



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19 SPRING MEETING at DENHAM
20 CROWBOROUGH BEACON
29 ROYAL MID-SURREY

MAY

13/14 COLD ASHBY
16 MCC GS at THE BERKSHIRE
17 WORKSOP
18 THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
31 FORMBY

JUNE

15 THE LEICESTERSHIRE

AUGUST

24 FARNHAM SUN

SEPTEMBER

2 IPSWICH
12 FLAMINGOS OF HOLLAND
at COLD ASHBY
15 ROYAL WORLINGTON and NEWMARKET
16 WOBURN
22 WORPLESDON
24/25 ROYAL PORTHCAWL
28 BROOKMANS PARK
29 DENHAM
30 STONEHAM

OCTOBER

2 EDGBASTON
4 AUTUMN MEETING at DENHAM
6 WEST HILL
7 ASHRIDGE
10 NOTTS GOLF CLUB at HOLLINWELL
15 WORCESTER GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB
17 ROYAL ASHDOWN FOREST
21 THE GIRLS at THE BERKSHIRE
24 WEST SUSSEX LADIES
25 ENMORE PARK
27/28 ROYAL ST GEORGE'S

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WHEN YOU NEED IT.**



Michael Carberry on why he enjoys the challenge of putting pencil marks on paper when he's not taking on the new ball

My Passion



I've always drawn. When I was little I was told that I had an eye for it. I remember being fascinated with town centre artists and their easels. I was a decent drawer at school, but ended up choosing maths and physics A-levels over art as more 'sensible' options. My teacher was mortified as I was down as a double A student.

Then I didn't pick up a pencil for fifteen years. I spent ten years in music as a nightclub DJ, and it took until 2015 for me to start again. I sketched someone, almost without thinking, and they liked it. The next day they bought me some pencils and a pad and I was away again.

Style-wise, I'm a graphite and charcoal artist and draw in what's known as a photo-realistic style. It means trying to get every detail, every crease, every hair to look as lifelike as possible. I work in three colours - grey, white and black - and the trick is to build the drawing up, layer by layer, making it come to life as you go.

I'm quite an introverted character, so taking myself off to draw suits me. It has also helped me relax and switch off from the game, whether things are going well or badly. I can have 15 hours invested in a single drawing and I try not to rush things. Older faces are harder to draw -

they have more life in them to bring out. I recently completed a sketch of actor Robert Di Niro, photographed as an older man, which turned out well and was a good challenge. I currently have four hours invested in a portrait of musician and social activist John Lennon, which is going in the right direction too.

When drawing, I try to finish them and then return two or three days later to see if they're done. It's never great if I draw a famous face and somebody asks me who the subject is!

[instagram.com/carbs646](https://www.instagram.com/carbs646) for more from the artist



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