

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

Issue no.31

Winners!

cinch PCA Awards 2022

What you see is what you get

EOIN MORGAN REFLECTS

The Results Are In
PAST PLAYERS' SURVEY

Plus...

DONNA FRASER
DAVID GRAVENEY
FREYA KEMP

ENGLAND'S HEROES

OUR DOUBLE WORLD CHAMPIONS IN PICTURES



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Moving Forwards

PCA Chief Executive Rob Lynch on cricket's evolution.



It has been a fascinating 2022, headlined by Jos Buttler leading England to a historic T20 World Cup win. Becoming the first men's team to hold both ODI and T20I trophies is the ultimate achievement and the biggest possible inspiration to the next generation.

As part of issue 31 of Beyond the Boundaries, we celebrate their success and look at the resurgence of the England Men's Test team, an action packed summer for the England Women's squad, the second year of The Hundred and a plentiful men's and women's domestic programme.

There has also been much robust debate and strong opinion on off-field matters and we have ensured the PCA and the players voice has been heard loudly.

Domestically, the ECB's High Performance Review has received widespread critique and ensuring the views of players are at the heart of decisions has been a major focus of the summer.

English cricket structures and schedules will always provoke emotional debate, and rightly so, however, we hope there is a will for all stakeholders to take progressive action in respect of the game's evolution. This is to not only support player welfare, but to create a stronger environment for players to be the best they can while maintaining a robust 18-county structure and a successful England team across all formats.

It is clear that the game is changing at a rapid pace and it is vital that the PCA is at the forefront of those changes and understands the global employment landscape to support our members to choose their employment journey within the game.

A huge congratulations to all our members who contributed to a summer to remember on the pitch. It was fantastic to see so many individuals honoured at the cinch PCA Awards in October to celebrate the summer of cricket back in person for the first time since 2019. We look back and review the summer starting on page 44.

I also would like to introduce you to two new appointments to our executive, with Rob Smyth joining from the Lawn Tennis Association as the PCA's new Director of Commercial. I am also pleased to welcome Donna Fraser as the Association's first Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, she provides a unique insight into her background as an Olympian and work with British Athletics on page 54.

As the game strives for further gain in equality, your membership magazine looks into the continued growth of the women's game, with significant increases in professional squad sizes set to be implemented ahead of the 2023 season. With so many young talented players shining on the international stage, we have a look at the new era for the national side, starting on page 30.

We also said goodbye to two greats of English cricket with Anya Shrubsole and Eoin Morgan ending their international careers. We pay tribute to the duo throughout the magazine and thank them for their monumental impact they have had on our great game. Enjoy your magazine.

ROB LYNCH
PCA Chief Executive

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LET US **MATCH** YOUR **SKILLS** TO YOUR NEXT **CAREER HIGHLIGHT**

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The Voice For The Future

PCA Chair James Harris on a fantastic year of cricket and positive change in our sport.



It has been another fantastic summer of cricket, and our members have outdone themselves once again.

So much has changed in the sport over the last five years and it will continue to change at pace, therefore it is vital your views are represented.

The essence of what the PCA does is providing a platform for members to come forward and share their thoughts on what they want the future of the game to look like in this country.

We are thankfully through a challenging period where the Players' Committee and all squads worked together outstandingly well through the pandemic. I now believe the next focus regarding engagement with the wider playing group is energising our younger members to speak to peers and voice opinions through senior players at clubs, as it will come back to me and the rest of the PCA.

We take player views to the ECB and the relevant groups to ensure voices are heard.

“This will impact your entire career, so it is really important to see which way you want to shape the game. James Harris, PCA Chair

People of my age are coming towards the latter stages of their careers, and it may affect us in the short term, but the younger generations have 10 to 15 years of cricket ahead of them.

A lot of young players are still trying to make their way in the game, and as so often happens in sports and business when you are young, you feel like you have to keep your head down. You may feel as though you need to prove your value or try to impress those around you, but with these structural changes it is so important you share your views - whichever side of the fence you sit on.

Work like the High Performance Review and future structural changes could affect your entire career, so it is really important to see which way you want to shape the game.

We have recently just held another successful PCA Player Summit. It is crucial to get players from all the clubs, both male and female, in one place to share and debate their views.

For reps to debate with each other on which way the game is going is one of the most constructive times of the year. There is a huge amount of value in that and we would love to get everyone together more often if time would allow.



I wanted to end with some personal news, I'm very proud to say that I have recently married my partner Georgie.

Our families sacrifice so much for us, especially in the summer. We're going on honeymoon to Kenya which will be a lovely way to spend some time together and thank her for all the sacrifices that she makes to support me during the season.

I hope our members enjoy their downtime after a long summer. Winter well.

JAMES HARRIS
PCA Chair

Players Reunited

PCA members spanning the decades gathered for the annual Past Player Day in July at Cheltenham Cricket Festival.

Hosted by Gladstone Small, PCA founder Fred Rumsey was in attendance to support the day that has become a favourite for former players to catch up and reminisce with old colleagues and adversaries.



CRICKET LEARNING FROM THE WORLD'S BEST

Representatives from five FICA players' associations, including the PCA, attended the World Players' Association Commercialisation & Innovation Exchange, held at the National Basketball Players' Association in New York in October.

The three-day event included a cricket specific FICA Commercial Conference on day one, followed by two days of insights from industry leaders across the global players' association movement, including the heads of the NBPA, NFLPA and FIFPRO.

There were also presentations from leading technology, web3 and data companies who have partnered with players' associations to create significant commercial outcomes for players.

FICA is well placed to continue to work closely with its member players' associations, including the PCA, to optimise opportunities for players on a global scale.

Protecting in More Ways Than One



The PCA broke new ground in 2022 with a first of its kind agreement with Vitality as the Association used player helmets to secure investment for increased insurance provisions.

Partnering with the health and life insurer, the PCA capitalised on an asset that was created as part of the collective rights agreement players signed in 2021.

With all domestic male and female players sporting Vitality's logo on all helmets in county and regional white-ball cricket, the PCA was able to provide critical illness cover.

Gloucestershire spinner Tom Smith worked closely with his Association to find appropriate cover for professional players and highlighted the need for this protection.

The collective agreement between the players and the PCA allows the player body to work on their behalf for commercial opportunities and followed the first agreement with the Cricket Draft, which grants the fantasy league a licence to use player data.

Increased Contracts in Women's Domestic Game



The PCA has been lobbying the ECB for an increased number of professional contracts in the women's domestic game.

In October, the ECB announced a £3.5 million funding increase in the women's game which sees the professionally funded contracts at each region rise to 10.

The salary pot will grow to £250,000 per team from 1 February 2023 meaning the average salary for a women's regional cricketer will be £25,000.

In 2023 there will be a minimum of 80 professional women's domestic cricketers in addition to the 18 England Women's centrally contracted players.

AN OVER AT...

Imran Qayyum

The former Kent man was forced into retirement at the age of 27.

1

Where did it all start for you?

I started my cricket at a small club in Middlesex called Perivale CC, the majority of my time was spent bowling at my brother, that's maybe the reason I became a bowler. Through playing and performing for Finchley CC, I received opportunities to trial for various county 2nd XIs including Kent CCC, where eventually I signed as a professional.

2

What were the highlights of your career?

I always wanted to play in front of big crowds, fortunately, I got to do that in front of packed houses at grounds like the Oval and Lord's. They were special experiences.

3

How did your career end?

I injured my shoulder seriously during a T20 game in 2020 and was forced to retire from the game on medical advice two years on. I'm still trying to strengthen the shoulder to this day.

4

Tell us about your early transition...

Tom Jones, my PCA Personal Development Manager and I were floating ideas around what I can do after cricket. One of the things that popped into my mind was insurance. Fortunately, he knew an ex-cricketer who worked at a world-leading insurance broker called Marsh. A conversation with him turned into another conversation and they ended up offering me a role shortly after my retirement.

5

How did you prepare yourself for your second career?

I was never afraid to try things, while playing I'd research and experience various types of roles, from coaching to stock broking. Experiencing different industries whilst playing gave me the chance to learn on the job and adapt.

6

...and the future?

As well as an insurance broker, Marsh is a risk advisor and I sit on the risk advisory side, providing risk consulting solutions to large corporate entities, some of which have multinational operations. My role currently focuses on sales but who knows I may decide to go into delivering consulting work or continue on the sales journey.





Futures Conference

Domestic and International players from across the country came together for the two-day Futures Conference in November.

Based at the England national football team training centre at St. George's Park, Burton, 12 professional teams were represented with 19 members in attendance looking to put building blocks in place for their career off the field.

The event enabled members to gain experience from guest speakers and discuss career transition with one another.

England bowler Katherine Brunt said, "The Futures Conference isn't just for people like me that are transitioning into retirement but for players 10 years younger than me because it makes what comes after cricket less daunting."



FINE ART

Away from being the assistant coach at England's T20 World Cup win, Carl Hopkinson has been busy crafting pencil and charcoal drawings.

Recently finishing a mesmerising Ben Stokes piece for his ODI retirement, the former Sussex man enjoys the "therapeutic" nature of art and declares his hobby as a healthy focus away from cricket.



LEADING OUT FRONT

Former Hampshire bowler Cardigan Connor celebrated 20 years as Anguilla's Chef de Mission in 2022. The tiny island in the eastern Caribbean, home to just 14,000 residents, fielded its largest ever Commonwealth Games squad at Birmingham 2022 with 13, led by the man who secured over 1,000 professional wickets during a 15-year career.



IN THE HOUSE

New Thunder recruit Naomi Dattani took time out from her off-season move to join a panel with Devon Malcolm for Sporting Equals and the Youth Sport Trust at the House of Commons.

Celebrating the 'Breaking Boundaries' programme, 'Datts' had an opportunity to share her journey into the professional game, with her discussing diversity in sport and how cricket provides a platform for individuals to feel a sense of belonging and community.

With an initial focus on cricket, Breaking Boundaries has broadened to multi-sport to help a more diverse offering and the PCA was proud to have a former Players' Committee member endorsing the progressive initiative.



Pioneering Butcher

Roland Butcher has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London at the Guildhall.

Barbados-born Butcher represented Middlesex between 1974 and 1990, playing for England in three Test matches and three One Day Internationals. The talented middle-order batter was an inspirational and pioneering figure in the game, becoming the first Black cricketer to represent England, in 1980.

What I'm Doing This Winter

FIVE PLAYERS TAKING OPPORTUNITIES TO BETTER THEMSELVES OUT OF SEASON.

Eve Jones

CENTRAL SPARKS

This winter, to broaden my knowledge and network, I've put myself forward to attend the 'Two Circles Athlete Programme' run by Two Circles Sports Agency. This is a one-week intensive programme designed to help athletes learn more about wider career opportunities within the Sports Industry. I'm also hoping to undertake my Advanced Coaching (level 3) qualification to support my on-going coaching work within schools and the regional set up.



Billy Godleman

DERBYSHIRE

I've enrolled on to the Institute of Leadership & Management (ILM) Level Five Certificate in Effective Coaching and Mentoring at Derby College. To compliment this, I'm also working with my PDM, Charlie Mulrairie, to get some practical coaching and mentoring experience. My intention is still to play professional cricket but these steps will help me become clearer on how best to use my experience in my second career whenever that time comes.



Ben Charlesworth

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

After a season that was set back due to injury, I've decided to try and play some cricket so I'm heading to Adelaide to play for Woodville CC. I'm also going to be doing the Investment Management Certificate whilst away. Alongside my training and revision I hope to network with people in financial services. This will give me the foundation to go into areas of finance that appeal to me in the future.



Ben Raine

DURHAM

This winter I'll be exploring coaching as an option, I have an opportunity to go to New Zealand, this hopefully will allow me to live for a month in the life of a coach and see if this is a lifestyle I want to follow. I will also be exploring performance psychology with the intention of figuring out whether this could be a career choice for me.

Fran Wilson

WESTERN STORM

After taking the Level Five Coaching Professionals qualification, I'll be working with Bristol Bears Women's team as a voluntary performance Lifestyle Manager. It's great to be able to use my personal experience to support these talented players. I'm looking forward to delving deeper into the support I can offer whilst developing my own skillset as I continue to explore my interests that will no doubt help me prepare for the next step.



If I Knew Then...

David Graveney - Former England Chairman of Selectors, Gloucestershire and Durham man on a life in cricket.

“**Captains make a difference.** Their impact on those around them is more profound than you might think. Positive and negative.

“ I was sick before virtually every single match day. Talking about it might have helped it be an altogether more pleasurable playing experience.

“ A lot of the time, life is just about trying your hardest. It's all people want to see.

“ Rebel tours. Time again. I wouldn't have gone.

“ Relate to people. Get to know them. And let them get to know you. **Ultimately, we are who people think we are.**

“

Being successful is almost in every case about how willing you are to make sacrifices.

“ Whatever decisions are made behind closed doors, own them when you leave. Whether you agree with them, or not.

“ In dealing with the media, it's always better to put your head above the parapet than not. **There are two sides to every story.** Don't miss the chance to tell yours.

Leap of Faith

Adil Rashid takes us through his life-changing experience at the Hajj pilgrimage and the inspirational journey he took to get there.



This season I found myself wanting to take part in something that has been on my mind for a while. Something that I have always wanted to do. But alongside commitments in cricket and the importance of family, it was difficult for me to find the time. This year I was determined to go on the Hajj pilgrimage.

I have always had the intention of going but never found the right opportunity to do so. I am very much of the mindset that we don't know what tomorrow holds. I felt it was important for me to go now - whilst I am fit, healthy and have the means to do so. There was no excuse.

I spoke with friends and family, with my county and with England - everyone was so supportive. No questions were asked, and they were more than happy for me to go, the process was very easy.

The experience itself was incredible - once in a lifetime even. It was hot and the rituals we had to do made it challenging but what I learned will stay with me forever. Learning more

about the Islamic religion allowed me to focus on understanding my emotional and psychological self on a much deeper level.

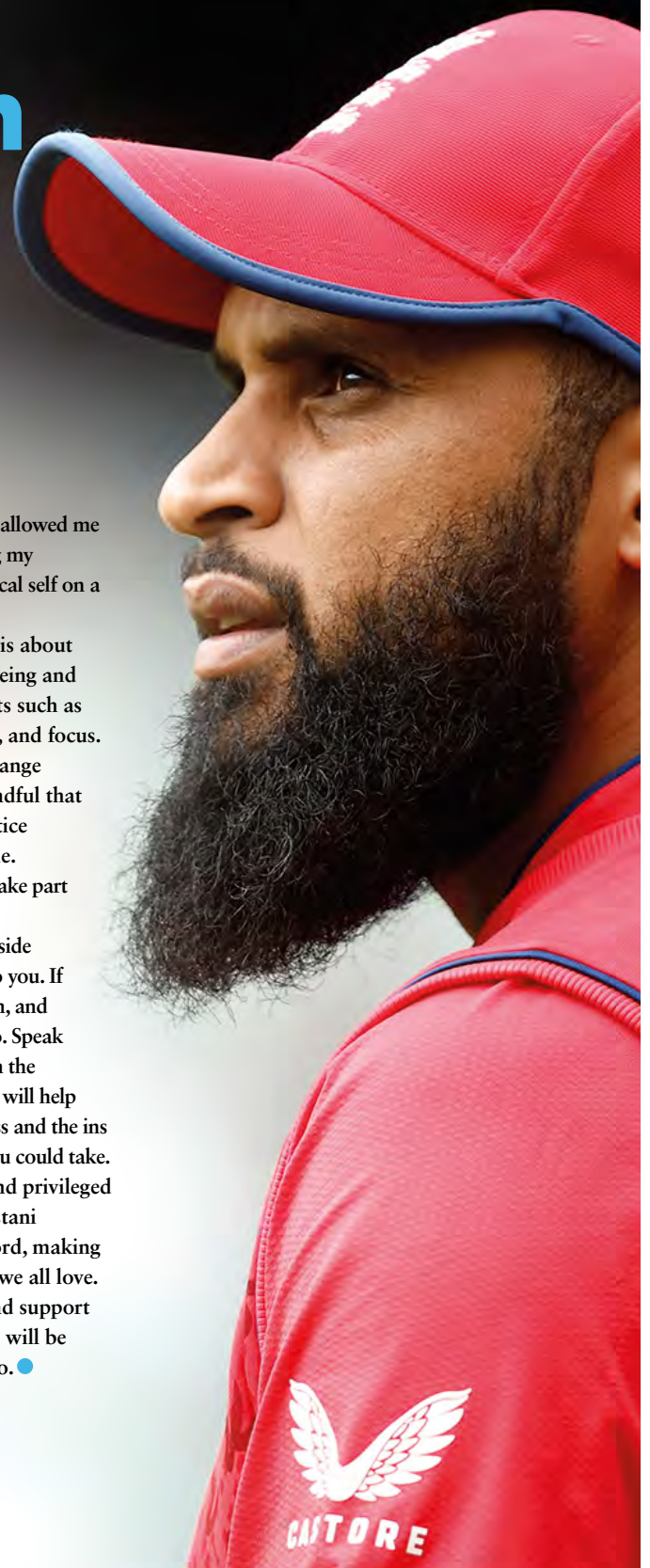
The whole experience is about developing as a human being and understanding key aspects such as patience, gratitude, unity, and focus. However, things don't change overnight - I am very mindful that this is something to practice consistently and over time.

For anyone looking to take part in the pilgrimage, I advise speaking to your regional side and those who are close to you. If you have the means, health, and appetite to go - then do so. Speak to those who have been on the pilgrimage previously, this will help you understand the process and the ins and outs of the journey you could take.

I feel very honoured and privileged as a Muslim with a Pakistani background from Bradford, making it to the top of the sport we all love. If I can inspire players and support their religious journeys, I will be more than happy to do so. ●



Learning more about the Islamic religion allowed me to focus on understanding my emotional and psychological self.





Where Are They Now?

The Twenty20 of its day, without the compulsive six-hitting, pyrotechnics, and loud music. Sussex's rise to Sunday League glory in 1982 was ahead of its time, but what about the players?

The John Player Special League seems a curious thing now. A primarily 40-over competition.

Exclusively played on a Sunday afternoon. Televised on BBC2. Commentated on by the likes of John Arlott, Jim Laker and Peters Walker and West.

It saw any amount of innovation and change. Coloured clothing. Limited run-ups for bowlers (15 yards in 1982). A knock-out stage element. 45-over duration. Fielding circles (1982). All played out in a cricketing world where 160 was a

good score and hitting sixes was the preserve of the few over the many. To the point where Northamptonshire's Wayne Larkins won himself £350 in '82, hitting 17 of them.

It was Sussex's first win in what was the fourteenth running of an event that started back in 1969. A 17-club (no Durham) single-division summer-long tournament, it finally ran out of steam in 2004, the last incarnation grinding to a halt as a two-tier 'thing'. That summer Sussex won 14 of their 16 matches, topping Middlesex in the table by 12 clear points.

IAN GOULD

Arsenal fan and 'keeper-batter Ian 'Gunner' Gould was a swashbuckling left-handed bat, good enough to play for England during the 1983 World Cup. Previously with Middlesex, he joined the First-Class umpires panel in 2002 and the Test panel four years later.

ALAN WELLS

One Test and a single ODI proved the highwater point for this talented batter and fielder. After a long career with Sussex and latterly Kent, Wells is the current Director of Cricket at St Bede's School, Upper Dicker.

ABOVE: Sussex CCC, May 1982. Back row (left-right): LV Chandler (scorer), Ian Gould, Colin Wells, Paul Phillipson, Garth Le Roux, Alan Wells, Ian Greig, Stuart Storey (coach). Front row: Tony Pigott, Imran Khan, John Barclay, Paul Parker, Chris Waller, Gehan Mendis.

COLIN WELLS

Hardworking all-rounder and brother of Alan, Colin Wells was another player good enough for England selection, playing two ODIs in Sharjah in 1985. His bustling medium-pacers and steady accumulation made him a regular in the middle-order for Sussex and Derbyshire, who he later went on to coach. He now runs cricket at the Malahide Cricket Club in Dublin.

PAUL PHILLIPSON

Another tidy all-rounder, Christopher Paul Phillipson batted and bowled for the south-coast club between 1970 and 1986. Born in Vrindaban, India, he was a county beneficiary in 1985, before living and working in South Africa as a long-serving Coaching Manager with Western Province.

GARTH LE ROUX

'Tarzan-like' South African fast bowler was a towering presence during his time in county cricket. Apartheid meant his exclusion from international cricket, but performances in domestic cricket showed it would have been a formality. A career in property saw him wrongly convicted for tax fraud in 2008, with the verdict subsequently overturned in 2010. Le Roux continues to work in real estate with one of South Africa's leading agencies, Pam Golding Properties.

IAN GREIG

Another of Sussex's team of all-rounders, Ian was the younger brother of Sussex & England legend, Tony and an international in his own right. He enjoyed successful spells at Hove and the Oval, returning to be part of Surrey's 1987 team after originally emigrating to Australia. He now coaches cricket at The Anglican Church School in Brisbane.



IMRAN KHAN

Pakistan World Cup winning captain and legend of the sport,

Imran Khan went even further after calling time on his cricket career. He founded and leads the political party Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, or PTI, and was elected to his country's highest

office in 2018. Imran served as Pakistan's 22nd Prime Minister.

TONY PIGOTT

A good swing bowler and lower-order bat, good timing saw Pigott on hand to play a single Test v New Zealand when there as the overseas professional with Wellington. Another Sussex and Surrey man, Harrovian Pigott also spent time at Hove as the club's chief executive.

PAUL PARKER

Alongside Derek Randall and David Gower, Parker was undeniably one of the pre-eminent fielders of his day. A fluent stroke-maker from the middle-order, he played a single Test v Australia at the Oval in 1981. A 'founding father' in Durham's initial journey into First-Class cricket, post retirement he went on to be a hugely popular Classics teacher at Tonbridge School.

CHRIS WALLER

A career between 1967 and 1985, Waller was a slow left-arm bowler taking a not insignificant 630 First-Class wickets at 29 apiece. Another Surrey & Sussex man, and an experienced coach, Waller now supports cricketers at Ardingly College.

GEHAN MENDIS

Playing for Sussex and Lancashire, opening bat Gehan Mendis was regarded as an expert player of fast bowling. Eligible for Sri Lanka and England, the sporting gods conspired to see him remain resolutely uncapped by either. He is now a teacher in Wilmslow, Cheshire.

JOHN BARCLAY

John Robert Troutbeck Barclay remains a much-loved figure around the sport. An off-spinning opening bat, 'Trouters' marshalled a largely unmarshallable (sic) side with the finesse of political lobbyist. The Eton-educated man has enjoyed a long life in cricket. A past president of MCC, chairman of Sussex, and until retirement in 2020 he ran the Arundel Castle Cricket Foundation charity. ●

LEFT: November saw Pakistan's former Prime Minister shot in the leg during an attack on his protest march in the eastern city of Wazirabad.

BELOW: Skipper John Barclay lifts the trophy during the final match against Middlesex in September 1982.



New Directors

The PCA welcomed two new executives to their team in the summer of 2022 with Rob Smyth joining as Director of Commercial and Donna Fraser OBE appointed the first ever Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. Smyth joined from the LTA where he was Head of Commercial Partnerships and previously held senior positions with the likes of Red Bull, Baku 2015 European Games and London Sport. A four-time Olympian, Fraser joins from athletics with a strong background in enhancing inclusive cultures in her career. The former runner worked as EDI Lead at British Athletics and Head of Inclusion and Engagement at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.



The Technician

Yorkshire's Fin Bean shot to fame this summer with his record-breaking 441 against Nottinghamshire seconds but he has also been keeping involved in his family business, working as a mechanic.

The 'hands-on job' has allowed the 20-year-old to better understand how a business is run and what it takes to operate successfully. "Being involved in this work has opened my eyes to life outside of the game and really taken the pressure off. I can now freely enjoy my cricket, whilst having one eye on my career post cricket."



United Against Dementia

Since partnering with the Alzheimer's Society in early 2022, the PCA has been able to signpost members directly through to specialist support. Providing:

- Emotional support when things get tough
- Connecting members to local support groups
- Help to understand and live with dementia, including coping techniques
- Support with everyday living, such as applying for benefits

For more information contact Ian Thomas
ian.thomas@thepca.co.uk



Winners are Grinners

The 2022 cinch PCA Awards celebrated the outstanding performances of the leading players in England and Wales. With 24 awards recognised on the evening, it was Nat Sciver and Jonny Bairstow that took home the main player-voted awards.

Jonny Bairstow cinch PCA Men's Player of the Year

Nat Sciver cinch PCA Women's Player of the Year

Harry Brook cinch PCA Men's Young Player of the Year

Freya Kemp cinch PCA Women's Young Player of the Year

Andy Brassington PCA Outstanding Contribution Award

Brenda Trenowden CBE ECB Special Merit

Nick Cook PCA Umpire of the Year – Men's Game

Anna Harris PCA Umpire of the Year – Women's Game

IG PCA Men's Team of the Year

Adam Lyth, Shan Masood, James Vince, James Bracey (WK), Harry Brook, Will Jacks ©, Wiaan Mulder, James Fuller, Keith Barker, Simon Harmer, Sam Cook

Validity PCA Women's Team of the Year

Lauren Winfield-Hill, Danni Wyatt, Emma Lamb, Nat Sciver, Georgia Adams ©, Amy Jones (WK), Bryony Smith, Grace Scrivens, Emily Arlott, Katie Levick, Lauren Bell

Georgia Adams PCA Women's Overall Domestic MVP

Will Jacks PCA Men's Overall Domestic MVP

Jos Buttler Royal London ODI Men's Player of the Summer

Moeen Ali Validity IT20 Men's Player of the Summer

Jonny Bairstow LV= Insurance Test Player of the Summer

James Vince Validity Blast Player of the Year

Wiaan Mulder Royal London Cup Player of the Year

Keith Barker LV= Insurance County Championship Player of the Year

Adam Lyth The Hundred PCA MVP Men's Player of the Year

Nat Sciver The Hundred PCA MVP Women's Player of the Year

Sophia Dunkley Validity IT20 Women's Player of the Summer

Charlie Dean Royal London ODI Women's Player of the Summer

Amy Jones Charlotte Edwards Cup Player of the Year

Lauren Winfield-Hill Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy Player of the Year

A full review of the cinch PCA Awards can be found from page 44.

A full-page photograph of a man with a beard and short hair, wearing a red England cricket shirt, celebrating by holding a large silver trophy high above his head with both hands. He has a wide, joyful expression with his mouth open. The trophy is a large, three-sided silver cup. The background is dark and out of focus, suggesting a stadium at night.

World Cup Champions

Glory Boys

A Sunday night in
mid November.
And England
do it again.
BtB gives you
the magic
moments. In
pictures...

A tight opening
fixture against
Afghanistan in
Perth set the tone
for a pulsating
tournament. Every
moment was to
count on England's
spectacular journey
to lifting the trophy
in Melbourne three
weeks later.

World Cup Champions

England and World Cup success in Australia hasn't exactly gone hand in hand and for those involved in the 2015 edition of the ODI World Cup, Jos Buttler's side ended seven years of hurt.

The rapid recovery since that fateful tour has been remarkable to witness with the transformation completed as undisputed world champions of the limited-overs game. Back in 2015, defeat to Bangladesh and an early exit from the competition would prove to be exactly what was needed to bring change. A need to hit rock bottom in order to bounce back up.

Under, firstly, Eoin Morgan, and secondly Buttler, England has picked itself off the canvas, grown as a sophisticated sporting ecosystem, and then sustained what now looks an almost inexorable rise to supremacy. And how has this been achieved? Well, the phrase 'attitude is everything' sums things up better than anything else.

Self-expression powered by opportunity means that the national team now boasts some of the game's most influential and prized assets. In serial finisher, Ben Stokes, the team has a talismanic presence when times are toughest. In Buttler and opening partner Alex Hales there is the ability to all but win games in the first six overs – all over the globe. And with the exuberant wrist spin of Adil Rashid and all-rounders in Chris Woakes, Sam Curran, Moeen Ali, Liam Livingstone, and Chris Jordan there is experience and talent that doesn't peter out under any circumstance. Add to this list a fit Mark Wood and a returning Jofra Archer and the bowling looks every bit as strong as the batting. And what other country can genuinely say that?

It was no fluke that England won another World Cup in another country, with the domination and demolition of India in the semi-final counting as a high-on perfect performance. Let's hope there's still more to come. It definitely feels like there is.



MELBOURNE CRICKET GROUND, 26 OCTOBER.

Liam Livingstone trudges off the field as rain falls during England's Duckworth-Lewis-Stern affected defeat to Ireland. Showers would later washout the exciting prospect of a group stage clash against reigning world champions Australia. Both weather-effected games were of huge significance to the side's World Cup hopes. Buttler's men now faced the daunting task of beating in-form New Zealand and semi-final hopefuls, Sri Lanka, to qualify for the next round. Net Run Rate also had its confusing part to play.

BRISBANE, 1 NOVEMBER.

New Zealand's swing attack is met with aggression at the bowler-friendly Gabba. England had a strong opening stand of 81 which set the foundations for an above-par score of 179 - Buttler's 73 from 47 balls the stand-out innings. Thanks again to a seven-man bowling attack, England could restrict the blackcaps to 159, securing a straight-forward victory and seeing them through to a must-win game against a tricky Sri-Lankan side.



World Cup Champions



SYDNEY, 5 NOVEMBER.

General view of the SCG where England's semi-final hopes rest on one man's shoulders. Ben Stokes would steer the side home to narrow victory with just two balls remaining after a nervy chase of Sri Lanka's 141, and injury to England's consistent number three Dawid Malan. The side now travels to Adelaide to face tournament favourites India in the semi-finals.

ADELAIDE,
10 NOVEMBER.

England storm into the World Cup final, demolishing Rohit Sharma's talent-ridden side by 10 wickets, overcoming a feverish India-supporting atmosphere at the Adelaide Oval. Bowling at batters unequivocally equipped to face spin bowling was Adil Rashid, the leggy took 1/20 in his four overs at an economy rate of just five an over – reducing India to a

score hovering just below par. Captain Buttler, partnered by a resurgent Alex Hales strolled home with 24 balls to spare to deny India of a mouth-watering final against closest rivals Pakistan. This was undoubtedly Hales' greatest moment in an England shirt since being recalled into the side - he set the tone for an onslaught of some of the world's greatest bowlers and never looked to slow down.



MCG, 13 NOVEMBER.

Under unimaginable pressure, Ben Stokes - yet again - writes his name into folklore taking England home to beat Pakistan by five wickets in a pulsating final. Buttler's boys fell to 45-3 and 84-4 in chase of 138 amid fast bowling that electrified the already raucous Pakistan-supporting crowd. Superb bowling performances from none other than Adil Rashid and Player of the Tournament Sam Curran were hugely influential in the win. A victory that means England becomes the first team to hold the men's 20 and 50-over world titles. ●

A Timely Return



It is the most comprehensive security overlay I've ever seen in sport.

REG DICKASON,
DIRECTOR OF TEAM
SECURITY MANAGEMENT

AHEAD OF THE SUCCESSFUL T20 WORLD CUP CAMPAIGN, ENGLAND COMPLETED A MOMENTOUS TOUR OF PAKISTAN, THE FIRST IN 17 YEARS.

The South Asian nation had been forced to play their home games in the UAE since the 2009 terror attack on the Sri Lankan team. However, Pakistan have been transitioning back to their homeland since 2019 with the England team keen to make their mark in one of the game's most loved countries.

Across September and October, seven T20Is were held between Karachi and Lahore. The tourists took the series four games to three but in many ways, the result was secondary. The tour symbolised the unity between the two nations and the importance of international cricket returning to Pakistan.

The last England team to tour the country was in 2005 therefore security and risk mitigation was under the microscope. Ahead of the Test team arriving in Rawalpindi for the red-ball series, on behalf of the Team England Player Partnership, Beyond the Boundaries spoke to Reg Dickason, the ECB's Director of Team Security Management.

Supplying the security to the England Men's team and visiting teams into England, he has worked with the ECB in this role since 2006 following 10 years in a similar role with Cricket Australia...

How important are the communication lines between the ECB, PCA and TEPP?

This is a relationship business. The players have a lot of trust in the PCA but for the whole thing to work everybody has to come to a similar conclusion about risk. We are independent and contracted to the ECB, just like we are to FICA so we provide an independent view on risk mitigation for all tours.

We work closely with Rob Lynch the PCA Chief Executive, his open-minded approach and understanding of the global cricket landscape has been an imperative aspect of our pre-tour inspection evaluations and Richard Bevan from TEPP who's critical thinking and level of detail certainly leaves no stone unturned from the players perspective.

How far ahead of the tour did the work begin for you?

We were working on this tour for at least 12 months. Keeping abreast of what's happening by speaking to stakeholders including the PCA and TEPP but also

speaking to people who are working within government who can give us a feel for what the security landscape is actually like.

What was the security like in Pakistan?

I've been doing this job in international cricket for 26 years - we work across a number of sports on a global basis. What the Pakistan government and the PCB provided the England cricket team was amazing. It is officially given VVIP status which is reserved for heads of state. The work force commitment was incredible. We had 8,000 people dedicated to our tour when we were in Karachi and that doesn't include all the intelligence agencies and other assets that are deployed by the government. It is the most comprehensive security overlay I've ever seen in sport.

How did players feel in Pakistan?

When we showed them the level of detail that we go into they did go 'wow' and you can see they are a little overawed by the whole thing but two or three days into the tour, it's the new normal and they didn't even notice it.

Security does come at the cost of inconvenience. We put a security bubble around the boys, in time that may change and they can enjoy getting out and seeing more of the country. We have to plan for the worst and hope for the best. ●

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HOLDSWORTH FINANCIAL



Legends Raise £1 million

Fundraising from PCA England Legends matches since Greene King became the lead sponsors in 2016 has surpassed £1 million following host clubs raising over £160,000 last summer.

The 2022 season saw the Legends travel from Bexley in Kent to Settle in Yorkshire and many places in between playing against clubs and schools to help raise vital funds for the grassroots game.

Testament to the hard work and dedication of the club committees and event organisers, £167,000 was raised with all proceeds retained by the clubs, with the PCA on hand in the build-up to and during the day to provide guidance on how best to provide guidance on how best to maximise takings.

Legends captain, Alex Tudor, has

enjoyed leading the side once again: "It's always a pleasure to captain this team and it's especially nice having our first full season since the pandemic.

"To raise £167,000 for the grassroots game is a great achievement from the Legends and the clubs that we visit.

"It's always great getting together with these guys and having new faces involved. I'm already looking forward to what we have in store next season."

The Legends enjoyed a competitive summer on the pitch winning six of their 12 games, which included a

fixture against a Kent XI in aid of the Professional Cricketers' Trust, as well as coaching countless children ahead of their fixtures.

Some amazing performances were seen throughout the season, including a century on debut for Samit Patel, with 43 Legends involved across the summer. Eight former England internationals received their first Legends caps, including Patel, Ian Bell, Chris Read, James Taylor, James Tredwell, Jim Troughton, Rikki Clarke and Mark Stoneman.

However, there could only be one Greene King PCA England Legends

ABOVE: The PCA England Legends enjoyed a sparkling summer on the pitch as well as off it.

RIGHT: Alex Tudor with a suitably large cheque displaying the amount of money raised for cricket clubs and local charities during the PCA England Legends series this summer.



To raise £167,000 for the grassroots game is a great achievement for the Legends and the clubs that we visit.
Legends captain, Alex Tudor



Player of the Summer, as voted for by the players, and that award went to Phil DeFreitas.

'Daffy' has been a regular name on Legends team sheets for more than 10 years now and winning the award clearly means a lot to him:

"I'm really chuffed to win the award, it's an honour, especially having been retired for so long. I can't even find the words, it's really wonderful," he said.

DeFreitas explains that playing for the Legends is good for himself too and that he loves the camaraderie that it brings, "The atmosphere in the changing room is great, so it's a nice way to spend a Friday playing for the Legends and meeting up with your ex-colleagues, it really makes my summer," he said. ●

Get in touch for 2023...

Find out more about the PCA England Legends programme at thepca.co.uk and get in touch on pcalegends@thepca.co.uk to register your interest.

neon Stand Out

The PCA England Legends have partnered with Neon as their Official Bat Supplier. The agreement sees Neon provide kit to the players as well as raffle prizes for grassroots clubs. Five-time Ashes winner and PCA England Legend Ian Bell tells us more about the brand that he co-owns and his debut season.

TELL US HOW THE VENTURE BETWEEN THE LEGENDS AND NEON CAME ABOUT?

We're a relatively new cricket brand so having the partnership as Official Bat Supplier of the Legends is great. We've been growing at a rapid rate in the last two years and we want to be associated with grassroots cricket. Life is expensive at the moment so hopefully the affordability is part of Neon's journey as well. We want to be able to provide equipment for young players all the way up to professionals and compete with those top end brands from a performance side too.

HOW DID YOU FIND PLAYING FOR THE LEGENDS IN 2022 AND SCORING A FIFTY ON DEBUT?

It's great meeting up with former teammates and seeing how much money has been raised by the PCA

for local clubs too, so to be part of that is incredible.

Scoring a fifty was good but it also made me realise why I retired! Sometimes you get into a little bubble when you're an international player, so it's nice to get out to the club sides now to make sure that youngsters are coming through at the clubs.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT FOR THE LEGENDS TO SUPPORT GRASSROOTS CRICKET?

You cannot have an England team without grassroots cricket, so it's always nice to give back. As a player you're often looking out for yourself and trying to improve, so I really like now being able to pass on my knowledge and inspire the next generation of cricketers and keep English cricket thriving by coaching the youngsters.





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CREW CLOTHING COMPANY

British lifestyle brand, Crew Clothing partnered with the PCA and PCA England Legends in 2022. Through the partnership, Crew dressed PCA England Legends with casual wear to arrive at the games in style and host guests over lunch. The PCA England Legends have also hosted a series of cricket Masterclasses at Lord's with guests of Crew picking up some top tips from the former England greats.

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James Opens Up

Opening up and telling your story in order to help others is an incredibly brave and courageous thing to do...

Former England and Glamorgan player Steve James did just that by speaking to the Professional Cricketers' Trust in a very open and emotional interview ahead of the Vitality Blast Finals Day which was supporting the players' charity.

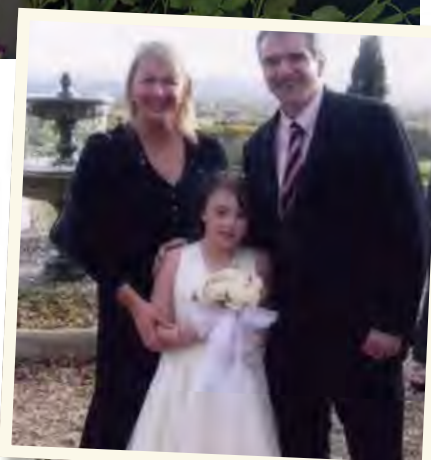
Following the tragic loss of his 21-year-old daughter Bethan in February 2020, James spoke to the Trust about how he and his family have dealt with her loss

and how the Trust has supported them through this difficult time.

The Trust cannot express enough gratitude towards James for the way he talked about such a difficult and distressing topic.

The video created after James' interview raised huge awareness of the Trust at Finals' Day and had over 300,000 views on social media as well as being watched multiple times during Sky Sports' live broadcast.

James was pleased with the results of the interview and ➡➡➡





We hope that my interview will help others in similar situations so that they know that there is help there for them.

hopes that it can help others speak out and get the support they need:

"I'm very glad that I did the interview and I hope it did emphasise how much the Professional Cricketers' Trust helps players past and present.

"The reaction to it was quite remarkable and we hope that somewhere up there Bethan is proud of us.

"We hope that my interview will help others in similar situations so that they know that there is help there for them."

Bethan was an inspiring young woman, seeking to create change through her drive to be a success in life. A budding journalist with a growing YouTube channel through her vlogs, she used her platform to spread awareness of Crohn's Disease (after her diagnosis in summer 2019), living with anxiety as well as beauty, fashion and lifestyle advice.

Her most recent video from December 2019 ends with a joyful message about seeing people next year, tragically this was to be her last upload.

During a period of 10 days she visited A&E five times before passing away in hospital, with an ongoing investigation into

her care and treatment leaving a constant cloud, it adds to the grief of the James family.

Speaking to the Trust in July, the 55-year-old said, "Once a week I go to the grave of my daughter, just saying those words, it's not right is it? It's not the natural order of things.

"She's my little girl, she was bright, always smiling and always colourful. She would light up any room and would see the positive in anything. She made me, Jane and Rhys immensely proud. We will never forget her and we just love her so much."

The Professional Cricketers' Trust supports the health and wellbeing of PCA members and their immediate families when they need it most and James is incredibly grateful for the help his family has received.

"I can't imagine a time without seeing my counsellor, Kerry, because she is always there. Counsellors cannot fix things, but they can help you through these difficult times.

"Anniversaries and regular flashbacks happen and they hit you for six. All these different challenges come up so it's important to come up with strategies to deal with them.

"The Professional Cricketers' Trust means a great deal and we are really indebted to them for the help they have given us. My wife and son have had exactly the same support as I have and are enormously grateful for the help they have had because I happened to play cricket." ●

Find out more information on the Professional Cricketers' Trust and how to donate here: thezca.co.uk/trust



We provide support for PCA members and their immediate families when they need it most.

Visit bit.ly/TrustGetInvolved to see what else you can do for the players' charity.



'IVANMAN'

Ivan Thomas completed an epic Ironman challenge on 10 July which included a 3.9km swim in Switzerland, followed by a 180km cycle through the Alps and finished off with a marathon, all to raise more than £3,500 for the Professional Cricketers' Trust and CRY (Cardiac Risk in the Young).



TRUST QUIZ BOOK

'Yes...No...Wait...Sorry' is the perfect way of testing your cricket knowledge with friends and family with all proceeds going to your charity. There's 18 picture rounds and 16 rounds set by well-known cricketers such as: Mark Alleyne, James Anderson and Graham Gooch. The perfect stocking filler or birthday gift is widely available online, including on Amazon.



Festival of Cricket

The Professional Cricketers' Trust's Festival of Cricket was once again held at the wonderful Wormsley Estate and for 2022 was in loving memory of Alan 'Iggy' Igglesden. The entertainment included the PCA England Legends taking on a select Kent XI with much of the county's first team wanting to honour Iggy's memory. The Legends ended up winning by eight runs in the headline fixture of the day, which also saw a Cricket Media XI take on the Barmy Army.



Vitality Blast Finals Day

Vitality Blast Finals Day 2022 was held at Edgbaston in support of the Professional Cricketers' Trust. The charity took centre stage on Saturday 16 July

with three beneficiaries present at the ground. Jamie Hood, Keith Newell and David Griffiths were all interviewed on the pitch and given the chance to share their

stories. The Trust would like to thank stakeholders for their support, especially Sky Sports who beamed coverage of the players' charity around the world.

Coming up in 2023...

London to Paris Bike Ride

Join current and former professional cricketers to cycle from London to Paris in October 2023. The challenge will raise much-needed funds for the players' charity and will take in some of the most spectacular sights either side of the Channel.

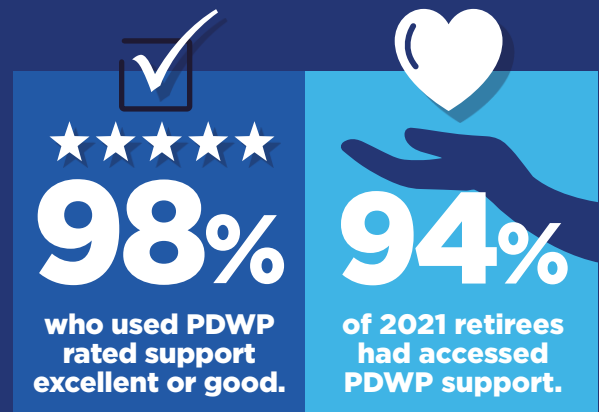
The epic adventure will begin at the Kia Oval and sees the fundraisers finish at the iconic Arc de Triomphe.

A celebratory event will follow in the French capital and the Trust is engaging with PCA members to sign up and support their charity in 2023. With accommodation, food and travel organised for you, this is a bucket list event and what better way to experience it by raising awareness and funds for the charity that provides support for PCA members and their immediate families when they need it most.

Please contact Samantha Relf for further information and to sign up sam.relf@thepca.co.uk



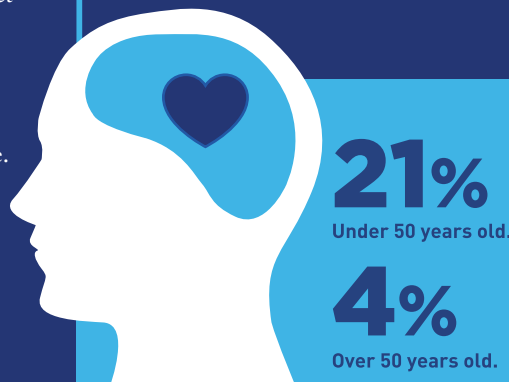
Like the rest of society, the PCA began the recovery from the pandemic by starting to remember what 'normal life' is like and decided to check and challenge the players' association's progress against the opinions of those who matter most – their members.



A tempestuous time for many, the PCA and the wider game entered crisis management and at times, damage limitation when it comes to job losses and financial pressures. On the face of it, the Association kept their members at the heart of everything, connecting with past and present players like never before through wide-ranging campaigns. The 'Talk to Teammates' encouraged those to reach out to friends who they may have lost contact with, the 'Social Isolation Guide' catered for all in trying times and the helping hand of the Confidential Helpline, a constant reminder that cricketers in England and Wales are supported for life.

However, fast forward to a brighter beginning of 2022 and the PCA sought the opinion of every single former player who they have contact with on an array of topics that matter most. The renowned Personal Development and Welfare Programme, health and wellbeing, overall opinions on

1 in 10
accessed mental health support through the PCA.



membership and methods of communication were all features of the comprehensive research.

Helped no doubt by the chance to win Test match tickets, a strong turnout of 449 members submitted the questionnaire, with a further 36 completions for a survey specific to those who left the game in 2021, providing a more detailed view on the 'here and now'.

With online and postal submission options available, the PCA created a campaign for its most in-depth former player research in a long time.

The anonymous responses will help shape growth and development of the member association as it evolves to meet the needs of past, present, and future professional players.

Amongst the takeaways was a strong feeling about the importance and success of the PCA's Personal Development and Welfare Programme (PDWP), which celebrated 10 years under the banner of the PCA in 2022. The data from the research, which was revealed as part of PCA Futures



Seeing that such a high number of former players feel an affinity to the PCA is very pleasing. I'm proud of the work that we are doing and we are constantly striving to improve and increase the services that we have on offer."

James Harris



83%
of 2021 retirees agreed that the contract negotiations & dispute service had a positive impact on their career.



58%

of under 50s received educational funding, compared to

39% of over 50s



75%

found a satisfying career path within 2 years of leaving cricket.

68%
within a few months.

Week in November, was interrogated with 37% under the age of 50 with this demographic more likely to have had the ability to engage with the programme.

Of all members who accessed the PDWP, 98% of respondents rated the support as excellent or good.

Of the wide-ranging delivery, the most important element of the programme for respondents was career guidance with welfare and wellbeing support, transitional guidance and educational funding were also viewed as non-negotiables.

Of members who left the game in 2021, 94% of those had accessed the PDWP in the last two years and importantly 73% went on to say that more contact time with their Personal Development Manager would be useful in supporting them.

It is no surprise that mental health assistance has been on the increase in recent years, with one in ten players accessing help through the PCA, however, just 4% were

over 50, perhaps highlighting more focus and encouragement is needed for this demographic to reach out for help.

Regarding job satisfaction, 75% of surveyed members found a satisfying career path within two years, with 68% achieving this within six months.

With an increased understanding on the impact of head injuries in professional sport, eight former players recorded that they suffered from concussion at some point in their life with two of these revealing they are still impacted post-cricket.

By all accounts the growth of the Association has been on a sharp incline over the past two decades, including the emphasis placed on traditional contract negotiations and disputes. In what will forever be a fundamental piece of the union jigsaw, of those players who recently left the game, 83% totally agree or agree that the contract negotiation and dispute service had a positive impact on their career.

A yardstick that is difficult to measure is how members view their connection to the PCA, especially after leaving the professional game behind. However, the player-body asked this directly, with 70% of respondents saying they felt a sense of belonging to the PCA, rising to 100% of those that left the game in 2021.

With current playing membership rising from circa 420 in 2019 to comfortably over 600 at the beginning of the 2023 campaign, the pressures on maintaining the standard of delivery is no doubt one of the biggest challenges the PCA faces. An increase of funding, revenue and workforce is perhaps a necessity as the game continues to stride forwards but one thing is for sure, the past players of England and Wales seem pretty pleased at what has been afforded to them by their representative body. ●



Full details on the results from the survey can be found on thepca.co.uk.

Generation Factor

England's women look blessed with young talent. Beyond the Boundaries namechecks four of them, whilst acknowledging the role of senior players in their journey.

I'm not sure what you were doing when you were a 17-year-old, but I'm guessing it wasn't batting and bowling for England. But when Freya Kemp completed a maiden international fifty against India at Chelmsford during the second T20I, she wrote her name large as a real prospect – and not simply as one to watch. She is the youngest ever English female to pass that milestone and in doing so she topped team-mate, Alice Capsey, who had herself set the mark the previous month. All-in-all, it signposts good times ahead for the national team.

But being the youngest to do anything comes with pressure attached. That being pressure of expectation. And being named cinch PCA Women's Young Player of the Year for 2022 recognises both potential and performance, as well as a fair amount of future expectations.

However, this London-born all-rounder

already looks capable of handling whatever comes her way. Having played 11 times for England in a breakthrough summer – after only a handful of professional games for Southern Vipers – she added her name to the list of new talent blooded by the national team over the summer. That accelerated progress made easier, in part, by the selflessness of senior players.

Legend of the game, Anya Shrubsole stepped aside with multiple Ashes and World Cup medals in the locker. When the 14-year veteran announced she was making way for younger players, the 30-year-old was roundly lauded for having the foresight to think of her circumstances in perspective of the big picture. "I'm really content with the decision that I've made and I think I've made the right decision at the right time," she said, when speaking in July. The taker of 227 international wickets and bowler of the

As professional as ever, Anya Shrubsole looks to the future.

Young Guns



Lauren Bell - born January 2 2001.

Nicknamed 'The Shard' due to her towering height. Tremendous swing and tricky bounce has seen Bell lead the Southern Vipers attack to three trophies since 2020. A professional and then Central Contract followed for the seamer after her international debut in 2022.



game's biggest inswingers added, "It's been a challenging couple of years for lots of reasons and I've probably thought about it a lot. I got dropped from the T20 side and I guess it just made me question whether I thought I was good enough anymore and all of those kinds of things."

With the likes of the aforementioned Capsey, Lauren Bell, Issy Wong and most-recently Kemp breaking through - and all being aged 21 and under - Shrubsole's decision looks wholly in line with reality. "Anya is amazing," offered up Kemp, when asked to reflect on her season working with Shrubsole with the Southern Vipers as player-coach. "She's been so good technically as someone to talk to, but more than that she's been so helpful tactically."

"Walking into the England dressing room was helped by the Vipers experience. Everyone has been really good. All of the newcomers, I think, have also brought something new."

Unearthing talent is all about opportunity. And hand-in-hand with opportunity comes exposure to the highest level of competition possible. These circumstances created and combining to enable all of England's new crop of talent to contribute eye-catching performances in this summer's edition of The Hundred.

As a means of bringing talent through the system, few can be in any doubt of its value in providing young cricketers with an ➤➤➤



Issy Wong - born May 15 2002.

With bowling speeds exceeding 70 miles per hour, Issy Wong's thunderbolt action and infectious personality are refreshing for English cricket. Inspired by the 2017 World Cup Final, the quick has played 12 games for England, making her debut in June 2022.



Alice Capsey - born August 11 2004.

Another international star fresh out of education, South East Stars all-rounder sat her A-levels this summer whilst delivering half-centuries in The Hundred like they were going out of fashion. Capsey was voted the inaugural cinch PCA Women's Young Player of the Year in 2021.



Kemp's competence as a left-arm seam-bowling all-rounder shows her versatility.



The old guard leads a team talk ahead of England's World Cup fixture against Pakistan in 2022.

opportunity to play high-profile, hi-octane and high-performance domestic cricket. A competitive environment that before the previous summer's series wasn't part of the pathway in the women's game.

Its value was something that outgoing head coach, Lisa Keightley, was quick to point to at the end of her recently concluded two-and-a-half-year tenure, name-checking all four of England's Gen-Zers as she did so, "Lauren Bell was impressive in The Hundred," said the former Australia great. "And with her, Alice Capsey, Freya Kemp and Issy Wong in the squad we're starting to see a group of exciting young players who have the chance to cement their place in the England team."

Capsey's

rise is one as a middle-order batter, but with aspirations further up the order. Wong and Bell's talent comes in the form of their ability to move the ball at pace. And Kemp's competence as a left-arm seam-bowling all-rounder shows the versatility and impact of the fresh crop of centrally contracted players. Not to mention her power-hitting down the ground. Factor in left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone, just 24, and it already looks a bowling attack capable of filling the gap afforded them by Shrubsole stepping down, alongside Katherine Brunt announcing a spell on the sidelines as well as a formal retirement from Test cricket. And as such, few will mistake the impact made by England's elder stateswomen.

But equally, it's a time of excitement for what's to come. In the form of Wong and Bell we have not only cricketers of

great potential talent, but also cricketers first exposed to the game by the Chance to Shine programme. This, in itself, shows progress. As a talent pathway as well as at high performance level. "The more cricket you play, you're only going to get better and better," said Kemp, reflecting on a summer of transformation. "With so many more contracts offered this year, there are definitely more opportunities for women cricketers. Ones that have been created with the help of the ECB and PCA."

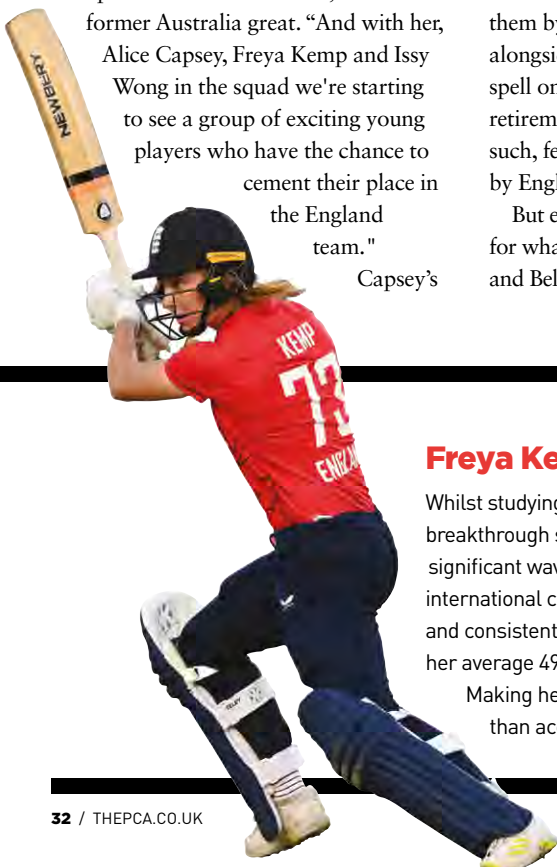
With England heading to the Caribbean in December, and fixtures fitting into that dream afternoon and evening slot on TV, there will be plenty of eyes on them. And if the tour proves challenging for the collective, the hope is that individual performance will be every bit an indication of progress as results. And for the likes of England's 'future foursome', timing seems just about right.

The final word on a summer of firsts goes to Kemp. Being voted as the young player of the year by her peers, it's something that clearly means a great deal, "Knowing that everyone else backs you is amazing. The thought of going around the world playing cricket, feels a great opportunity. The amount of cricket on offer means the chance to play all year round, really helps break up the winter, which can feel quite long." ●

Freya Kemp - born April 21 2005.

Whilst studying at school, Freya Kemp had an outstanding breakthrough season this year. The all-rounder made significant waves on the domestic stage before taking to international cricket like a duck to water. Metronomic bowling and consistent batting in Southern Vipers' middle order saw her average 49 with the bat and a notch above 16 with the ball.

Making her county debut at just 14 years old, she is more than accustomed to the big stage.



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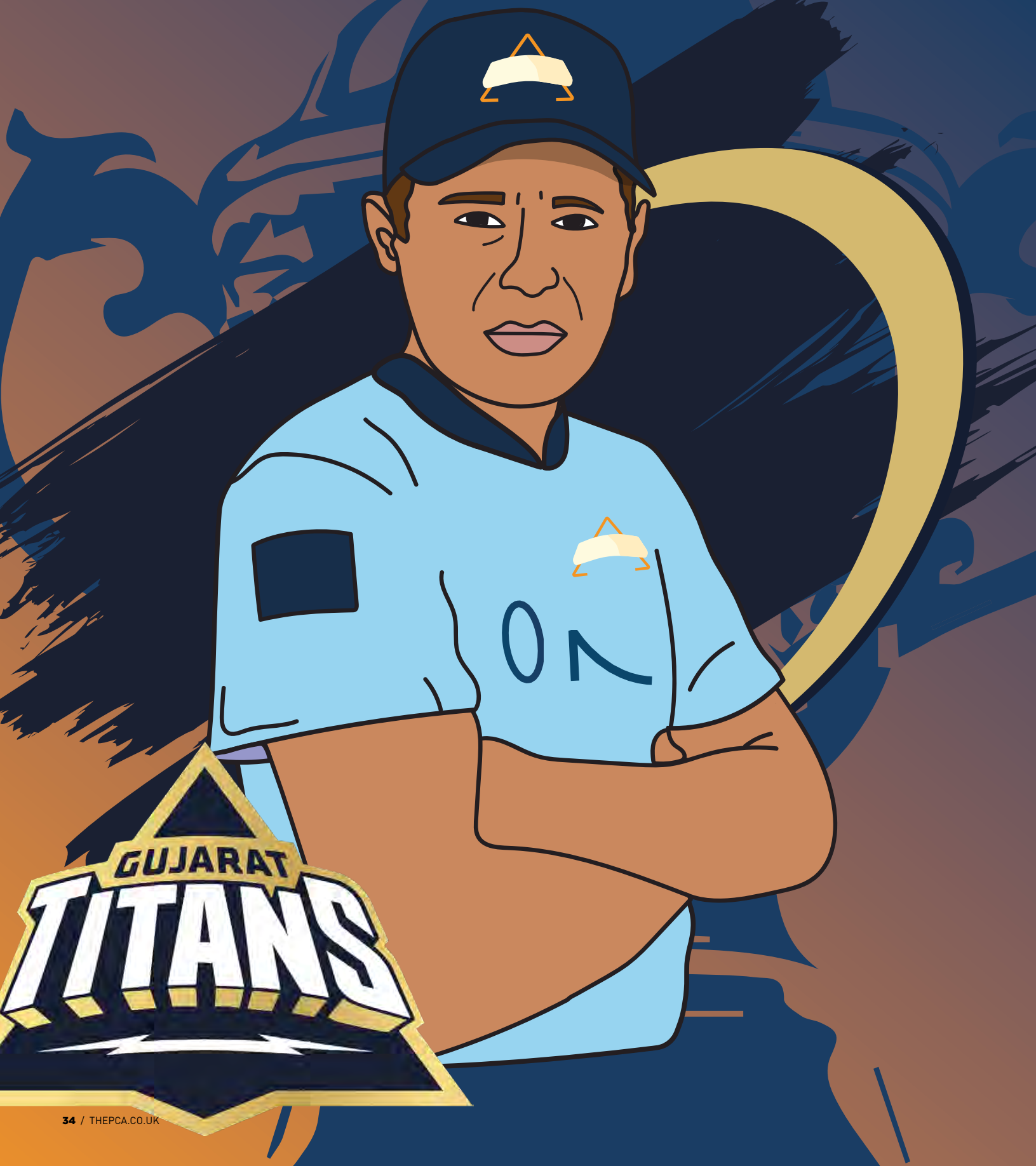


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From Guildford to Gujarat

The world's most lucrative franchise cricket tournament, a spectacle of colour watched by a billion eyes. Vikram Solanki sits down with Ollie Westbury to discuss his rise to the top of the Indian Premier League.

When Vikram Solanki stepped down from his role as head coach at Surrey in January 2022, to assemble an IPL team from scratch, winning the tournament for the first time was nothing more than a dream. But when Shubman Gill hooked Obed McCoy into the stands five months later in the IPL final - the journey was complete. Solanki's Gujarat Titans were crowned champions.

The 46-year-old is one of a few young English directors of cricket working for franchises around the world - and his success may pave the way for others to follow. As a player, he was known for his high bat lift and his fluent stroke play. The former Worcestershire and Surrey man represented his country more than 50 times in white-ball cricket, as well as scoring 18,359 First-Class runs in 325 games on the county circuit.

As a coach, he became assistant to ➡➡➡

Michael Di Venuto in 2017, before succeeding him in 2020 and leading Surrey to the final of the Vitality Blast.

This year's tournament was not Solanki's first taste of the IPL. He rubbed shoulders with some of the format's greatest players in Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers while coaching at Royal Challengers Bangalore during the 2019 season.

Yet setting up a team from scratch was a different proposition altogether. As Solanki begins to plan his side's defence of their crown in next year's tournament, he took a moment away from his busy schedule to converse with the PCA about his remarkable journey.

What initially attracted you to a senior role at an IPL franchise?

This opportunity came a little bit out of the blue. The chance to be in the IPL - where I have had a taste before as an assistant coach - was very exciting and something I had to consider taking on.

I knew it was going to be a big undertaking but was equally excited about the opportunity. I spoke with people for advice, one of whom was Alec Stewart, who was kind enough to manage my departure from Surrey. I have a lot of gratitude to Surrey, and Alec in particular, for guiding me through that process.

Was it a difficult decision for you to leave Surrey at that time?

To be honest, I was happy with where I was at concerning my coaching position at Surrey. I had been in the role for a couple of years having taken over from Michael Di Venuto when the pandemic hit.

We had one reasonable campaign as far as T20 was concerned and got to the final in one year. We had a tough year in County Championship cricket but there were all sorts of reasons for that. I was happy with what was developing at Surrey with the team - and with my role within it.

Head coach, Vikram Solanki, chats with Hashim Amla during his time at Surrey in September 2021



I will forever be grateful for the opportunity they gave me to broaden my coaching experience and to act in that head coach role.

What exactly are the roles and responsibilities of a director of cricket in the IPL?

I am essentially the head of cricket. All the hiring and the planning falls upon me. I take on the role of putting the coaching team together and putting the support staff together. It is a big operation, in comparison to other teams I have been with. We ended up signing 23 players in the auction, the staff are another story. With our coaching, medical, and logistics staff our team is huge.

Getting coaching staff together was a priority to get ready for the auction. That was an interesting time. During the season, it was making sure things were running smoothly. I still like to get involved with coaching; I manage to get my fix in the dugout, at training, going to all the games and being at the team hotel which is enjoyable.

What parts of it did you find the most challenging?

Starting from a blank page was a daunting proposition when you think the IPL is the premier franchise cricket competition in the world.

When you are one of the newcomers, and you are trying to set things up, it is exciting as you have the chance to build something. I was happy with the coaching group that we were able to get together with, Ashish Nehra as head coach, and Gary Kirsten as one of the assistant coaches. It is great they were rewarded for their hard work.

When you are starting out, you are always questioning whether this is the right thing to do and whether these are the right people to be involved. I am glad these things fell into place in the first year, it made my job a lot easier.

It must have been incredible to win it. How did that feel?

Surreal. I think we developed perfectly towards that final; all the work started way before the season when we were putting a squad together. We could not have hoped for a better start to our IPL. Mohammed Shami got KL Rahul out with the first ball which set us off on a great trajectory.

In the league phase, we were able to win some very tight games that could quite honestly have gone the other way, and that is a huge thanks to the players mentality. To finish first in the league, credit to the players for a lot of hard work, and then manoeuvring the pressures of qualification to get to the final and beat Rajasthan Royals was just incredible.

Was it hard to manage superstars in the dressing room?

I could not speak highly enough of the likes of Hardik Pandya, who took on the captaincy, which was a big decision. He is a superstar of the game, and a superstar personality as well, but he is one of the most humble, easy-going, team-orientated blokes that you are ever likely to meet.

You have different personalities in Shubman Gill who's a phenomenal talent, and who aspires to lead himself. As is Rashid Khan, a world star as far as T20 is concerned. But equally just as humble - but with a different personality.

It is a real mix, and it is a credit to Hardik and his captaincy that we created the environment we did. It was a pleasure to be in that bubble, and I hope the players and their families felt the same way.

What is the aim now?

Next year's season is likely to be very different to this one, in that the competition will go back to home and away games. Whereas last year the league phase was all played near Mumbai, Pune, or Maharashtra. We stayed in one hotel. Next year it will be different, which throws in different challenges.

We also need to manage the expectation of being the champion team going into next season. We are by no means unaware of the challenges that will hold, but ready for whatever is thrown our way. ●



Starting from a blank page was a daunting proposition when you think the IPL is the premier franchise cricket competition in the world.

Eoin Morgan



The complete family man, England's greatest ever white-ball captain found time to talk to BtB when out on a walk near his home with his young son. And by accounts, that's just how Eoin Morgan likes things.

Better Days



As calmly spoken as he is – and he is as relaxed talking on the phone as he presents himself on the cricket field – Eoin Morgan’s impact on the game in this country is something to shout about. And for any number of good reasons.

Firstly, everyone loves a winner. And it was Morgan’s unflappable stewardship of the country’s one-day fortunes – from also-rans to champions – that receives most attention. And that four-year period when things were methodically under reconstruction, anyone would still be happy for their playing career to be measured in the context of that single 50-over final at Lord’s in July 2019. That XI, on that day, constituting England cricket’s

‘team of ’66’ moment. Knighthoods, no doubt, imminent.

On that day and during a match so stupendous that many regard it as the greatest white-ball encounter of all time, the stakes couldn’t have been higher. The opposition, in New Zealand, could not have been more competitive. The venue more perfect. And the day more nerve-wracking throughout. To the point where commentator Ian Smith’s ‘by the barest of margins’ voiceover, sums up sport’s very definition, and not just cricket’s. It holding that almost indefinable stasis between success and failure.

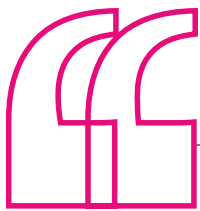
And as an undeniable future hall-of-famer, Morgs – as his peers refer to him, is possibly best known for his flamboyant one-day

batting. A player able to seemingly magic strokes from thin air. Him being the very definition of a 360-degree batter.

However, it isn’t the reliance on ‘trick shots’ that make his bat so watchable. It’s, for many, the left-hander’s ability to skip down the pitch to the seam bowlers and hit the ball over fielders’ heads that gets most pulses racing. The successful execution of the stroke requiring a combination of skill, audacity and ‘the genuinely unexpected’ to see stands ringing-like-a-rifle-shot upon the ball’s contact with the Irishman’s bat. He played as if fearless of consequence. And that’s exciting for us all to watch. But it certainly wasn’t the case with England’s one-day team when he started making his mark.

Eoin Morgan acts as a bridge between two eras, welcoming the arrival of head coach Mathew Mott before he stepped down as captain.





In 2019 a multi-racial, multi-faith England represented without tokenism or undue fanfare. It being the first time that the national side's positive team culture was as transparent as the people it represented. This – not the World Cup trophy – is really Eoin Morgan's legacy.

Taking over the 'wheel' of the one-day team ahead of the 2015 World Cup, it was Brendon McCullum's freewheeling Black Caps, not England, that served as inspiration. While the national team under Peter Moores were making themselves 'hard to beat' by adding belts, braces and a couple of extra loops of baling twine, the Kiwis were just seemingly giving it a heave. Free from the personal consequence of individual failure. And all doing it with a smile on their faces. This aspiration – creation of an atmosphere of confidence and a policy of 'no fear' – that saw England's handbrake removed.

Although the overall tournament performance in Australia might be described as somewhat underwhelming, what followed was the opposite. In the expectation that he'd be happy to be defined by that single 50-over final at Lord's in July 2019 against New Zealand, it still isn't the whole story. By a long chalk.

The aforementioned final crowned by that famous super-over not only summed up the

game's conclusion, but sport – at its very best – generally. The mercury-like stasis between winning and losing. Morgan's acceptance of such, again a factor in his side winning.

But if Martin Guptill had managed to get back for that improbable second run, Morgan's role would still be one to celebrate. It being the road travelled bearing scrutiny. On that day – and for many days before – it saw a multi-racial, multi-faith England represented without tokenism or undue fanfare. It being the first time that the national side's positive team culture was as transparent as the people it represented. This – not the trophy – is really his legacy.

And talking with Morgan it becomes clear that cricket is secondary – and by a margin – to the more important things in life. Them being his family and friends.

So, what brought you to cricket?

My brothers and sisters used to play, dad played, it was sort of what we did together as a family. I remember playing at the park, two doors away from my house, my sisters

would beat me, more often than not.

And who was your idol growing up?

I loved watching the West Indies' left-hander Brian Lara bat; he was magnificent. My local club had an old concrete strip with an empty beer keg for stumps – we'd spend whole days there; I was always Lara.

What do you regard as your greatest achievement?

It's the obvious answer I'm afraid – winning the World Cup has to be my proudest moment on a cricket field. We spent so much time building towards it as a team, everyone involved invested huge amounts of time and effort into it. It was a proud moment for all of us when we got over the line.

How does that compare to your England debut?

I made my debut against the West Indies, at Bristol in 2009 – the whole feeling of having mum, dad, and all my siblings at the game was so special. They've been there since day one – I've always been a believer that sport is as much about your family as it is about yourself.

You're often described as a bit of an 'Ice-man', are you the same on the inside during matches?

I guess it's not what everyone wants to read but, what you see is what you get. Surprisingly, I found it easier as captain, I was always ➡



Eoin Morgan celebrates a classy half-century on his home patch for Middlesex during the Vitality Blast.

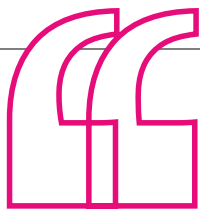


Morgan's idol, West Indian Brian Lara, arrogantly whips the ball away off his pads to deep-mid-wicket.

thinking of a solution when in the middle, whether in charge, or not. During games I never really get over-excited in any moment. I always feel pretty calm.

Was there ever a toughest moment for you?

I'm not sure, really. Genuinely, the hardest thing for me has been spending time away from home. When I was younger I had a huge desire to do whatever it took to be successful. I was willing to sacrifice everything to play for England. Being from Ireland, the idea of leaving home to pursue what I wanted to do was the trade-off. It sounds boring – even to say it – but now I'm older I prefer my home comforts. Whether that's being sat on my own sofa or lying in my own bed, that's what I missed the most when playing, or of late commentating across the world. My friends



Eoin has always been a pioneer in the way he played – he would go out and show that straight away – third ball he'd be running down trying to smack a guy over his head.

England captain **Jos Buttler**

and family as well. They're part of my journey and what I represent.

What is your favourite competition from around the globe?

I don't think it's a secret, but I like the shorter formats. My favourite is probably The Hundred – a tournament the country needed, in my opinion. It brings together a really high standard of cricket with playing for my home team, which is absolutely perfect for me. And I get to sleep in my own bed. It's a win-win.

What is next for Eoin Morgan?

I'm not sure I have much of a long-term plan, but at the minute I love playing golf. I enjoy watching my horse race. I watch a lot of rugby – my home club Saracens – and I've been watching the Tennessee Titans in the NFL. So yeah, a lot more sport, and not much else! But mainly it's spending more time at home with the family. I'll stay involved with the game in the comms box. But the rest, who knows? Later down the line I might try to get involved in the pro game again as something other than a player. But right now, who can really know?

And the guess is that as a coach, or even as one of the game's administrators, substance would sit happily alongside style. ●



Eoin Morgan brings a calming presence to the Sky Sports commentary team ahead of England's first international since his retirement.

Fact Box

NAME: Eoin Joseph Gerard Morgan CBE
BORN: September 10, 1986
Dublin, Rep of Ireland
ROLE: Batter/Captain

APPEARANCES

TEST: 16
ODI: 248
T20I: 115
FIRST-CLASS: 102
LIST A: 379
T20: 367

CAREER RUNS SCORED

FIRST-CLASS HUNDREDS: 11
LIST A HUNDREDS: 22
INTERNATIONAL HUNDREDS: 16
INTERNATIONAL FIFTIES: 64

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cinch PCA Men's Player of the Year 2022

It's fair to say that Jonny Bairstow has had quite the summer. Broken leg aside, obviously.

And whilst the 33-year-old recovers from, as he states, “doing a proper job of it” when injuring himself on the golf course, the downtime and subsequent rehab will no doubt offer plenty of time to reflect on what amounted to a six-Test summer of near complete dominance.

In those matches, played against New Zealand, India and South Africa respectively, the free-scoring right-hander managed to register four hundreds, amass 681 runs, all made at an average of 75.66. But the most startling of what already makes for eye-bending reading, is that those runs, and those centuries, came at a strike rate of 96.59. Amounting to one-day fluency. In whites. Against some of the world's very-best bowlers.

The Yorkshireman's form proved the catalyst in kickstarting what was characterised as England's red-ball revival under the captaincy of Ben Stokes and the dressing room stewardship of head coach, Brendon McCullum. Where previously the batting had lacked fluency and purpose, it now packed a real, energetic and leather-gloved punch.

In terms of some of the summer's details, the Bradford-born 'keeper-batter made a scintillating second-innings 136 (92 balls) in the second Test against world champions New Zealand at Trent Bridge. In this instance, England chasing down 299 (for the loss of five wickets) after the tourists had made 553 in the game's first innings. Described as a 'blitz', the innings included seven maximums, with his hundred (77 balls) coming up only one ball fewer than that of Gilbert Jessop's 76-delivery version, in 1901. That innings, at the Oval, made without a single six.

Now with a 2-0 lead over the Black Caps, Bairstow followed up his

pyrotechnics in Nottingham with 162 and 71 not out in the final fixture at Leeds. This, another better-than-a-run-a-ball assault, earning England a 3-0 series sweep.

With India now as the opposition for what amounted to the rearranged fifth Test, Bairstow continued to lay waste to all-comers. The roadshow now at Edgbaston, it was to be the contribution of back-to-back hundreds of 106 and 114 (unbeaten) in a seven-wicket win.

In total, Bairstow had played a huge part in his side winning five of the six Tests he played in. With attitude being everything. And prior to that, the 33-year-old's form hadn't been too shabby in the early part of the year either, having made 113 against Australia at Sydney, and 140 against West Indies at Antigua. Him being named the pro's choice as the cinch PCA Men's Player of the Year was followed in the same week by the cricket writers' version. What a year, what a summer, what a player.

Speaking on cricket's gala awards evening, Bairstow was proud of what he'd achieved, but equally effusive about the charge made by team-mate, Harry Brook's, back-to-back winning of the young player version. “Aye lad, two Yorkshire winners is fantastic,” stated a seated Bairstow. “It means a huge amount winning this award, it's been a massive summer especially for everyone involved in Test cricket, it's been one that I don't think any of us will ever forget. It was good craic, it reinforced how good it is to play cricket for your country, it's been so thrilling to go out and play in the manner that we have.

“Harry (Brook) is going to be very good. It's great for him to gain experience playing for England in different conditions. There's no questions about his ability, and I look forward to seeing him grow as a player.” ●



Behind the Lens

The summer of 2022 produced some breath-taking cricket that will be remembered for years to come. Here is a pictorial look at this year's cinch PCA Awards and the fantastic year that preceded them with Getty Images...

For the first time since 2019, the 53rd cinch PCA Awards returned with an in person ceremony celebrating the players' performances, all captured by Getty Images cameras. The top four individual accolades were awarded at the most prestigious prize ceremony in the game to players that had been honoured by their peers for their terrific standards throughout the season.

YORKSHIRE DOUBLE UP

Jonny Bairstow produced blistering



performances across all formats in 2022, but the Test arena was where he shone brightest, scoring four hundreds with an incredible summer Test match strike-rate of 96.6. The Yorkshireman followed in the footsteps of his teammate and friend Joe Root by winning the cinch PCA Men's Player of the Year award.

BACK ON TOP

Harry Brook showed once again his incredible talents in a year that saw him make debuts in Test and T20I cricket for England. The Yorkshireman becomes the

cinch PCA Awards

STARS IN EVERY DIRECTION

Jonny Bairstow on top of the world.
Freya Kemp and Harry Brook
(inside right) double up. Nat Sciver
leads from the front.

BELOW: Another night of
celebration at the Hurlingham Club.



first player to win the cinch PCA Men's Young Player of the Year award back-to-back since Sir Alastair Cook in 2005 and 2006.

17 AGAIN

For the second season in a row, the cinch PCA Women's Young Player of the Year award went to a 17-year-old as Freya Kemp picked up the accolade. Kemp becomes the second winner of the award following Alice Capsey's inaugural triumph last year. The all-rounder made her international debut and played a vital part in the Southern Vipers winning the Charlotte Edwards Cup.

SCIVER THE SKIPPER

Captaining her country for much of the summer, Nat Sciver produced a fabulous maiden Test hundred scoring an unbeaten 169 against South Africa. The 30-year-old was named The Hundred MVP in the women's competition, alongside picking up the cinch PCA Women's Player of the Year for the second time. ●



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LONDON

A special new accolade

Mappin & Webb, an industry leader in silverware and trophy design have produced the inaugural PCA Outstanding Contribution Award for the most prestigious ceremony in cricket. Here's the story so far.

The trophy was created in the Mappin & Webb silver workshop by their silversmiths, engravers and polishers. The circular-shaped award incorporates the PCA logo which is gold plated to symbolise the significance and magnitude of this important trophy.

Mappin & Webb pitched the idea of the trophy at the start of the season with both companies in agreement that a new award should recognise the hard work and dedication of people that have helped others through a challenging last few years.

Karl Bailey, Senior Manager at Mappin & Webb, is proud to be in partnership with the players' association. "Working with the PCA is a real honour for Mappin & Webb. To be involved with recognising all of the achievements each cricketer has made on the pitch, is a true privilege.

"Mappin & Webb are delighted to support the PCA in producing the inaugural Outstanding Contribution Award. We are very aware of the challenges many have had to face in recent years, this award is a fitting way to recognise amazing people who have shown their dedication to help others."

The phenomenal work by former Gloucestershire wicketkeeper, Andy Brassington, in creating the 'Walkers and Talkers' group made him a worthy winner of the 2022 accolade.

Brassington set up the 'Walkers and Talkers' group in April this year, which aimed to help with people's mental health and wellbeing after the covid pandemic.

Anyone is free to join, members generally meet at Gloucestershire's Seat Unique stadium in Bristol, although this often changes to other stadia in the city, every Wednesday for tea and coffee,





I'm blown away in all honesty, I had no idea that was going to happen. Now I've had time to reflect I'm so proud of the group, it's a fantastic award to win.
Andy Brassington

followed by a walk around the ground and then a talk from a celebrity guest speaker with a question-and-answer session.

'Walkers and Talkers' sessions get upwards of 50 people attending each week and have so far included guest speakers such as former England cricketer Jon Lewis and former professional footballer Gary Owers.

Brassington was unaware that he had won the trophy until the video played at the cinch PCA Awards ceremony in London on Thursday 6 October, eventually realising why he had the film crew following one of his sessions in mid-September.

On winning the award Brassington said:

"I'm blown away in all honesty, I had no idea that was going to happen. Now I've had time to reflect I'm so proud of the group, it's a fantastic award to win and I look forward to showing it to the Walkers and Talkers.

"It gets emotional, and we shed a tear sometimes, including me.

"It's really important that we all talk to each other, so the focus now is to really kick on and help more people."

Brassington collected the new award from PCA Chief Executive Rob Lynch and then produced a moving speech that gripped the 550 guests at The Hurlingham Club. ●

Walkers & Talkers

Find the group on Facebook:
[@walkersandtalkersQandA](#)

Contact Andy Brassington on **07831 532670** or email him andy@finderskeepersuk.com for more details.

Member Offer

Members of the PCA can benefit from the Mappin & Webb partnership by taking advantage of our offer of a 10% discount on our large range of Swiss watch brands and 15% discount on fine jewellery (exclusions apply).

Contact karl.bailey@mappinandwebb.com for any enquires.

Managing Deselection

For whatever reason deselection occurs, players can experience social, psychological, and emotional consequences. Dealing with these effects can be a challenge in itself, so how is best to go about it? **PDM Sophie Connor explains.**

Deselection is defined as the elimination of an athlete from a competitive team based on the decision of the coach. They must make a judgement about what is best for the player, the team and ultimately, what is going to help them achieve their goals.

As a player, you understandably want to be playing every game, showing everyone your skills and talent on the big stage, week in, week out. However, realistically, there might be times when you're not selected and that can be a difficult pill to swallow. At first, you might feel upset, angry, disappointed or all different emotions rolled into one which you just can't explain and that's ok. Processing information like this is different for everyone.

Being deselected can knock your confidence and create a loss of identity. This is maybe just a small bump in your journey but focus on your strengths, look at positive past performances that reaffirm your ability, and ask your teammates one thing they think you're good at. Cricket is a huge part of your

identity, but not all of it and it's important to remember that.

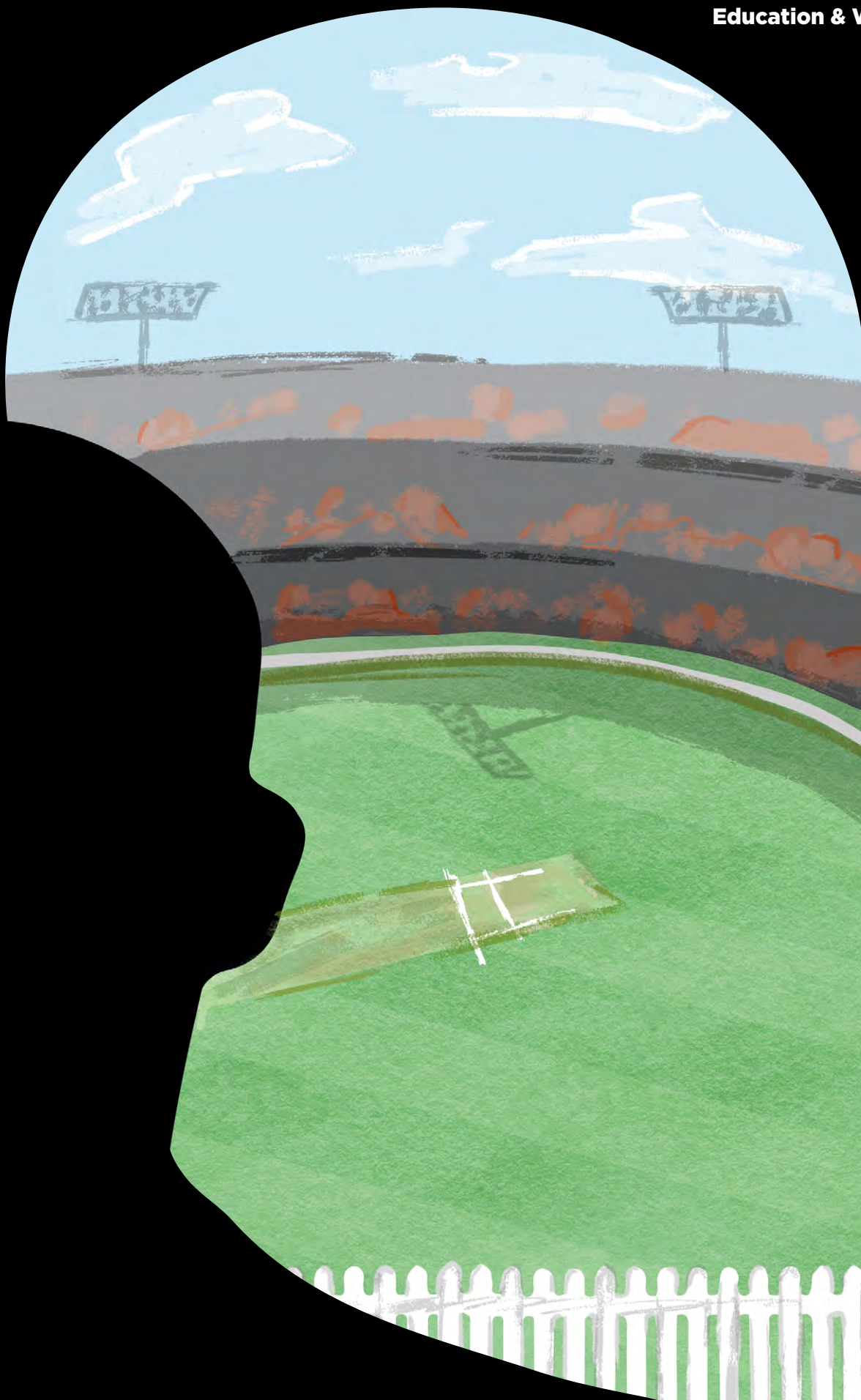
The best players in the world have run drinks on at some point in their career, in fact, it's quite normal within cricket as there are so many uncontrollable factors that will impact the coach's decision. Northamptonshire all-rounder Rob Keogh explains, "Deselection for any reason can be tough. Whether it's injury, form or maybe nothing in particular. It happens to most players at some point in their careers. It can make you feel unwanted, not good enough, and lead to thoughts about your career potentially ending. The best way to bounce back is to use those emotions and disappointment to help you work harder to get back into the side, find out the reasons why you may have been left out and work hard to improve in that area. You can use the disappointment as determination to help you improve and get better as a player."

When you're not in that team environment, working on common goals on the pitch together, things can feel strange. Or if you're in the match day

squad, travelling and warming up with the team, wrapped up in the whirlwind of that environment but watching your teammates from the side-lines, it is absolutely going to be hard to manage. What else can you bring to the team off the pitch that can positively support the goal your teammates are trying to achieve on the pitch?

Deselection isn't the end of the world, yes, you'll feel different emotions but it's how you react to the decision that shows your character and determination to succeed. Focus on the things you can control, your reaction, your attitude, your effort, and your commitment. Ask yourself, ok this is a setback but what am I going to do ahead of the next game? Ask the coach for clear feedback so you can set yourself some tangible targets to work towards.

Keep your head up, stay focused and if you need, talk things through independently with your PDM. We champion the ongoing interests of all professional cricketers and we're here to support in any way we can. ●



Winters Away

Nick Denning and Martin Cropper explore everything you need to know when thinking about wintering abroad.

With many players having been 'stuck' at home for the last couple of years with the COVID-19 pandemic having made travel tricky, there is likely to be a big outflux of players looking for an opportunity to play some more cricket. The lure of escaping to warmer climates over the winter is never stronger than when we are contemplating hours in the gym under fluorescent lighting. The thought of swapping the cold and wet for sunny beaches, a much more relaxed existence and a reduced playing schedule rarely fail to inspire. This change

of scenery is often an essential ingredient in the longevity of a career. Not only is the cricketer challenged in new conditions, but can also escape mundane routines, returning refreshed and invigorated ready for the next intense season. Despite the often more relaxed environment, time overseas can be just as productive. It is easy to think you won't have time for things other than cricket such as work experience, learning new skills, study, or networking so this article looks to challenge that mindset and encourage everyone going overseas to consider how they can get the most from their winter abroad. ●

Why am I going away?

- Set some physical, skills, and social targets.
- How is this going to benefit you at your life stage? Have you been before or is this your first time?
- For cricket development, what opportunities are your club or academy providing? Can they open doors to higher levels, even just for training? Use different coaches, get different ideas.

How do I broaden my horizons?

- Travelling offers us the opportunity to see things that might be on our bucket list, meet new and interesting people and simply have experiences that we would normally miss out on when we stay at home.
- The 'Comfort Zone' – it's your enemy, get outside it and consider the power of saying YES to offers that you might well find challenging.

How do I utilise my spare time?

- Wider personal development - Use your overseas club contacts, are there opportunities that you wouldn't get in the UK?
- For those who are interested in coaching, this is a great chance to work with different players and great for Advanced Coach Award applications.
- You will have more autonomy over your schedule than you would during a normal winter.
- Make sure you are finding things that align to what you want to get out of the time away – work experience, blog writing, coaching, learning, and developing a new skill or hobby.


Yet while there are so many strengths and opportunities on offer, before clicking on the 'buy ticket' button, it is worth considering the following points:

➤ If you are out of contract, it is difficult to keep in touch with coaches from other teams and if you have an agent, are you out-of-sight-out-of-mind?

➤ Depending on your schedule you can have a lot of downtime compared to being in the UK, consider if you will be more focused and productive in your cricket and non-cricket development in the UK.

➤ As with all travel, there may be different rules and regulations to follow, take time to learn these. Take precautions to keep yourself safe and healthy when travelling. Tourists can be targeted by criminals so research your area and take advice from people you trust.

➤ Whatever you choose to do during the winter, always make sure that you are proactive in planning something that revolves around life away from cricket. If you are unsure what that looks like, speak to your PDM and they will support you through that decision-making process.



A twilight view of the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. The stadium is filled with spectators, and the field is lit up by large floodlights. A world map is overlaid on the image, with a circle highlighting the southern hemisphere countries of Australia, New Zealand, and South Africa. The map also shows Sri Lanka as a popular location to play cricket outside of the English summer.

A twilight view of the R. Premadasa Stadium in Colombo, Sri Lanka. Alongside the southern hemisphere countries of Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, Sri Lanka is a popular location to play cricket outside of the English summer.



Foundations Laid to Reset Inclusive Ambitions

Cricket is collaborating to ensure a sharp corner is turned to rid the game of discrimination with the players' union making strides in 2022, including a first of its kind appointment...

The magnifying glass is tightly encircled on the game of cricket and the PCA has been leading the challenge to make the nation's summer sport a welcoming place for everyone.

November 2021 saw cricket's 12-point plan unveiled, agreeing a series of immediate changes that were vital for the future of the game.

The main role of the PCA within the plan is to improve equality, diversity and inclusion education for all professional squads and academies across the country.

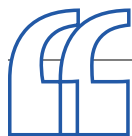
Rewind back to July 2020, the Association set up the PCA EDI Working Group, made up of a collaboration of PCA and ECB staff as well as current and former players and industry experts with the aim of making professional cricket an open and inclusive game for everyone and free of discrimination.

Cricket has been on a testing journey of truth and reconciliation ever since, with PCA Chief

Executive Rob Lynch joining Chair James Harris, Vice Chair Anuj Dal and Non-Executive Chair Julian Metherell in February 2022 for the PCA's appearance before the DCMS Select Committee. An experience that provided the PCA an opportunity to honestly review the racism in cricket situation by reflecting on their own performance and learnings.

The PCA set out nine key performance indicators for 2022 in the public forum (a progress report is on the following pages), arguably the most important of which was the historic employment of a Director of EDI. Following a thorough recruitment process using an industry-leading independent recruiter, the PCA was delighted to announce the hiring of Donna Fraser OBE in September from a strong field of candidates.

The former GB athlete enjoyed a lengthy career, winning medals at the World and European Championships and appearing four



My aim is to make myself redundant in this role because if everything was fine there wouldn't have to be people like me driving that agenda.

times at the Olympic Games, agonisingly finishing fourth in the 400m in Sydney. The 50-year-old had to overcome injury and disappointment throughout her career on the track, and Fraser believes this puts her 'a step ahead' because she understands athletes' thought processes.

Fraser sat down with the PCA to discuss her career, being awarded an

OBE and her new role with the players' association.

"It's an exciting time with this being the first role of its kind at the PCA, yes it will be challenging but I do believe the willingness for change is there. That's what EDI is all about, to make positive change in the workplace, I think collaboratively with the PCA, ECB and other key stakeholders we have to come together with this."

Fraser has a wealth of previous experience within similar EDI roles in elite sport including UK Athletics and Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games, as well as sitting on the board of trustees at the Sussex Cricket Foundation. She admitted that many people have asked her why she's going into cricket because it's not 'her sport' but that isn't a concern for the former Olympian who believes that 'EDI should be weaved into all parts of life.'

"Through an EDI lens I have lots

of experience in sports and embedding it in the workplace, it's what excites me and what gets me up in the morning. I know there are lots of issues in cricket at the moment, it's not going to be easy, but my aim is to make myself redundant in this role because if everything was fine there wouldn't have to be people like me driving that agenda."

Fraser will work closely with the PCA's Inclusion Champions, which will be an inspirational team of PCA members with valued lived experiences within the EDI space. The anti-discrimination initiative will be led by the Director of EDI with education on all areas of the protected characteristics the main focus through discussion based player workshops in England and Wales.

"I don't like using the term 'training' because it has to be more of a conversation, sometimes those ➡➡➡



LEFT: Donna Fraser discusses her new position at the PCA as Director of EDI, she will develop and deliver education programmes as part of the PCA's EDI strategy.

RIGHT: Fraser lays the foundations to shape future initiatives and ensure best practices are followed across the professional game.



There are so many things that I can bring to the table, I always say I never stop learning in this space because things can change so rapidly within the EDI sector.

will be difficult but we need to tackle things head-on and have open and honest conversations to help people understand what EDI is.

“What is seen as banter by some is seen as offensive to others, so it’s about understanding and respecting people’s views. Fundamentally if people feel included and respected in our sport they will thrive in their performance and that’s the ultimate goal.

“I have the expertise from an EDI perspective, so it’s important to have the Inclusion Champions knowledge to help educate those that are within the sport and eventually giving them that agenda so they can drive the game to becoming a more inclusive sport.”

Another aspect of Fraser’s role will be heading the PCA’s EDI Working Group which aims to ensure that professional cricketers work in an inclusive environment protected from discrimination, where every player is actively supported and included, and has the knowledge and support necessary to challenge any form of discrimination. Adding her industry leading knowledge to the group, she is eager to lead the team and believes the approach needs to be game-wide.



“We should be in a position where we can identify where the issues are and how we can address and fix them and then feed that back to the ECB. I see the group as a force for good that needs to have an influence on the decision makers in the game.

“I’m hoping that now I’m here I can help push these processes along and expedite those uncomfortable conversations and make really positive decisions that will impact our players in a positive way.”

The Croydon born runner was influential in driving change at UK Athletics and a key figure within their ‘Let’s Talk About Race’ programme

which culminated in a sport-wide pledge to tackle issues of racial inequality. Awarded an OBE in 2021 for her inspirational commitment to EDI in the workplace, she originally thought it was a scam before bursting into tears speaking to her sister and she still revels in the joy of her parents’ pride.

Creating a level playing field continues to



ABOVE: Lord’s Cricket Ground, a great setting for the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy final as Lizzie Scott of Northern Diamonds bowls to Ella McCaughan of Southern Vipers. Diamonds won the final by two runs to claim their first title on 25 September 2022.

LEFT: Donna Fraser carries the baton for Team GB during the Women’s 4 x 400 metres relay event at the United States Olympic Games in 1996.

Key Performance Indicators 2022 Update:

At the beginning of 2022, the PCA stated nine key performance indicators in the area of equality, diversity and inclusion. As the Association nears the end of the year, Beyond the Boundaries provides an update to progress made on each of these areas.

1

EMPLOY PCA EDI DIRECTOR

Following a thorough recruitment process, Donna Fraser was appointed the PCA's first Director of EDI.

2

INTRODUCE WHISTLEBLOWING LINE

Successfully introduced at the start of the season and communicated to members.

3

ENSURE ANONYMOUS PCA STAFF RECRUITMENT

PCA has ensured recruitment processes have been anonymous through improved procedures.

4

FURTHER EDUCATION FOR PCA MEMBERS AND STAFF

Further education to all PCA staff has been provided through working with the ECB while Professional Behaviours module created for all current players.

5

DISCUSS EDI WITH EVERY PROFESSIONAL SQUAD PRE-SEASON

All squads engaged with meaningful EDI discussions in pre-season meetings.

6

COMMIT TO MINORITY REPRESENTATION ON PCA BOARD

PFA Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Simone Pound has joined the PCA Board while further appointments are imminent at the time of publication.

7

IMPROVE DIVERSITY ON PCA PLAYING BOARD

Turnover of positions on Players' Committee takes place in the winter. This remains a priority ahead of the 2023 season and plans are in place to achieve this objective.

8

DEVELOP A CODE OF CONDUCT WITH THE ECB

PCA has drafted a code of conduct with external experts and is continuously lobbying the ECB for its consideration. These discussions continue with the governing body.

9

HAVE A NETWORK OF INCLUSION CHAMPIONS IN PLACE

Made strong progress so far in inducting individuals with the full team of Inclusion Champions to be in place at the beginning of 2023.

motivate Fraser who says we must recognise when good things happen in our sport.

"There are so many things that I can bring to the table, I always say I never stop learning in this space because things can change so rapidly within the EDI sector. It's also important that we celebrate when positive things happen in our sport, such as the increased amounts of professional contracts on offer in the women's game.

"I am proud of what I've achieved but I've still got a lot to give in terms of my career. It makes me joyful to see my parents happy and it's always nice hearing them telling their friends about 'Donna the runner and champion of equality'." ●



My role within the dressing room and wider squad, as a PCA rep, is becoming more important as we're playing more cricket.

MEET THE REP

Sophie Luff

The opportunity to become a PCA rep for Central Sparks and Western Storm was too good an opportunity to miss for Sophie Luff.

As part of the influx of domestic professional female players, the Somerset and Western Storm captain boasts an outstanding record with the bat, including a career-best in the Rachael Heyhoe Flint Trophy of 157 not out.

The 28-year-old has gone from strength to strength and her ability to score runs at the top level of the English game is extremely impressive.

As a leading figure of the South West region, Luff took the rep role in 2021 which is a joint position between Central Sparks and Western Storm after the professionalisation of the domestic women's game.

"I had always heard about the great work the PCA does, and when the opportunity arose to become a rep, I put my hand up straight away. I get the opportunity to have important conversations about the game with a new network of people.

"Representing the player voice is a great element to my role, I hear the thoughts of the squad members and can take those comments to the relevant people and each time it will be taken seriously."

Luff has taken the role into her stride attending AGM and Summit meetings and alongside the other six PCA Women's Player Committee members, they're helping to shape the game to the outstanding level it is at today.

With the visibility and following of the women's game at an all-time high, the players are being rewarded on and off the pitch for their hard work.

"My role within the dressing room and wider squad, as a PCA rep, is becoming more important as we are playing more cricket. The introduction of The Hundred has meant I play cricket with a new group of players and that's something that I've enjoyed.

"Hearing the thoughts of players that I haven't played with before, and also being on the same side as PCA rep Naomi Dattani, has opened my eyes to the potential of how big the women's game is going to get. I am excited about how much change we have seen already, and certainly what's to come.

"The women's game is growing all the time and we want more exposure. The PCA is great at highlighting outstanding performance not only in the women's game and that is something we're very grateful for." ●



For more information on the PCA Players' Committee, and to find out who represents each professional squad, visit thepca.co.uk/pca-committee



LIFESTYLE

Time to go *electric?*

One thing is certain in this world of uncertainty; we will be making the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) in time. But when is the right time to make the switch?



Over the past eight years, the team at Pike + Bambridge have helped thousands of professional men and women make the process of buying their next car simpler, faster and a lot more personal. We all drive EVs ourselves, so can share our own insight into making the switch to electric.

For those of you who haven't yet explored EVs, here are a few facts:

➡ EVs cost around 9p per mile to run, vs. 25p per mile for the petrol or diesel equivalent. This means the typical 10,000 miles-a-year driver would save around £1,600 per year in fuel costs.

➡ There are three times the number of public charging points than petrol stations in the UK, and that's not including the home chargers over 200,000 households have installed.

➡ Tesla opened their 'Supercharger' network to non-Tesla's in the summer of 2022.

➡ Whilst the purchase price of EVs is typically higher, lease costs are often similar to the combustion-engine equivalent.

This doesn't mean you should immediately switch to an electric vehicle. Our data suggests only 68% of our clients are ready to make the change to fully electric vehicles in 2022. For those who aren't, our Private Client team continues to supply non-EVs, so we can help support you, whatever your needs.

What you'll get from us is expert, independent advice from professionals like you. ●



We're excited to help you answer all the myriad of questions you may have about making the switch to EVs.



For more information about changing to electric, visit our website www.pikeandbambridge.co.uk or email office@pikeandbambridge.co.uk

FOR THE LATEST OFFERS AND PRICES PLEASE LOG-IN TO THE MEMBERS AREA OF THEPCA.CO.UK AND VIEW THE PIKE + BAMBRIDGE MEMBER OFFER.



PIKE + BAMBRIDGE

P+B's Top Three EVs for 2022:

Volkswagen id3

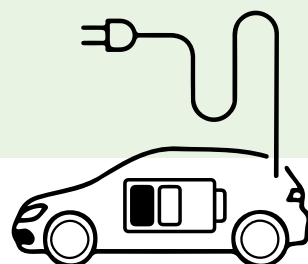
Soon to be the top-selling EV in the world, the id3 replaces the Volkswagen Golf as the great all-rounder car, with monthly payments starting at £350. All whilst cutting your fuel bill by 60%.

Tesla Model Y

Our top-selling EV for 2022. Tesla is the most valuable car company in the world for a reason. Their technology is great, their range is longer than others, and the charging infrastructure is second to none.

MG ZS

The Chinese-backed classic British brand has embraced low-cost EVs more than any other brand. A cross-over SUV, with over 200 miles of range.



Introducing Your PCA Team

NON-EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS



James Harris
Chair



Anuj Dal
Vice Chair



Heather Knight
Vice Chair



Julian Metherell
Non-Executive Chair



Simone Pound
Non-Executive Director



Peter Read
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CURRENCY SOLUTIONS

Optimising Your Winter Contracts

With a busy winter fast approaching, contracts earned in dollars can produce a stronger return IF the best timing and rates are accessed.



Currently, the US dollar is at multi-year highs against the pound, meaning this is a fantastic time to transfer USD back into GBP and AUD. Our competitive rates and risk management protect the value of overseas contracts. And ensure players make the most of an advantageous currency market.

Argentex can lock in favourable exchange rates in advance of payment, utilising current market rates to be settled at a later, predetermined date. Avoiding unnecessary risks posed by the moving currency market.

As funds can be paid to players in varying amounts over several months, Argentex monitors the market to ensure players are making an informed decision when moving funds back into pounds.

On hand to assist 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Argentex has a wealth of experience in managing the foreign exchange needs of cricketers all over the world. We understand the importance of a straightforward, efficient service,

delivered in a completely bespoke manner- uniquely tailored and developed to the individual needs of our clients. ●

"Since my first overseas T20 contract Argentex has helped me move foreign currency around the world. The global nature of tournament cricket means that as a player you need support and assistance around the clock. Having the expertise of Argentex means that I'm free to concentrate on my cricket, whilst they work in the background to ensure that my foreign currency earnings are managed quickly and effectively."

Argentex client, Jofra Archer - England and Sussex

“Having the expertise of Argentex means that I'm free to concentrate on my cricket.”

WHY PLAN AHEAD?

- Secure favourable rates.
- Guarantee contract value.
- Manage risk.
- Focus on the game.



	USD Value	GBP Value
Contract AUG 2021	\$ 200,000.00	£ 148,148.15
Contract AUG 2022	\$ 200,000.00	£ 168,421.05

Extra GBP earned	£ 20,272.90
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Contact Josh to discuss this

further on **07917 150862** or email
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FINANCIAL ADVICE

Six Top Tips to Hit Your Finances for Six!

Stewart Sanderson and James Trigg – wealth managers with extensive experience in advising sports clients – share their tips on achieving financial independence during your sporting career.

1) Understand what's coming in and what's going out

You lead busy lives with regular travel around the UK and, for many, overseas too. Outgoings can quickly build up, with differing taxation, currency, incentivised bonuses, and then expenditure. Make sure you fully understand your outgoings as, over time, this can make a huge difference to your wealth.

2) Get into good habits

Many uncontrollable variables could impact you during your sports career such as how much you will earn, or how often you are injured. It's never too early or too late to start saving or planning, but the earlier you plan for your future, the sooner you safeguard your retirement.

3) Think about investing

Investing is an effective way to put your money to work and potentially build wealth. Investing in just one asset, like property, can be dangerous as it leaves you exposed to one market. Spread your risk by investing in a diversified portfolio which means that it includes different assets such as property, cash, shares, and bonds. You can also take advantage of tax-efficient ways to save or invest and should make use of all your

available tax "wrappers", including ISAs, pensions, and family members' tax allowances if available.

4) Aim for financial independence

Having a plan for the end of your sporting career will put you in an enviable position of being able to make decisions for the rest of your life without any financial pressures. When it comes to saving and investing, the sooner you start, the more money you'll have, and the more that money will grow to support your post-sporting life.

5) Protect against the unexpected

It is never a bad idea to protect yourself against the unexpected by taking out health policies or life insurance. A will or Power of Attorney would make sure that your savings, investments, and overall wealth are protected against the unexpected, and your assets are passed on as you would wish.

6) Get the right advice from trustworthy professionals

Having a trustworthy team looking after your finances is key, leaving you to remain focused on your profession. It's important to work with a credible qualified professional that you can trust, and somebody that you get along with as you will have regular

meetings with your financial adviser, and you should feel comfortable discussing personal subjects. ●



If you're looking for financial guidance, contact Stewart or James at pc@brooksmacdonald.com for a free, impartial conversation.

When thinking about investing, you should always seek the advice of a qualified professional. The price of investments and the income from them can go down as well as up and neither is guaranteed. Investors may not get back the capital they invested.

BM
BROOKS MACDONALD

Obits

COMPILED BY KENNETH SHENTON



MIKE COWAN (1933-2022)

YORKSHIRE

Mike Cowan was a member of the Yorkshire squad that captured County Championship titles in 1959, 1960 and 1962. When becoming the new ball partner of Fred Trueman in 1953, his prowess suggested a future of real distinction in the game. However, increasing illness and injury problems brought a premature end to his First-Class career. And yet, despite all his many misfortunes, he was rarely seen without a smile on his face.

Born in Leeds, Michael Joseph Cowan spent his formative years in the south of the county. A left-arm fast-medium bowler and right-handed lower-order batter, he made his Yorkshire debut in the Coronation year. During 1954 and 1955 he undertook his National Service representing the Royal Air Force. Selected for the MCC party to tour Pakistan in 1955-6, a serious back injury forced him to return home early for an operation. For many, he was never the same bowler after that.

Capped by Yorkshire in 1960, that season his 77 wickets included a best-ever bowling return of 9-43, running through the Warwickshire batting at Edgbaston.

Missing the 1961 season when struck down

with appendicitis, his First-Class career ended the following year. In making 99 appearances for Yorkshire, he took 276 wickets, 43 more than the total number of runs he registered with the bat.

Subsequently representing Northumberland in the Minor Counties competition, he also enjoyed success at club level, whilst becoming an astute media commentator on the game. He also found a niche as a witty and entertaining after dinner speaker, still serving as a sales rep for Penguin Books. He was 89.



IAN COCKBAIN (1958 – 2022)

LANCASHIRE

A legend of the club and minor counties game, Ian Cockbain played 46 First-Class and 28 one-day games for Lancashire between 1979 and 1983. A right-handed top order batter, his highest score of 98 came in 1982 against Warwickshire at Southport. The innings proving crucial in a famous turnaround win for the Red Rose. Between 1985 and 2001 he played 193 games for Cheshire, captaining the side from 1991 to 2001. His son – also named Ian – played with great success for Gloucestershire CCC.



DAVID COOK (1936-2021)

WARWICKSHIRE

A left-arm fast bowler, David Cook played nine First-Class games and a single one-day match for Warwickshire between 1962 and 1968, with his 23 wickets taken at an average of 23.21. A good rugby player, he turned out with distinction in the black-and-white of Stratford, as well as umpiring in the Birmingham League. He was 85.



DAVID BAKER (1935-2021)

KENT & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

David 'Doug' Baker played 34 First-Class games between 1961 and 1965, 27 of them for Kent. Born in Hull, but educated in London, the right-arm leg-break and googly bowler took three career five-fers with a best of 5-47 against Essex at Colchester. He was the licensee of The Sherwin Arms in Bramcote in Nottingham for a time, a committed club cricketer, and also a long-standing member of Beeston Fields golf club. He was 86.



NIGEL PAUL (1933-2022)

WARWICKSHIRE

In 1958, after two seasons on Warwickshire's books, Nigel re-formed Old Cranleigh Cricket Club, which had been effectively defunct since World War II. A giant of a man – standing around two meters tall – he could hit the ball phenomenally hard and score at a fast rate even by the standards of the time. He also dominated club cricket with the ball, he was fast and intimidating, to say the least. He was 89.

ANDREW SYMONDS (1975-2022)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE, KENT, LANCASHIRE, SURREY & AUSTRALIA

Tragically killed in a car crash aged only 46, Andrew Symonds always cut a most distinctive figure in the modern game. An integral part of Australia's two World Cup winning teams of 2003 and 2007, in one-day cricket he scored 5,088 runs in 198 international appearances. He also earned 26 Test caps. Here, he represented Gloucestershire, Kent, Lancashire and Surrey as well as playing T20 cricket in the Indian Premier League.

Born in Birmingham, before soon moving to Australia with his adopted parents, Symonds was a right-handed batter and a big, powerful striker of the ball. He was also an occasional slow or seam bowler and by any measure an outstanding fielder.

He made his First-Class debut for Queensland in 1994 and for Australia four years later. His Test debut came in 2004. Particularly memorable was his maiden Test hundred, made at Melbourne during

the 2006-7 Ashes series.

Spending 1995 with Gloucestershire, when batting against Glamorgan at Abergavenny his 254 included 16 sixes, then a world record, and only recently bettered by Ben Stokes. He would go on to win the PCA Men's Young Player of the Year in 1995 after a sterling season. Amassing over 1,000 runs, he had a strike rate of 95. Between 1999 and 2004 he represented Kent, before joining Lancashire the following year. During 2010 he played T20 cricket for Surrey, while in the Indian Premier League, he played first for Deccan Chargers before moving to Mumbai Indians.

Frequently finding his lifestyle at odds with the Australian authorities, he made 227 appearances in all First-Class cricket, totalling 14,477 career runs. He also took 242 wickets and 159 catches. Retiring in 2012, latterly he had carved out a new career for himself becoming a respected television commentator. He also appeared in a Bollywood film and took part in the Indian version of Big Brother.



PETER FORMAN (1934-2022)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Playing 16 First-Class games in green and gold, between 1959 and 1962, slow left-arm Forman made his debut against Yorkshire at Middlesbrough. An amateur throughout his career, West Bridgford born and Oakham educated, he took 40 career wickets with a best return of 5-73 against Glamorgan in 1962.

Father, Ralph, also played cricket for Notts in the 1920s, and grandfather, Frank, was a professional footballer, playing for Derby County, Nottingham Forest and England. He was also a member of the Forest team that won the FA Cup in 1898, beating his old club Derby 3-1 in the final.



DAVID ASH (1944-2022)

YORKSHIRE

Playing three times in 1965 as a slow left-arm, Bingley-born Ash was a contemporary of the great Yorkshire side of the '60s. He played primarily for Keighley in the Bradford League, topping the division one averages in 1989 at the age of 45.

He lived in Riddlesden for over 50 years and is survived by sons Nigel and Stuart. He was 78.



PETER ELLIS (1932-2022)

MIDDLESEX

Haileybury School's squash, rackets and cricket professional for 32 years (1964-1996), Peter Ellis was a skilled medium-paced bowler with a 'killer' leg-cutter.

When on the staff at Lord's, he played one First-Class match for MCC in 1953. An extended spell of success as a professional in Scotland culminated in a 50-year association with St Margaretsbury Cricket Club in East Hertfordshire.

Lewisham-born Ellis was married to Lilian for more than 62 years. He was 89.



ALAN REES (1938-2022)

GLAMORGAN

In all, Port Talbot-born Rees made 216 First-Class appearance (plus 17 List A) for the Principality between 1955 and 1971 and was regarded as one of the premier fielders of his generation, and a run-out specialist.

He was also a superb rugby fly-half. Playing

for Maesteg, Aberavon, Leicester and Llanelli, he won three Welsh caps in 1962, before turning professional the same year, playing rugby league for Leeds.

Capped by Glamorgan in 1963, he made 1,206 First-Class runs the following year. Including consecutive hundreds against Kent and Lancashire, these proving his only three-figure scores. He was 84.



DAVE PULLAN (1944-2022)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Farsley-born specialist wicketkeeper Dave Pullan entered the county game as a 26-year-old replacement for Deryck Murray, when the West Indies great's outside commitment meant he felt unable to play county cricket. Pullan already had a second eleven cap with Yorkshire, and went on to play 97 matches for Nottinghamshire. After his playing days, the hugely popular Pullan stayed in sport, returning to Trent Bridge in 1979 as General Manager. Before heading across the road to Nottingham Forest as Commercial Manager in 1982, where he remained for many years. He is survived by wife, Ann, and daughter, Rachel, both prominent squash players at the Trent Bridge Squash Club. Pullan was 78.



BILLY DAVIES (1936-2022)

GLAMORGAN

Barry-born Davies is one of four Glamorgan players to take a wicket with his first ball in First-Class cricket, when dismissing Surrey's Tom Clark at the Oval in 1957. Primarily a batsman, Davies played 32 First-Class matches for the Welsh club, scoring 674 runs with two fifties. He was 86.



ROBIN MARLAR (1931-2022)

SUSSEX

Born in Eastbourne and educated at Harrow and Cambridge University, Robin Marlar was an off-spinner of repute, taking 970 First-Class wickets for the county club, and five wickets in and innings on 66 occasions.

After success with Sussex, life took him into journalism, as the cricket correspondent for The Sunday Times, where he continued to write on the sport into his nineties.

A former president of MCC (2006) and chairman of Sussex (1996-1997), Marlar is credited with paving the way for the club's first Championship win in 2003. He is survived by children Sarah, AJ, Tammy, Algy and James. He was 91.



JIM PARKS (1931-2022)

SUSSEX, SOMERSET & ENGLAND

England's oldest surviving male Test cricketer, Jim Parks, has died aged 90. He was an attacking right-handed batter, all executed from a distinctive open stance. Especially quick on his feet against spin bowling, in both 1955 and 1959 he topped 2,000 runs. A fine fielder in the covers he began his career as a leg-spin bowler. As an excellent fielder, and having helped Sussex out in an emergency behind the stumps, he very quickly made the position his own.

Born in Haywards Heath and educated at Hove Grammar School, James Michael Parks made his First-Class debut for Sussex aged 17. Continuing to represent the county while on National Service in the RAF, he would pass 1,000 runs in a season on 20 occasions. Quickly mastering the one-day game, he was a member of the Sussex side that won the first two Gillette Cup Finals in 1963 and 1964.

Joining Somerset in 1973, he played on for a further three seasons.

Making his England debut against Pakistan at Old Trafford in 1954, he was later dropped following a disappointing series in 1960 against South Africa. Recalled for the famous Lord's Test against the West Indies three years later, thereafter Parks played in 36 out of the next 37 Tests. He toured India in 1963-4, South Africa 1964-5 and Australia and New Zealand in 1965-7. Winning 46 caps, he scored 1,962 runs and claimed 114 victims.

Totalling 36,673 runs in all First-Class cricket, he took 1,087 catches and stumped a further 92. He later worked in the brewing industry before returning to Hove as a coach then marketing manager, twice serving as County President. A member of a distinguished cricketing family, both his father and uncles played First-Class cricket as did his son, Bobby.●



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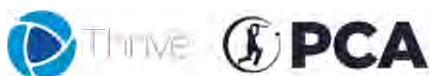
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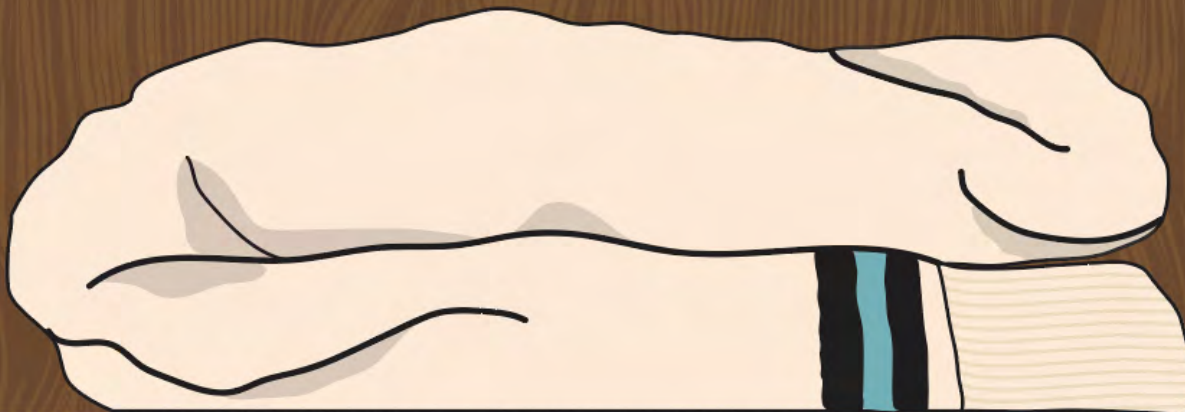
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My Passion

Rachel Slater and her newfound obsession with the decks.



Photograph by SWPix.com

I've always been interested in DJing. In November last year, I got myself some decks and started to teach myself. It's quite a long process and to start off with, I was just mixing songs by myself. Now that I am very comfortable with the basics, I'm starting to move more into the production side, such as editing or starting songs from scratch.

I think it's something I can use to help my cricket. When you start something as a complete beginner, you have everything to learn. Patience is required when putting in the time to get better: this approach has helped me with cricket. When I'm learning to bowl a new slower ball, it has allowed me to be happy with taking time to improve and not expect immediate success.

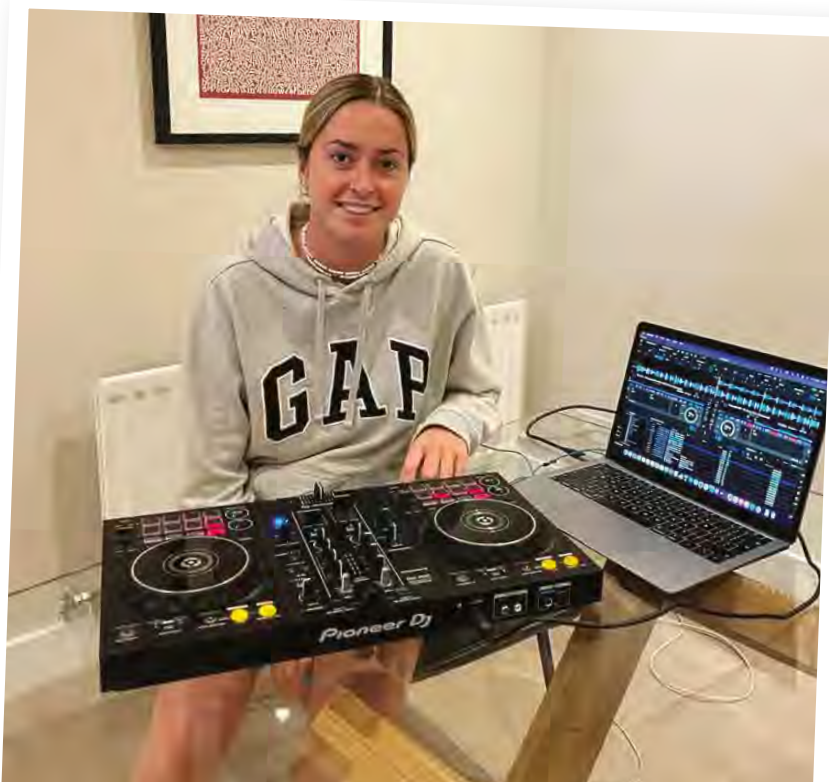
Since turning professional, doing something with absolutely no pressure at all has been really good for me. It can be quite hard to get away from cricket, even if I'm just sitting on my phone, subconsciously it might pop into my head, or I'll see something on social media. But when I'm DJing, I put all my focus into it and simply enjoy the process. It is a very good escape for me, something that I can

just enjoy that allows me to switch off from everything else.

I definitely want to get into DJing properly, it's almost a bucket-list thing, maybe one day I could DJ in clubs. Having mates who've done that, it's made me realise that it's not out of the question. That said, I want to see where it takes me. In 15 years-time when I retire, maybe I'll have done enough and think this

isn't for me. I took all my stuff with me to The Hundred and my teammates were always asking me to DJ... even if they were a tough crowd.

Maybe in the future when I'm more comfortable and knowledgeable, I'll look to move forward with it. But at the minute, I want it to come with no pressure and keep something that I can simply enjoy. ●



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