

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

Issue no.32

Rob Key
IN CONVERSATION

Plus...
DARREN STEVENS
ALI ORR / CHRIS WOAKES
DERBYSHIRE 1990



**There aren't
going to be
many draws,
let's put it
that way.**

HARRY BROOK

In Six Deliveries
JENNY GUNN

Arul Suppiah
OPENS UP ON HIS
HARDEST BATTLE

Heather Knight

*PCA Vice Chair
& England Captain
Talks A Global Game*

GREENE KING
BURY ST EDMUNDS

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EDITOR

ANDY AFFORD
andy@stencil-agency.co.uk

EDITOR FOR PCA

LUKE REYNOLDS
luke.reynolds@thepca.co.uk

LEAD CONTRIBUTOR

OLLIE COLLINS
ollie.collins@thepca.co.uk

PCA CO-ORDINATOR

ALI PROSSER
alison.prosser@thepca.co.uk

ART DIRECTOR

VICKY ELWICK
vicky@stencil-agency.co.uk

CONTRIBUTORS

ERIN CALDWELL
SOPHIE CONNOR
MARTIN CROPPER
NICK DENNING
DONNA FRASER
TOM JONES
KATE KUSZTAL
ZOE LEONARD
KIERAN LONGWORTH
WILL MOULTON
CHARLIE MULRAINE
DAISY NEWMAN
AILEEN PHIPPS
KENNETH SHENTON
JAS SINGH
IAN THOMAS
OLLIE WESTBURY
LYNSEY WILLIAMS

PHOTOGRAPHY

GETTY IMAGES

DESIGN

STENCIL

PCA PRINCIPLE PARTNER:



Evolving Landscapes

PCA Chief Executive Rob Lynch outlines
the Association's impact on the game.



Welcome to issue 32 of your membership magazine, Beyond the Boundaries. It has been a fascinating six months on and off the field since our last issue.

The tectonic plates of the global landscape continue to shift and evolve as we continue to see vast progression in the women's game, supercharged by the introduction of the Women's Premier League in India.

It was especially pleasing to see many PCA members selected in the auction and excelling in the competition. PCA Vice Chair Heather Knight was part of the Royal Challengers Bangalore squad, she discusses her experience on page 26. Heather is one of the most impressive individuals in the game and has huge influence off the field. She provides an insight into her role in our boardroom as she paves the way for future professionals.

On the PCA Board, Heather has been joined by four highly qualified Non-Executive Directors following a robust recruitment process. Each individual brings a wealth of experience to the PCA in their respective area and the Association has already started to reap the benefits after their December appointments.

We are embarking on a double Ashes summer and current cinch PCA Men's Young Player of the Year Harry Brook sits down to discuss his rapid rise to stardom from page 32 while we also focus attention on the directors of England Cricket in Jonathan Finch and Rob Key.

The PCA's Director of EDI Donna Fraser provides a wide-ranging update from page 48. At the time of printing, the ICEC Report is yet to be published as the game eagerly awaits its findings and recommendations. Donna explains the tangible actions that are driving the PCA's EDI agenda forward.

Internally at the PCA, we are to embark on an important period in our recent history and my priority is to secure the financial future of the Association. Ambitious commercial targets have been set and partnership negotiations with the ECB are to begin.

The services the PCA provides for its members have grown rapidly and are more wide-ranging than ever, all while the number of players has risen sharply, as has inflation so further investment is vital.

Finally, I wanted to draw your attention to page 24 and the Professional Cricketers' Trust's London to Paris Charity Bike Ride. The Trust is your charity and will always be there for you and your immediate family and is looking for people to join its challenge in October. Without a funding partner, your support is vital to maintain the level of services this small but incredible charity provides. Please take a look, invest in some lycra and help fundraise.

Enjoy the summer.

ROB LYNCH
PCA Chief Executive

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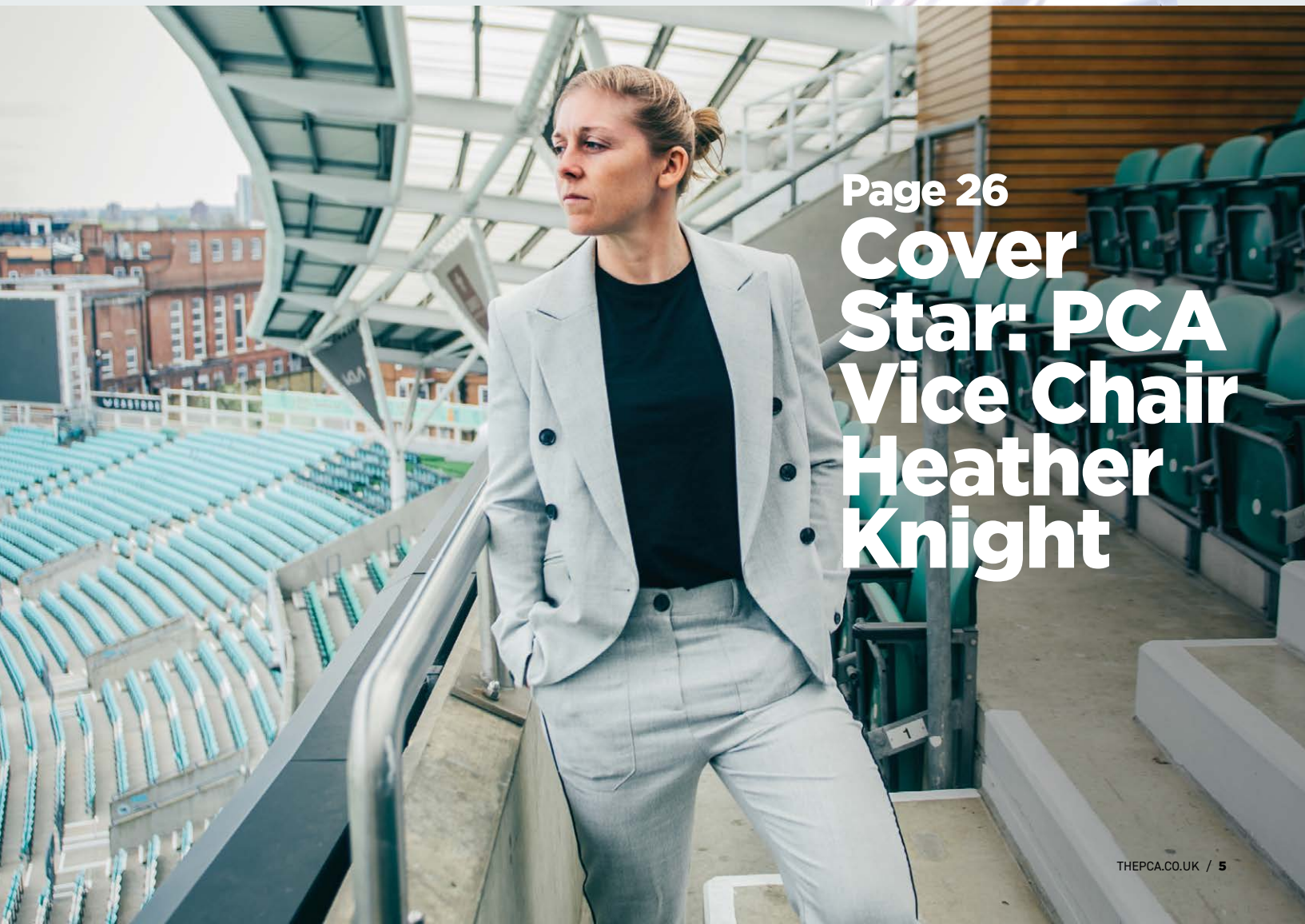
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Mr Big Shot: In conversation with the exciting Harry Brook



Page 26

Cover Star: PCA Vice Chair Heather Knight





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A Continued Appointment

PCA Chair James Harris leading from the front.



It is always a great feeling to see our members excel in the early part of the season and I have really enjoyed seeing some of the success stories in the first couple of months.

I would like to say how honoured I am about my re-election. A big thank you to all members who continue to have faith in me as Chair of this prestigious Association. My tenure so far has been a transitional period for me and there is much more work still to do.

After urging more players to voice their opinions in the last issue - I was very pleased to see that coming to life in the domestic pre-season meetings. We had smaller groups to engage all players to ensure everyone had an opportunity to voice their views, and I think that was a real positive.


This further builds on some of the initiatives we are starting to create to engage the PCA reps. We have grown on some of the work at the Summit and

AGM, and now there are eight reps in the domestic female game, with one per team just like the men's game. We are also pleased to have Chris Woakes on board as an England representative so we can have a view from their camp alongside Kate Cross.

Cricket remains in a period of rehabilitation following the issues we have all faced in the wake of discrimination cases the Cricket Discipline Commission and wider game has been handling.

Meanwhile, the Independent Commission for Equity in Cricket, which was created in 2021 to evaluate the state of equity in cricket and hear people's experiences, is yet to release its report as I write my column. I urge the ICEC to release their report in a timely manner.

We recognise the need for change in the game. Cricket has been through a really tough period and we want to use the recommendations from the ICEC to

 **We need to follow the processes to make sure cricket is a game for all.**

move forward.

We need to follow the processes to make sure cricket is a game for all which is what everybody is striving for.

The game faces a fascinating few years ahead, not only through implementing permanent changes following the ICEC recommendations but upcoming player negotiations.

The PCA is leading discussions on behalf of domestic players whilst working with the Team England Player Partnerships on Central Contracts.

It is a really important time, and I look forward to your views being part of our journey over the coming months and years.

JAMES HARRIS
PCA Chair



5 For Florence

Surrey's Matt Dunn and his wife Jess are running 5K a day for the month of May in memory of their daughter Florence who tragically passed away at the age of two earlier this year.

Matt and Jess are encouraging as many people as possible to take part

in the challenge and donate £5 for every 5K run. All money raised will go to the charity Dravet Syndrome UK, a condition Florence was diagnosed with at just 11 months old. The charity is dedicated to improving the lives of those affected by Dravet Syndrome through support, education and medical research. They also supported Florence and the Dunn family throughout her life with the condition.

Those taking part in the challenge can use the hashtag #5forFlorence and you can still support via gofundme.com/for-florence-dunn



Second term for Harris

The 2023 PCA AGM saw James Harris' second term as PCA Chair ratified, taking his tenure up to February 2025.

Several further important changes were also voted through by the Players' Committee, including having a PCA representative for each of the eight women's regions and an England Men's rep with voting rights for the first time.

The updating of the Constitution with the addition of a temporary membership category was also unanimously agreed, as well as the official PCA principles and rules being altered to increasingly modern, inclusive language.

The temporary membership category has been introduced and will be offered to players in certain competitions who do not have a year-long professional contract and allows the PCA to differentiate between those available for its lifetime service provision.



Past Player Subscriptions

The PCA has launched a brand new Voluntary Past Player Membership following a vote by the Players' Committee at February's AGM.

With the PCA valuing all past players, the Association is keen to ensure that support levels are maintained at the current level with a new initiative supporting the funding of this. As a former player, you will always be a member of the PCA and currently have access to the following benefits:

- PCA membership card - providing complimentary access for you and a guest to County Championship fixtures
- Free of charge access to Past Player Day
- Access to 24-hour Confidential Helpline

- Personal Development Manager to support your career plans
- Education funding - up to £1,500 can be claimed each year
- Member offer discounts
- Beyond the Boundaries magazine - posted out free of charge

The cost of the Voluntary Past Player Membership is just £30 per year or a lifetime membership is available for £360.

Those taking up the membership will also receive an exclusive PCA pin badge and be included in a draw for two 2023 Ashes hospitality tickets.

Please contact alison.prosser@thepca.co.uk for more information and to make payment.



Hidden Disabilities

As a professional cricketer living with type 1 diabetes, Worcestershire spinner Josh Baker, wants to use his position to raise awareness of the illness and show people it doesn't prevent you from playing sport at the highest level.



Recently connected with Chris Bright from charity JDRF, he has worked on a diabetes guideline plan to create a greater understanding of the condition as it is not commonly discussed with professional athletes.

"Most recently we went to Worcester University to talk to a group of students about hidden disabilities, as diabetes falls into this category where Chris and I shared our experiences with how we deal with it in sport," said Baker.

More information on diabetes jdrf.org.uk

AN OVER AT...

Jenny Gunn

The three-time World Cup winner left professional cricket in November 2022.

4

What are your career highlights?

In 2009 we retained the Ashes and won the ODI and T20 World Cups, which was special. Winning the 50-over tournament in Australia was awesome because they're so hard to beat. And then winning the 2017 ODI World Cup at Lord's was equally special, having family and friends there.

1

What is your first cricketing memory?

Playing with my family or going to watch my dad play – that's how I fell in love with the game. I used to fill in for the men's team and, eventually, I played alongside my brother and my dad which was cool.

2

Why did you choose to play cricket?

I actually wanted to be a footballer. Growing up, I played football in the winter and cricket in the summer - until I realised I was better at cricket. I hate the cold so, actually, football wasn't ideal.

3

How did it feel to make your England debut?

I got called up because of an injury so assumed I'd go out to South Africa and run drinks. Instead, I opened the bowling, which I never expected aged 17. I then went from the high of making my international debut to being called to the umpire's room and told I had a dodgy action!

5

What's next for you?

I'm living in Sydney and working for Cricket New South Wales. It's been surreal to coach people I played against for years. I'm learning a lot and it's also much nicer weather than in England.

6

How are you feeling about the future of the women's game?

It's exciting. With the WPL, the growth has gone through the roof. I just hope everything else keeps up because you don't want that to take over; you still want players desiring to play for their country. It'll also improve the standard, which will only get better from now onwards.



Katherine Sciver-Brunt Retires from Internationals

England legend Katherine Sciver-Brunt announced her retirement from international cricket in early May. Debuting in 2004, the right-arm seamer went on to make 267 appearances for England taking 335 wickets and scoring 1,864 runs. Across her illustrious career, she was involved in four Ashes winning sides, two ODI World Cup triumphs and a T20 World Cup victory.

Sciver-Brunt will continue to play in The Hundred and upon international retirement, said: "It has been a huge honour representing England for so long and I'd like to thank all of the England cricket family past and present for making my time a special one."

"I have so much to be thankful for, cricket has given me a purpose, a sense of belonging, security, many golden memories and best friends that will last a lifetime. Of the trophies and titles I could have wished to achieve, I have reached them all, but my greatest achievement is the happiness that I have found in Nat."



Prepare for Takeoff

"This is your pilot speaking." Lancashire's Will Williams is somebody who is uttering those words on a regular basis. Keen flyer Williams has worked towards gaining his pilot licence which took him eight years to complete on a part time basis. The New Zealander holds a commercial license and is also a qualified flight instructor. Next steps for the 30-year-old are to work towards getting his instrument rating which will allow him to fly through clouds.

"I got into flying thanks to my Grandmother who bought me a trial flight in my last year of school," said Williams. "I really enjoyed it and I decided to pursue it. It has allowed me to pursue a career outside of cricket and to keep mentally fresh between and during the season."

PCA Partners with LifeJacket

The PCA has signed a multi-year partnership with LifeJacket Skin Protection, aiming to encourage better skin routines amongst their members.

The agreement sees professional cricketers supplied with LifeJacket Skin Protection products to support them on and off the field, offering a critical safeguard with Sam Billings, Naomi Dattani, Rob Keogh, and Mark Ramprakash launching the agreement.

All four members have led the way in the PCA's fresh approach to commercial partnerships. The Association is focusing on using the profile and reach of its members in upcoming agreements.

Billings had two operations on his chest to remove a melanoma last year, he said: "We are so lucky to have an Association that is so caring and this is such an important partnership that is close to my heart. We are in the sun most days and I think anybody associated with cricket can benefit from this."

LifeJacket Skin Protection products are available online at lifejacketskin.com with PCA members receiving 30% discount via an exclusive code on thepca.co.uk.

LIFEJACKET
> SKIN PROTECTION <



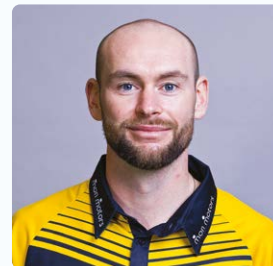
What I Did This Winter

HOW FIVE PCA MEMBERS USED THEIR OFF-SEASON.

Mitch Wagstaff

DERBYSHIRE

As a newly contracted rookie player for 2023, I was really keen to go abroad to work on my game and I secured a deal with Corowa Cricket Club in New South Wales to play and coach. However, I also wanted to get a job to stretch myself. The club supported me with some regular shifts on a production line for Corowa Distillery and Chocolate factory. And no, I wasn't tasting as I went!



Jamie McIlroy

GLAMORGAN

Glamorgan connected me with James Thomas from MGY Estate Agency. As a former professional rugby player, James understands the benefits of flexible personal development alongside your sport. I've really enjoyed getting practical hands on experience, visiting properties and within the office. I am planning to continue to work with them and complete an online property course.



Craig Miles

WARWICKSHIRE

I contacted St Edwards School in Oxford and they created a part-time role for me. This involved providing 1-1 coaching as well as facilitating group/team practices with girls and boys. This has really helped me to develop my coaching philosophy and challenged me to vary my delivery style. I have now been offered the opportunity to work with the school and I look forward to supporting over the summer.



Dane Vilas

LANCASHIRE

I spent time working at a company in Putney called Pitch International. Pitch is a global sports, marketing and media agency that specialise in creating and managing commercial opportunities for sports properties, athletes, and brands through innovative strategies in partnership, maximising the exposure and revenue potential. This provided me with great insight into the sporting world in the business of sport.

Georgie Boyce

THE BLAZE

I was living on the Sunshine Coast playing for Sunshine Scorchers where we won the 50-over competition. I also coached the local Maroochydore women's team to develop my coaching skills. I also loved hiking and exploring and after one surfing lesson, I thought I was a pro. I took my mum on a trip around Fraser Island and after camping for one night, we both decided camping wasn't for us.



If I Knew Then...

Former Kent and Leicestershire all-rounder **Darren Stevens** looks back on the key lessons from what has been a long and illustrious career.

“When you’re young, you can be opinionated and say the wrong things. If I’d just let myself soak it all up, things may have been different.”

“

If you can still do it, why not keep doing it?

“

Taking time out is sometimes better for you than being in the nets.

“

Media scrutiny is for you to take in your stride.

“

Keep learning each day; bettering yourself as a person.

“

Get a close group of people around you.

“

You’ve got to grow with the game, otherwise you end up leaving it.

Learn Before Wicket: Providing Cultural Education In Cricket

Former Surrey and Essex bowler David Thompson on the education series he is helping to deliver through his role as an Inclusion Champion at the PCA.



My inspiration to become an Inclusion Champion was a desire to elicit a change of culture in cricket. I want to ensure the experiences I had and those that a lot of Black, Asian and minority ethnic players encounter are not repeated.

I'm enjoying the role. It's been a positive start and I definitely believe we can help bridge the gaps in communications between teams and allow athletes from all backgrounds to feel welcome, wherever they play.

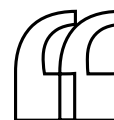
It's extremely important the PCA is providing this education to all teams as it shows we're making steps towards changing the environment for the better. Although we're still a new group, I'm already getting lots of positive feedback from the squads I've visited. Hopefully this is something that only grows and gets bigger too. I want to get to the point where I'm doing this work throughout each year.

The aim of the 'Learn Before Wicket' programme that the PCA is delivering is to make players and coaches aware of the different dynamics that occur, not just against opponents but within their own set-ups, and how their behaviour impacts on others. There are seven topics teams can choose from to learn about – Inclusive

Language, Allyship, Unconscious Bias, LGBTQ+ Inclusion, Disability Inclusion, Intersectionality and Anti-Discrimination - with the aim being for them to be taught three this year and the rest in the future.

As a team we're planning on delivering 78 sessions by early 2024 and the reaction to the ones we have so far completed has been good. A few outfits have already done some work in these areas, which is great to see, and it's been valuable to help others catch up. A few have highlighted these are discussions they have not had before so are finding it very useful to have the opportunity to do so.

The main thing I want people to get out of the sessions is an understanding that you should respect everybody equally, an acceptance that each person is different and making sure teams are creating an environment conducive for everybody to thrive. We want people to be accountable for their own actions and those of their teammates, while also standing up for them. It's about changing the culture by making sure people feel capable of challenging unacceptable behaviours. Holistically, it's about creating an understanding of different backgrounds, religions, cultures etc. and ensuring everybody is treated equally. ●



It's about changing the culture by making sure people feel capable of challenging unacceptable behaviours.





A truly multi-cultural outfit, and for an extended period, Derbyshire became a cricketing force in the early '90s, winning two trophies, competing hard in all competitions, making them one of the era's most difficult opponents.

On a Sunday, West Indies fast bowler, Ian Bishop, would take a rest, enabling all-rounder Adrian Kuiper to do his thing. The club won 13 of its 18 40-over games that summer, including victories at The Oval, Old Trafford and Trent Bridge. Skipper Kim Barnett made two hundreds (100 v Somerset at Taunton, 127 v Kent at Chesterfield), with John Morris contributing a third (134 v Somerset at Taunton). With the ball, the aforementioned Kuiper alongside Simon Base topped the wickets column, claiming 19 victims apiece. An incredibly settled side, our list focuses on players selected for 10 matches or more during this Refuge League title-winning

season. The team also progressed to the Refuge Cup final element at Edgbaston.

JOHN MORRIS

A successful county batter with later-career spells at both Durham and Nottinghamshire. The right-hander played a handful of matches for England (three Tests, eight ODIs), grabbing the headlines when as a passenger on David Gower's ill-judged Tiger Moth flight on the 1990-91 Ashes tour to Australia. With post-cricket spells in management and the media, 'Animal' is now a successful entrepreneur, owning bars in Matlock and Duffield, both named Bradmans.

ABOVE: Derbyshire County Cricket Club at the County Ground in Derby, April 1990. Back row, left to right: Frank Griffith, Andrew Brown, Dominic Cork, Tim O'Gorman, Chris Adams, Simon Goldsmith and Karl Krikken; middle row, left to right: Bruce Roberts, Alan Warner, Simon Base, Peter Bowler, Martin Jean-Jacques, S W Tracey (scorer); front row, left to right: Ole Mortenson, John Morris, R J Lark (chief executive), Kim Barnett, Phillip Russell (club coach), Geoff Miller and Bernie Maher.

GEOFF MILLER

Chesterfield-born Miller is a former national selector, and hugely-popular off-spinning all-rounder, who enjoyed two spells at the County Ground as well as a three-year stint with Essex. He played 34 Tests and 25 ODIs, was made an OBE for services to cricket in 2014 and remains one of the country's preeminent after-dinner speakers.

CHRIS ADAMS

A particularly successful county captain with Sussex, and another hard-hitting right-hander, 'Griz' led the south-coast club to Championship titles in 2003, 2006 and 2007. In total he played five Tests and five ODIs for England before becoming Team Director with Surrey for a spell, ending in 2013. He is the current Head of Cricket & Assistant Head of Year 12 at Seaford College and an England batting scout.

KIM BARNETT

The county's longest-serving captain (1984-1995), Barnett was an idiosyncratic but mightily-effective opening batter with Derbyshire, Gloucestershire and latterly his native Staffordshire. The Leek-born winner of four Test caps and a single ODI was also a deceptive and more-than-handy bowler of his own particular inversion of slow-medium leg-spin. He returned to Derbyshire in the role of cricket advisor in 2016 before leaving post two years later. Back in Leek now, Barnett coaches part-time for local club Oakamoor.

SIMON BASE

Maidstone-born, but brought up in Cape Town, this energetic seam bowler started his professional career with Glamorgan before finding success with Derbyshire. Base toured Holland with England A in 1989 and currently lives and works in Derby.

PETER BOWLER

Batter by nature - if not by name - and a good one at that. The right-hander - born

in the UK but brought up in Australia - went on to open the innings for Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Somerset respectively between 1986 and 2004. He kept wicket in 13 of the 16 Refuge League matches in 1990, with the rationale being that he would almost exclusively be stood back, freeing up an additional specialist batting slot. Bowler went on to qualify as a solicitor upon retirement. He is the current co-founder and CEO of FMS, a company empowering teachers and coaches to improve the physical wellbeing of young people.

STEVE GOLDSMITH

A flamboyant all-rounder and superb fielder, nothing was done at half-pace by this Norfolk native. A cricketer ahead of his time in terms of the range of strokes attempted, Goldsmith started his pro career with Kent before finding a more-permanent home with Derbyshire. Post First-Class career, he went on to be a hugely influential cricketer back in East Anglia, and currently runs coaching business, Red Mist Cricket, based at Taverham School near Norwich.

ADRIAN KUIPER

Overseas star Kuiper was a hard-hitting South African all-rounder from Western Province. He played a single Test, with his best domestic cricket enjoyed at a time when the Proteas were excluded from official international competition. He currently farms land around Elgin in the Western Cape region.

DEVON MALCOLM

This England fast-bowler was a fan-favourite wherever he played and remains one of the game's most distinctive and popular

figures. Additional spells with Northamptonshire and Leicestershire rounded out a stellar career that saw Malcolm take over 1,000 First-Class wickets. He currently works as an events organiser, ECB match referee, and after-dinner speaker, as well as turning out regularly for the PCA England Legends team.

BRUCE ROBERTS

Zambian-born all-rounder was an ever-present across the course of the 1990 Sunday League campaign, and also the longer format. He returned to South Africa, where he works as a sports coach and teacher in Kwa-Zulu Natal province.

OLE MORTENSEN

'Viking' Mortensen was an excitable and skilful swing bowler, and the fulcrum of an excellent Derbyshire bowling attack. Known not-unsurprisingly as 'Stan', when on the field the super-competitive Dane was a committed and profuse - almost devoted - swearer. All uttered in his native tongue.

Post Derbyshire, he returned to Europe to coach cricket, holding roles with the German, Dutch and Norwegian cricket associations. He currently works as a teacher in Gladsaxe Skole.

ALAN WARNER

Stints with Worcestershire and Derbyshire for the Birmingham-born swing bowler realised an even 200 First-Class appearances. As dangerous as he was with the ball, Warner was also an unlikely-looking counter-attacking lower-order batter. The West Midlander currently works at the University of Wolverhampton. ●



ON THE ROAD...

Getting around the country, speaking to members, is vital to the PCA, informing its ability to take the temperature of the game. Over the months of March and April members of the executive team visited all 26 domestic teams and England Women, covering thousands of miles, all in the desire to help, inform and be informed. In equal measure.

A staple in the calendar for over 20 years, key PCA personnel have used their spring travelling to see members in the flesh to speak directly to those they are accountable to, the players. This year, those meetings had greater importance.

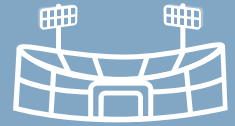
The pre-season visits are viewed as a vital component in the schedule, creating an opportunity for the Association to update players on progress and to gain thoughts and feelings of those they represent.

Arguably, the evolution of a professional cricket career is at its peak, with the global landscape changing on a daily basis across the male and female game. This led to meetings with more meaning in 2023 with a number of major negotiations upcoming that will mould the future career paths of players.

In all, 27 individual meetings took place, with the PCA collecting data from every team to support game wide negotiations that are due to begin later this year. With each consultation unique to the needs of that particular squad, many topics were discussed with smaller breakout groups helping create an inclusive environment to allow views from all.

With the renegotiation of the County Partnership Agreement (CPA) in the men's game and the Regional Partnership Agreement in women's cricket as well as Team England Player Partnership contracts, members asked questions and set out their priorities on what they want to fight for to improve their working conditions.





27 TEAMS

1. Yorkshire
2. Northern Diamonds
3. Essex
4. Derbyshire
5. Leicestershire
6. Surrey
7. South East Stars
8. Middlesex
9. Worcestershire
10. Gloucestershire
11. Kent
12. Sussex
13. Nottinghamshire
14. Hampshire
15. Southern Vipers
16. Glamorgan
17. Somerset
18. Warwickshire
19. Central Sparks
20. Durham
21. Lancashire
22. Thunder
23. Northamptonshire
24. The Blaze
25. Sunrisers
26. Western Storm
27. England Women

20

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12





FEDERATION OF
INTERNATIONAL CRICKETERS' ASSOCIATIONS

Our Purpose

FICA IS THE WORLD PLAYERS' BODY IN CRICKET

FICA is a democratic player-driven organisation that brings together the world's 'organised' professional cricketers under an international body which focuses on matters that affect the players collectively, and the global game. Players who are members of a FICA member association are, by extension, also guaranteed the support of the other players' associations in other countries.

Our Vision

To be recognised and respected as the global representative federation of all professional cricketers, past and present, around the world.

We care about

PLAYERS

Serving players' collective interests globally

THE GAME

Positively influencing the direction of the global game

MEMBER PLAYERS' ASSOCIATIONS

Strengthening and growing



The Shifting Global Landscape

FICA recently released the Men's and Women's Global Employment Reports, highlighting the following key global trends:

GROWING TREND TOWARDS HYBRID EMPLOYMENT.

Players playing both international and overseas domestic league cricket - and free agency with no national central contract - are becoming more prominent. The premature flight of talent from international cricket is still an issue on the back of uneven game economics which means players can earn more on a time/wage basis in many leagues than in international cricket in most countries.

SOMETHING HAS TO GIVE WITH THE MEN'S SCHEDULE.

While the pandemic provided somewhat of a reprieve, the recent Future Tours Programme announced contains more bilateral international cricket, more ICC events and larger informal windows for some domestic leagues cricket than ever before. However, there remains no clear global structure for the game and how these structures can co-exist.

EMPLOYMENT CHALLENGES STILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED.

Professional cricket remains a short-term and precarious career path with a number of players around the world facing issues of restraint, late or non-payment, bullying and harassment. The report period also highlighted continued significant opposition to players exercising their right to form a players' association in several countries. Cricket should be



41% of players do not think women cricketers in their country have a clear say on issues within the game.



providing a safe space for this to happen in all parts of the world, and at a global level.

THE PACE OF CHANGE IN WOMEN'S CRICKET IS ACCELERATING BUT FURTHER INVESTMENT IS NEEDED.

The women's game has had a recent acceleration, largely driven by specific countries showing initiative in policy and structure. The majority of cricket nations have made positive progress since FICA's 2020 report, with a clear increase in competitive structures and professional employment opportunities. However, there remains significant room for targeted initiatives and investment at a global level and in more countries to expedite progress.

WPL LOOKS SET TO CHANGE THE GAME.

The financial investment into the Women's Premier League, through broadcast (reported \$100m+ over five years), and the sale of franchises (reported \$550m+ in

aggregate) look set to dramatically change the playing and employment landscapes going forward. The level of investment is likely to create a new 'top of the pyramid' for women's players.

FEMALE VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD.

41% of players do not think women cricketers in their country have a clear say on issues within the game. Whilst there has been some progress there remains an under-representation of women on decision-making boards around the globe, whilst many women cricketers still do not have access to the benefits of a formal players' association. FICA is aware of, and continues to highlight, systematic barriers to the formation of players' associations in some countries. ●



FICA Key Updates

ICC NEGOTIATIONS

FICA is currently representing FICA players collectively in negotiations with the ICC on player terms for the next cycle of ICC Events (2024 onwards), with good progress being made towards ensuring players will have better protections, stronger commercials, and a greater say on the issues that affect them.

OPTIMISING THE VALUE OF COLLECTIVE PLAYER COMMERCIAL RIGHTS

Over 450 of the world's leading international players have licensed certain image / commercial rights to FICA Global Player Rights Ltd to add value to the global game in line with best practice models in cricket and other sports. FICA is currently negotiating with world-leading licensing partners to optimise the value of these rights for players.

FICA DOMESTIC LEAGUES ADVOCACY SUPPORT

FICA is in the process of further developing its advocacy and support offering for players and agents in the domestic league landscape, where we know players are often more vulnerable due to less regulated environments.

HELPING MORE PLAYER GROUPS GET ORGANISED

FICA have recently welcomed the Dutch Cricketers' Association, who join Australia, Bangladesh, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Scotland, South Africa and the West Indies as members of FICA, while the Zimbabwe and Namibia players have recently joined FICA's global commercial program as a first step towards to collectivisation.

Ashes Legends

PCA England Legends and Ashes winners Monty Panesar and Jonathan Trott preview this season's Legends schedule and the all-important battle for the urn.

With an exciting set of fixtures planned for 2023, the PCA England Legends will once again be sponsored by Greene

King, a partnership that has raised over £1 million since 2016 for the grassroots game.

In an Ashes summer, it only seemed right to catch up with two Legends that have lifted the urn and often feature in Alex Tudor's side.

Beyond the Boundaries caught up with three-time Ashes winner Jonathan Trott and 2009 Cardiff Test hero Monty Panesar...

WHAT DO YOU LIKE ABOUT PLAYING FOR THE PCA ENGLAND LEGENDS?

Panesar: It's a huge fundraising day for the clubs, it helps them to develop the facilities and the youth set ups and I think the PCA are doing great by bringing cricket to all parts of the country.

Trott: I enjoy the social side of it and playing with guys from different eras like John Emburey. You also get to see the state of club cricket around the country which is in a really positive place.

CAN YOU TELL US YOUR FAVOURITE ASHES MEMORIES?

Panesar: 2009 the Cardiff Test was the best moment for me in an England shirt. It was an

unbelievable feeling saving a Test match in that fashion with Jimmy.

Trott: I've been lucky enough to have a few good Ashes memories but I was also lucky that I was part of a very good, successful side. The hundred on debut in 2009 is definitely up there.

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF ENGLAND'S NEW DYNAMIC APPROACH TO TEST MATCH CRICKET?

Panesar: They've completely changed the way Test cricket is played, both Stokes and McCullum are very attacking, so it works and everyone is embracing this new style of cricket.

Trott: It's revolutionising the game. We're very lucky in England with the attendances in Test cricket, there's nowhere else in the world quite like it so if people are enjoying the new brand of cricket then that's great.

WHAT IS YOUR SCORE PREDICTION FOR THE ASHES?

Panesar: 3-2 England

Trott: 3-1 England

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 for 2024. ●

PCA England Legends fixtures

- 2 June - Eversley CC, Hampshire
- 21 July - Brentwood CC, Essex
- 28 July - Peterborough CC, Cambridgeshire
- 4 August - Monton CC, Lancashire
- 11 August - Hadleigh and Thundersley CC, Essex
- 18 August - Valley End CC, Surrey
- 27 August - Great Oakley CC, Northamptonshire
- 1 September - Hook CC, Pembrokeshire

Quartet Awarded 2023 Testimonials

Four players who have dedicated their life to the county game are celebrating Testimonial Years in 2023.

With numerous events throughout the year, each individual has been recognised by their club and will look to raise money for worthy causes, including their charity, the Professional Cricketers' Trust.



Ben Cox
PROFESSIONAL
CRICKETERS' TRUST
SPORTING
CHANCE



Luke Fletcher
PROFESSIONAL
CRICKETERS' TRUST
PASIC - CANCER
SUPPORT FOR
CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE



John Simpson
LORD'S
TAVERNERS
CHILDREN
WITH CANCER



Max Waller
PROFESSIONAL
CRICKETERS' TRUST
CHILDREN'S
HOSPICE
SOUTH WEST



Take Her Lead

Multiple Ashes and World Cup winner Isa Guha has launched 'Take Her Lead', in memory of her late mother, Roma, to make cricket a more inclusive and welcoming place for young girls.

The non-for-profit organisation believes despite recent improvements, cricket can still be a challenging space for young girls to fully express themselves

and fulfil their potential. So, through workshops, research, education and a network of support, Guha and the team want to remove any potential barriers, distractions and sensitivities within the sport, creating an environment where young girls can thrive whether it be playing, watching or working in cricket.

For more information,
please visit: takeherlead.org



Magnificent Malcolm

Devon Malcolm has been awarded the Freedom of the City of London at a ceremony in the Guildhall in recognition of his sporting achievements.

Taking 144 wickets for England, Malcolm is best known for his incredible figures of 9-57 against South Africa at the Oval.

Still playing at 60-years-old, the former fast bowler remains a feature of the PCA England Legends team.



Lace on the Front Foot

Gloucestershire batter Tom Lace is working with PCA mental health partner Sporting Chance as a Marketing Executive.

The 24-year-old has shown his desire to explore his personal development by taking up the role within the charity's commercial department.

Lace's main responsibilities will be to raise awareness of Sporting Chance's services and events in line with the overall marketing strategy.

Lace said: "Sporting Chance is an amazing charity which continues to support and nurture wellbeing amongst professional athletes, something I am extremely passionate about."





ARUL SUPPIAH

Fighting The Voice

In a classroom at Queen's College Taunton in 2018, former Somerset all-rounder turned teacher Arul Suppiah almost fainted in front of a room full of students. Gripping the wall for 20 seconds to prevent his legs giving way, it was at this moment that he realised he needed help...

Last July, in an exclusive interview with the Professional Cricketers' Trust, Arul Suppiah bravely told the story of his battle with anorexia nervosa and how it took over his life.

Almost a year on from that interview and five years since first receiving help for the illness, the 39-year-old is keen to educate the next generation of cricketers on the importance of recognising the signs of mental health conditions.

Recently attending the PCA's Rookie Camp at Edgbaston as a guest speaker, Suppiah spoke to the players about issues with mental health and how they can get support from the Trust.

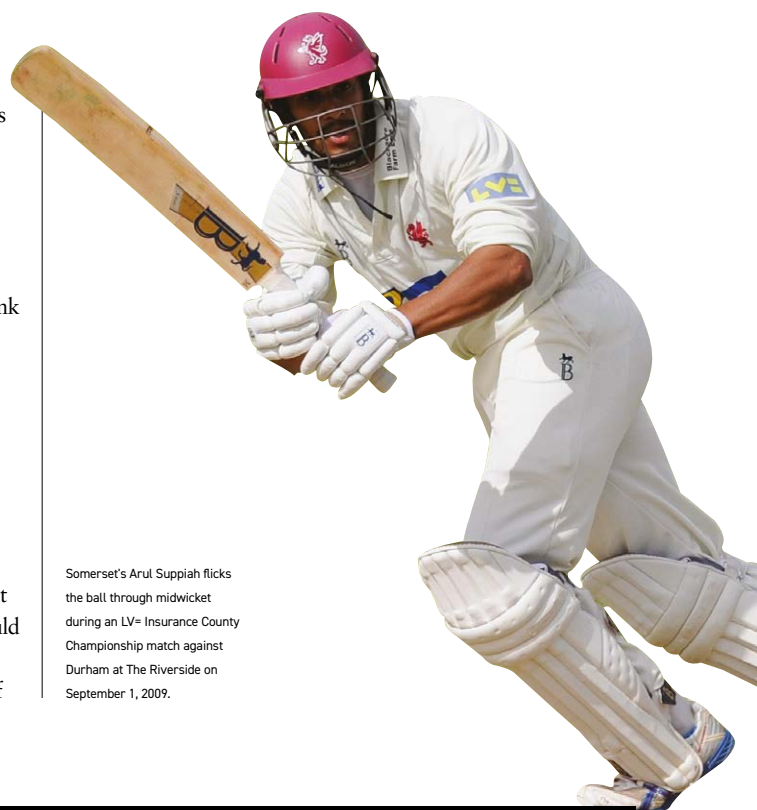
"It's really important that we educate the next generation on these issues. The

more information surrounding this the better, it's about checking in with mates and talking about things. If you keep it all in, it will burst and things can get really bad, we need to get rid of the stigma and talk to each other about mental health and not ignore it.

"Getting ex-players to give talks I think really helps, because we know what the players are experiencing. When I talk to them about my struggles, I hope it can help some of them that might be going through similar things to me."

Recounting his struggles after becoming vegetarian in 2017, Suppiah recalls how friends and colleagues had commented on his weight loss but that it fed the voice inside his head, which would take the remarks as compliments.

"The comments would feed the ego of



Somerset's Arul Suppiah flicks the ball through midwicket during an LV= Insurance County Championship match against Durham at The Riverside on September 1, 2009.



THE VOICE WAS MUCH CLEVERER THAN I WAS, IT FOUND WAYS OF MANIPULATING ME.

called the PCA's Confidential Helpline, which is funded by the Trust, saying that they were concerned for Suppiah's welfare.

"Thankfully, my personal development manager at the time rang me and asked if I needed help, I said yes. That's when the Trust got involved and started to help me. I got professional support in London, I had a psychologist, a psychiatrist and a dietitian and we worked as a team. That's when I started to turn the corner and put on weight.

"I don't know how I could possibly ever thank the PCA and the Trust for what they've done for me.

"In terms of recovery I am still very much on the journey and I think the Trust has given me a second chance, another opportunity to life and I sincerely thank the Trust for that."

The Professional Cricketers' Trust provides vital support to past and present cricketers in England and Wales and their immediate families when in desperate need. The charity's work is all encompassing, whether it be for unforeseen physical or mental needs. ●



'the voice' no doubt about it. I felt possessed by the voice and I let it control me.

"I was cutting out social events, becoming quite snappy and moody, I wasn't my usual self. I would get upset if I didn't do more exercise and I was panicking about drinking diet coke or diet pepsi all over a couple of calories. It basically shut me out from everyday life.

"The only way I survived was the voice giving me permission to binge eat once a week, which is obviously very unhealthy and a classic symptom of anorexia. I would then punish myself and restrict myself from eating, it was a vicious cycle. The voice was much cleverer than I was, it found ways of manipulating me."

One of Suppiah's former coaches and an ex-professional cricketer themselves



In the wickets, Arul Suppiah celebrates with teammates Craig Kieswetter and Justin Langer.



THE PCA'S FREE CONFIDENTIAL HELPLINE IS FUNDED BY THE PROFESSIONAL CRICKETERS TRUST AND IS AVAILABLE TO ALL PCA MEMBERS WHEN THEY NEED IT MOST BY CALLING 07780 008877

Join Bracey for London to Paris challenge

Gloucestershire batter James Bracey is encouraging others to sign up for the London to Paris Bike Ride, supporting the Professional Cricketers' Trust.



England international James Bracey putting in the miles on the 2021 Headingley to Lord's ride for the Trust.

Cycling down the Champs-Élysées with the Eiffel Tower and more importantly the finish line in sight is the moment that James Bracey is looking forward to most. However, standing in his way is the epic 400km journey through the English and French countryside.

In October this year Bracey, among others, will set out to cycle from London to Paris to raise vital funds for the players' charity.

Coinciding with World Mental Health Day on 10 October, the Trust will use the awareness day to highlight the need to raise money to combat the growing trend of welfare and wellbeing issues it's assisting people with.

The Gloucestershire batter completed the Headingley to Lord's bike ride in 2021

and is looking forward to challenging himself once again this October.

"I really enjoyed the physical challenge and loved the whole event last time. So once I heard the London to Paris route had been decided I signed up as soon as the Trust announced it. The last one was such great fun, as hard as it was, it was a fantastic few days.

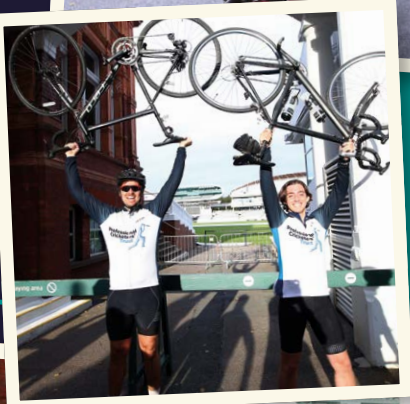
"It's good that a few more players are signing up, it will be great to share those memories with other players on the circuit at the moment who are just as keen as me to ride through Paris which is a very cool thought."

The headline event for the charity in 2023 is looking to raise £50,000, if achieved the successful riders will have secured donations to provide life-changing and in some cases life-saving mental health support.

"At Gloucestershire we're definitely aware of what the Trust can do for us, Martin Cropper our PDM is really good at explaining all the support that is on offer. It's also important that it's a two way relationship and that we help raise money for the Trust and it's not just take, take, take."

The 26-year-old admits to being more of a runner but that ability doesn't matter as all the riders pull together to make sure everyone completes the challenge.

"I'm definitely not a cycling pro, I'm lucky to have my uncle's company sponsoring me because he's a former professional cyclist so it's made a huge difference since having a proper bike and getting some tips off him. I found the last ride challenging but not the point that it wasn't enjoyable, so this time it will be good to tackle a different route."



Images from the successful
Headingley to Lord's bike
ride for the Professional
Cricketers' Trust in 2021
which raised over £75,000.



The last one was such great fun, as hard as it was, it was a fantastic few days.

Bracey knows the important work that the Trust do and hopes that the fundraising targets can be met to ensure the players' charity can continue providing the vital services it offers to current and former players.

"Alongside the mental health support, the greatest part about the Trust is what they do for you once you finish playing the game. In the future I might need the Trust for something so for me it's important to support them while I can."

The left-hander is keen for as many current professionals to sign up as possible and wants to encourage friends and family to don the lycra all for a good cause.

"Most of us will have just finished a long season, so three days cycling won't appeal to everyone but if you can look past that and see it as great fun, nothing too serious and once you actually sign up you can buy into it and really start to look forward to it."

The London to Paris bike ride is open to everyone so please spread the word as much as possible.

Sign up now by searching 'Professional Cricketers' Trust London to Paris Bike Ride' or email Samantha Relf at sam.relf@thepca.co.uk if you have any questions.

SIGN UP TODAY

Itinerary

- **DAY ONE - Tuesday 10 October:**
Ride from the Kia Oval to Portsmouth (149km), the route takes the riders through the wonderful scenery of the North and South Downs, the route is rather hilly but much of the afternoon is spent going downhill towards Portsmouth.
- **DAY TWO - WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER**
Ride from Caen to Evreux (145km), the ferry arrives early into Ouistreham where we have breakfast. There will be three stops along the way through the French countryside before dinner at a local restaurant in Evreux.
- **DAY THREE - THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER**
Ride from Evreux to Paris (124km), the final day's route includes a stop at the fabulous Palace of Versailles before heading into the Parisian suburbs and towards the Eiffel Tower.
- **DAY FOUR - FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER**
Travel Home. The riding is over! You'll have time to take in the French capital before returning to the UK on the Eurostar.

What's included

- Full support crew dealing with hotels, luggage and pit stops.
- Hotel and ferry accommodation for three nights.
- Two fully qualified medics.
- All food from a light breakfast on the first day to breakfast on the Friday.
- One bike ride guide for every 10 cyclists.
- Bike transportation back to the UK.
- Eurostar trip from Paris back to UK.

Fundraising

- All participants will be asked to fundraise a minimum of £1,600 which will include a contribution to the cost of the trip.
- A deposit of £150 is required on sign-up.

Table Topper

The England Women's captaincy transcends the boundary rope, especially when you are Vice Chair of the PCA. Heather Knight sat down with Ollie Collins to discuss boardroom activities...

Photography: Jake Morley

The rise of women's cricket in recent years has been stratospheric. From professionalising the domestic game in England and Wales to the eye-opening figures being offered for participation in the Women's Premier League (WPL).

The sport is unrecognisable from when Heather Knight started her international cricketing career in 2010, even the thought of a professional England Women's team and a central contract felt a lifetime away.

Taking over the England captaincy in 2016 at the age of just 25, Knight now has a wealth of experience in her role on the pitch. However, behind the scenes, her influence in offices and boardrooms alike make her off-field actions arguably even more impressive.

Knight has proven a beacon for change. Pivotal, even, in the creation of the England Women's Player Partnership (EWPP) in 2017,

which successfully represents the interests of England's international women cricketers in their contractual and commercial rights.

A keen interest in the 'bigger picture' of sport, she has also recently completed a Masters degree in Leadership in Sport, adding qualifications from the classroom to her experience in the boardroom. An impressive CV, and growing by the day.

The 32-year-old currently sits on the FICA Player Advisory Group for the global game and holds one of the vital positions within her own players' association. Taking up the board position in 2020, she is the Vice Chair of the PCA to underline her influence on a domestic, national, international and world stage. "I know the PCA is a key stakeholder and is pushing the ECB for improvements in the women's game across the regions and hopefully it can continue and we can all work together to keep pushing the game forwards," said the Vice Chair. "I've always said ➤➤➤

RIGHT AT HOME
- Heather Knight
sits down at The
Kia Oval.

IN THE RAFTERS - a packed house at The Kia Oval will welcome England and Australia for the second Vitality T20 of the Ashes. **BOTTOM** Heather Knight plays for Royal Challengers Bangalore during their WPL match against Delhi Capitals.



International Cricket in numbers:

237 matches

5,877 runs

5 hundreds

168* high score

84 wickets

5-26 best bowling

I wanted to leave the game in a better position than when I started, whilst enjoying the journey of putting that in place. I find the boardroom conversations particularly interesting, especially so at the moment. With the women's game going through the roof.

"It's so important the players have a voice and they're able to shape things and give their opinions because ultimately players will decide where they play, international or domestic."

On the pitch, the all-rounder was most recently involved in the WPL with Royal Challengers Bangalore, whose captain Smriti Mandhana's services sold for £340,000 at auction, with this 'significant moment' creating history in the women's game.

"The WPL was awesome to be involved in," states the England star. "Indian fans are passionate, and playing for an established team like RCB you really felt that support. To witness the breakthrough that women's cricket has had over there, culturally, was amazing. Obviously, the money involved was a ground-breaking moment in women's cricket."

The sale of the five new franchises cost owners an astonishing £455 million, there was just shy of a million pounds on offer as prize money in addition to the salaries which amounted to £6 million, against the sale of 87 players. And to top it off, the five-year broadcast deal, bought by Viacom18, was worth a staggering £100 million. These are figures that would have been unimaginable just a few years ago.

Knight's RCB side may have finished fourth

out of five, but she believes the tournament has done wonders for advancing the women's game and giving valuable experience to some young English players. "It really did feel like international cricket," added Knight. "It felt like a big world tournament with all of the associated pressure to perform as an overseas player. It was huge for some of our youngsters being able to play and prove what they can do on the big stage."

With all the talk of the WPL, naturally conversation turns to the topic – and balance – of international over franchise cricket. With the recent high profile international retirements of Deandra Dottin and Lizelle Lee – both choosing to focus on franchise cricket – I asked the England captain if she's worried about players potentially turning down the opportunity to represent their country. Bolt upright in her seat, she smiles. "Not yet, but I think it's something to keep an eye on."

"There's three main domestic competitions currently (the Big Bash, The Hundred and the WPL) and they've carved out little windows, but they've been so successful that they'll definitely want to increase the amount of games played. Then I think SA20 and Major League Cricket will want a women's version in the near future."

"The calendar will get busier and busier and international cricket could well be affected by players just wanting to play within the franchise system, so it's important we protect international cricket."

England great and current PCA ➤➤➤



It really did feel like international cricket, it felt like a big world tournament with the pressure to perform as an overseas player.





We seriously need to look at the distribution of money around the world in the women's game.

President Charlotte Edwards recently ruled herself out of the England Women's Head Coach role, stating franchise leagues are more competitive than international cricket. I asked Knight for her thoughts on Edwards' comments.

"I think potentially it's the same in the men's game. Simply because it's much easier to change the teams in franchise cricket. Every season there can be a completely new draft and you can rebuild your team, you can't do that in international cricket.

"As a player I get the most pleasure out of international cricket, and for me playing and watching international cricket is the pinnacle, the narrative and the stories are much more interesting. The aim is obviously for international and domestic cricket to thrive alongside each other."

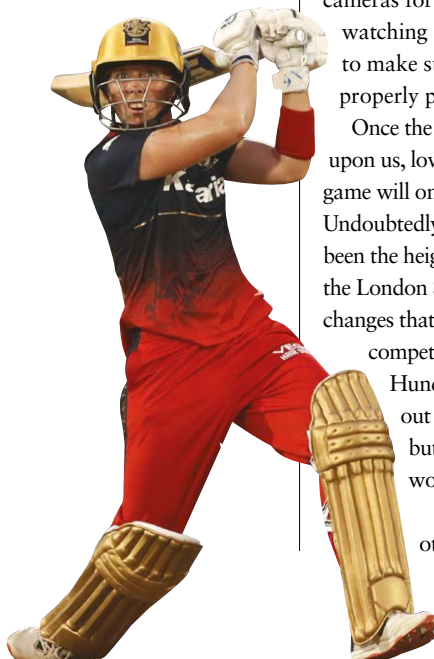
Despite the obvious advancements in women's cricket recently, Knight is concerned about inconsistencies between the men's and women's games that she's witnessed. "Playing at Western Storm there is sometimes issues with facilities and I think trying to work out where the women's regional system sits alongside the men is important.

"We also need to make sure that those employment conditions are equal. Alongside trying to make the women's game fully professional. I think that has to be a priority in the next couple of years. Once that structure is in place, we'll start to see massive benefits from that, not just in the domestic game but for England as well. But there's still a lot of work to be done."

England's recent winter tour to the West Indies highlighted the disparity between the state of the women's game across the world. A lack of money, media attention and technology



BELOW: Heather Knight plays a lofted cover drive as the Royal Challengers Bangalore face the Delhi Capitals at Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai.



made for what felt a somewhat second-rate series despite the great result for Knight's side.

"We seriously need to look at the global distribution of money in the women's game," adds Knight, in absolute certainty. "Playing in that series felt like a low-key event for a lot of us. There was no media in attendance, no DRS, no cameras for third umpire run-outs and nobody watching because it wasn't promoted. We need to make sure there is money available to properly promote international series."

Once the Ashes have been decided and August is upon us, love it or hate it, attention in the English game will once again turn towards The Hundred. Undoubtedly, one of the competition's successes has been the heightened focus on women's cricket but the London Spirit batter believes there is still changes that must be made. "The women's competition has been an integral part of The Hundred, it's the biggest positive to come out of the competition from my perspective but I do think there is scope to push the women's salaries up there with the men's.

"The men's competition is up against other tournaments around the world



Heather Knight sits down with PCA Chief Exec Rob Lynch (right) and Head of Player Rights and Women's Cricket Emma Reid (left).

and they're going to have to raise money too to keep the best players, it's exactly the same in the women's game. The WPL has set the standard and you're going to get players picking and choosing where they play. The women's game being marketed alongside the men in The Hundred is great and it's important this is able to continue."

Having not won a global tournament since 2017 and no Ashes victory since 2013/14, I asked the Three Lions leader whether she sees a gap emerging between the countries that are investing more money into the women's game, such as Australia and India. "With the domestic system the way it is now, it's finally starting to give us a pool of more competitive players and improving the depth of the England team. I still think we need to push it to the next level.

"The ECB has done a lot - and so much has changed - it has been remarkable from when I started playing. However, we need to

keep pace with other countries and to do this more investment is needed, that is clear."

With important off-field discussions surrounding the next Regional Partnership Agreement around the corner, Knight is anticipating positive changes to arise from the PCA's Fairer Futures paper version two. The first document set about tackling inequities whilst improving employment conditions and the pay of England women's cricketers.

"The PCA support over the last couple of years has been outstanding. The players have really appreciated it and benefited from it. I know that Emma Reid (PCA Head of Player Rights and Women's Cricket) is working hard on this at the moment and the second draft is going to be about trying to push the game forward and improving playing conditions and the game as a whole because it's growing so fast, it's important that we keep this train going." ●



The Ashes

Sat in Box 45 of the JM Finn stand at The Kia Oval, the destination for the second Vitality IT20 of the Ashes, we are reminded of the imminent arrival of one of the most successful sports teams on the planet. That being the Australian Women's cricket team. Over here for what is shaping up to be a momentous series.

"I'm really excited for the Ashes. Ticket sales are going really well and hopefully that home support can have a huge impact and help us put pressure on the Aussies. Obviously, they're a really good team, they're highly skilled and very good in big tournaments and we're going to have to be at the top of our game to beat them. The way we do that is by having an aggressive approach. We've got some world-class players of our own."

Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum have revolutionised Test cricket in the year that they've been in charge, and Knight believes that her side's approach mirrors that of the men's team.

"I've got no interest in the Test being a draw, I'm so happy we've got a proper five-day game. I haven't won a Test as captain and I haven't lost one either because the weather has always intervened so I'm really keen for a result.

"We're playing the Test at Trent Bridge with the Barmy Army present in front of a big crowd, that's going to benefit us. Our approach is certainly similar to Ben and Brendon's, we don't play a lot of long format cricket anyway, so our game is naturally more aggressive. Our way of playing is to entertain and to try and advance the game, we want to make it fun to watch because at the moment it feels like we're fighting just to be able to play Test cricket at all." ●

Harry's House.

Arguably the world's most in-form bat across the winter, but what is it exactly that makes Yorkshire's Harry Brook so good? Kieran Longworth was dispatched to Leeds to find out just that.

Photography: Josh Slack





here's no better place to be than Leeds on a damp late March Monday morning, right? Charcoal grey sky. Clouds low, almost at pitch level. Forever threatening to put a halt to pre-season proceedings at Yorkshire's Headingley HQ. But nothing is getting England star Harry Brook down. He's fresh off the plane from a trip to Florida. It's been a time where he's been trying his hand – somewhat successfully – at baseball with the St Louis Cardinals, the franchise down South, enjoying spring training in altogether warmer climes.

And as Brook's Yorkshire team-mates finalise pre-season prep in South Africa, the right-hander is using this time at home to prepare for the upcoming summer, first engagement of which being the Tata Indian Premier League. The tournament draft saw Sunrisers Hyderabad parting with the equivalent of £1.3m to secure his services, in the process seeing off bids from both Rajasthan Royals and Royal Challengers Bangalore. "You can probably earn as much in one competition as you would playing for England all year." Offers up

the now well-travelled and well-remunerated 24-year-old. "It's crazy, there are so many opportunities. Too many in fact," is the verdict.

Sunrisers are coached by West Indies great, Brian Lara. "He's a legend," vouches Brook. "I used to love watching him, AB (de Villiers), and Sachin Tendulkar when I was younger." But its influences closer to home that are to thank for the making of England's new middle-order superstar. And the picturesque Burley-In-Wharfedale Cricket Club is the place where Brook's journey to becoming England men's Test cap number 707 began. "Summer, winter, rain or shine, I'd spend hours in the nets with my dad, grandad and uncles," says Brook, a cricketer with already four international hundreds to his name.

On the move now, our next stop is the club museum. With history being everything – you would think – for any self-respecting Tyke worth their salt, famous names appear everywhere on the distinctive blue and yellow walls. Len Hutton, Geoff Boycott, and most recently Joe Root plot distinct points along a lineage of great Yorkshire batters. "I've

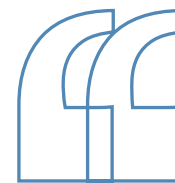
never been in here," he says matter-of-factly. "I tend not to take too much interest in history."

This feels a bit of a surprise, given Brook's obvious multi-generational immersion in the sport, and also as a successive cinch PCA Men's Young Player of the Year, already the name 'Harry Brook' is etched in history.

The last player to achieve back-to-back versions of the same feat being Sir Alastair Cook, Brook is well aware of the company he keeps. Reeling off some of those that predate him: "Michael Atherton, Ian Bell, Ben Stokes – it's not bad, is it?" Not bad at all. "I am a very chilled person generally," he states, "And the way this England dressing room wants to entertain the world plays into my hands massively.

"As long as Baz and Stokesy (Brendon McCullum and Ben Stokes) are in town there aren't going to be many draws, let's put it that way."

Speaking with such confidence, one feature of Brook's extraordinary start to his international career has been what presents as an impeccable temperament. It's an attitude – particularly upon



As long as Baz and Stokesy are in town there aren't going to be many draws, let's put it that way.

BOTTOM LEFT: Happy faces all round: Harry Brook, Jonny Bairstow, Brendon McCullum and Joe Root laid back as ever ahead of England's Test win against India at Edgbaston, June 2022.



TOP LEFT: Brook in conversation with Ben Stokes during the T20 World Cup final in Melbourne.

TOP RIGHT: Harry Brook with his second consecutive cinch PCA Men's Young Player of The Year trophy

RIGHT: Brook hard at work in preparation for England's One Day series in South Africa.



Obviously getting a hundred is pleasing - don't get me wrong - but I want to go on.

reaching milestones - that sees him barely raise a finger, let alone his bat.

England's second Test against New Zealand in Wellington in February saw Brook reach that fourth international century. It also saw

Yorkshire teammate Joe Root at the other end for what proved a 302-run partnership. "He

celebrated more than me," states Brook. "It's great batting with him.

Obviously that wasn't the case in the second innings - but we usually have fun," Brook is clearly unphased by that second-dig runout at the hands of the former England captain at the Basin Reserve.

And records are clearly a thing, but it's claiming one closer to home still

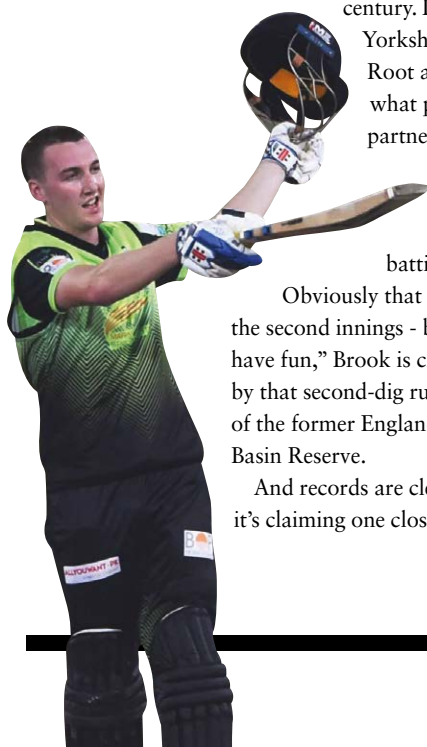
that the Keighley-born batter has his sights on. "My dad (David Brook) made an unbeaten 210 for Burley in 2002," he says. "I know that I've got close a couple of times. And obviously getting a hundred is pleasing - don't get me wrong - but I want to go on. Gary Ballance once told me that 'there are never enough runs. You have never got enough.'" It represents a simple approach - delivered by the now retired England, Yorkshire, and Zimbabwe number three - but one that Brook swears by. He's just out there to score runs. It's as easy as that.

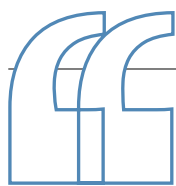
And he's calm about everything, he says. And not one, to dwell on things for too long. But he also states that it hasn't always been the case. "I broke my hand playing for England under 19s in India. Punching a table after I got out. Which is stupid, obviously. And I

know that if you're not careful the game can swallow you up. It can become all-consuming.

"With so many new contract offers, there's a lot of cricket. After the tour of New Zealand I had the opportunity to go straight to the Pakistan Super League, but I decided it was best to have a rest. You can probably earn as much in one competition as you would for England all year. I can see why some guys follow the money but that's not for me."

It's a choice that couldn't have been easy. Brook having made an eye-catching 102 not out from just 49 balls when last there. "The atmosphere is phenomenal," he reflects upon. "And I think second only to the World Cup final. Also, knowing what the pitches are like in Pakistan helped kick-start my Test career in a way." ➡➡➡





I know that if you're not careful the game can swallow you up. It can become all-consuming.

That focus on his Test career shines through as a reminder that England will always remain number one. He explains that the recent decision to withdraw from the SA20 competition in December was a mutual one between himself and the ECB. "I don't want to be burnt out. My priorities lie with England. And no matter how much money is on the line I want to play for the national side. I felt at the time it was best to have a rest to prepare for the ODI series in South Africa and then the New Zealand tour that followed. There's only so much flying you can do."

With his first two Test hundreds made at a not-too-dissimilar strike rate to T20 cricket, Brook's ability to perform under the most intense pressure is further proof that his stock will likely only continue to rise. Already a World Cup winner, averaging 80.90 in Tests, and the aforementioned two-time winner at the cinch PCA Awards, you'd be hard-pressed to find a cricket fan not excited about what the future might bring. "Right now, my only concern is what's next. As a batter I'm only ever focused on the next delivery. Whenever that might be. That's the same off the field."

"First, it's the IPL. I haven't given any serious thought to the Ashes but there's another World Cup in India after that too. To be quite honest, I haven't figured out the scheduling yet. But it's going to be a chaotic year. I do know that much. Whatever happens." ●



TOP: Happy to be home - the ever-recognisable Cambridge Blue bucket seats welcome a familiar face.

RIGHT: Harry remains focussed in the field during Lancashire's first-innings display of 566 on day two of a Roses draw at Headingley in May 2022.





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Maximising Potential

Appointed Director of England Men's Cricket in April 2022, Rob Key was deemed a 'left-field' pick. A fine county player, a Test double-centurion and despite being one of the best broadcasters around, the Kent legend wasn't satisfied.

He wanted to make a difference.





We want people to play with freedom – not recklessness – but with freedom.



Rob Key stepped into the hot seat and immediately sought change. A refreshing, informal and jargon-free approach quickly led to the appointments of Ben Stokes and Brendon McCullum. Fast forward 12 months and England are holders of the T20 World Cup and have the most exciting group of Test match cricketers on the planet.

As part of our sit-downs with key decision-makers within English Cricket, Ollie Westbury asked the questions...

How would you describe your job?

Initially, it was to come up with the vision, which was trying to change the mentality of the way we went about our cricket. It was something the white-ball team already had. The Test team needed a change to a more positive mindset. My job was to bring in people I thought could put that in place.

Once you have that, it is supporting everyone else around you including physiotherapists, strength and conditioning coaches and analysts. There are some brilliant people in charge of various parts of the England Men's team.

What do you think the style of this England cricket team looks like from your perspective?

The real key is that coaches, captains and leaders are there to free people up to maximise their potential. To take highly talented players and get them to play as close to their peak capability.

It is to play in a way that is entertaining as that is the job we are in. If you have the right mindset, when you look to score and you look to take wickets first then your brain just works better. You just want people to play with freedom – not recklessness – but with freedom.

What are your reflections on the winter?

It was a great winter, it was so much fun. As the World Cup happened at the start, it almost feels like it is forgotten about at times. That was an incredible effort by Jos Buttler, Matthew Mott and those players – they peaked for that event.

Jos' captaincy was outstanding throughout that World Cup. In 50-over cricket Jos and Matthew have not had their best team available yet, but they will do when the World Cup comes around and we are getting closer to that.

With the Test side, we knew how to do things in England but how do you win games of cricket in Pakistan on flat pitches? It was so much more than just the wins. I love how good it was to watch – it was entertaining. Cricket only survives if people want to watch. That is a credit to Ben and Brendon and all those players for they have embraced it.

What do you make of the term 'Bazball'?

It is not our term, and you do not want people to misunderstand what we are trying to do. It is not just about playing shots. They get the best out of people and often it is when people are not scoring runs, that's when the magic happens. The culture they have set and the terminology they use. I do not think Brendon would be the coach that he is if he lauded the fact that his name was used in a style of cricket. Most great leaders have humility and I think the fact he does not like the term 'Bazball' sums up why he is such a great leader. All the bad leaders, if that happened, would be swanning around the place and they would

probably have Bazball as their car registration. The fact Baz does not like it and does not laud it tells you everything you need to know.

How did you try to improve the white-ball side as they were already successful?

Eoin Morgan, Jos Buttler and the senior players in that team had already made the change to a positive brand of cricket in white-ball. That is why it is more important you change a mindset and a mentality, rather than just looking to win. What they have done has meant there is so many players coming through that play in that style. They changed the way they played mid-tournament in a World Cup. Jos has made us more adaptable to conditions and to a style of playing. This is only a minor tweak but has taken it up a level from what was a very high bar that Eoin had set.

Thoughts ahead of an Ashes summer?

It is so exciting as you have two really good teams who are going to go at it in what is a massive series in Test cricket. You have had this whole narrative that has built up with the changes that have been made since the last Ashes and the way we are playing – against a team that has been a very good side with an outstanding bowling attack. You have two aggressive entertaining cricket teams at the top of their game. ●

Jos Buttler and the England team took their game to new heights to win the T20 World Cup in Australia. TOP A batsman on fire – Brendon McCullum in devastating form for New Zealand, 2014.



Reclaiming The Ashes

Jonathan Finch has been involved in the women's game for over a decade and has made the big calls as Director of England Women's Cricket since 2019. He is now aiming to disrupt the Australians when the Ashes commence later this summer.

Jonathan Finch's role is all encompassing in the female game, leading the recruitment process for appointing Jon Lewis as the Head Coach in late 2022, chairing selections through to developing the regional game.

A constantly fascinating in-tray, Ollie Westbury sat down with his former Bunbury coach to gather his views on the past, present and future...

What does your day-to-day look like?

I speak with Jon Lewis a lot. Seeing if he has the resources to deliver what he needs to in the lead-up to the Ashes, varying from science and medicine or going away on a three-day camp for team building. Sometimes it could be allocating where we send our coaches out into the regions to support our players when they are out training and preparing for their club. I watch a lot of cricket and I often find myself either at a game or watching four streams on the TV.

Thoughts on the winter?

It is very clear we recruited Jon because of the way he wants the team to play and the clear

vision he has. We dominated that West Indies series, and we showed within the World Cup leading up to that semi-final how we want to play the game. If we are honest and we reflect on that semi-final we were a little bit too defensive and we were not as on the front foot as we had been. We will learn from that and try to put it right heading into the Ashes as we try and disrupt the status quo.

How do you play fearless cricket?

It is about giving players the freedom to go out there and deliver without fear of consequence. There is always going to be judgement at international level but if we truly buy into playing positive cricket then that is what we always come back to. It is consistent messaging, and it is marrying those behaviours when it does not quite go right. We cannot go out there and play with freedom but then we deconstruct ways of dismissal if it does not go to plan. We will measure ourselves by saying 'were we on the front foot? Were we playing proactive cricket? Were we taking it to the opposition?'

Thoughts ahead of an Ashes summer?

To have sold the number of tickets we have done is something we have never seen before. We have the opportunity to play the Australians at some of the big Test match venues so there is a massive amount of excitement both within our team and the wider women's game. Let's not hide behind the fact of how good the Australians are but we firmly believe we have the squad and players to put them under the pump and disrupt them. We have played a lot of pragmatic cricket over the years and been successful however, the pinnacle of our global events is the World Cup and winning the Ashes. To do that we need to disrupt the Aussies and play in a different way which puts them on the back foot.

Have you taken any inspiration from the men's red-ball team?

It is hard not to. Jon as our head coach and our senior players have watched the way they have played the game and taken a lot of confidence from that. Jon experienced that first-hand as one

Women's Ashes 2023 All To Play For This Summer

LV= Insurance Test Match

Thu 22-26 June – Trent Bridge, Nottingham

Vitality IT20s

Wed 5 July – Kia Oval, London

Sat 8 July – Lord's, London

One Day Internationals

Wed 12 July – Seat Unique Stadium, Bristol

Sun 16 July – Ageas Bowl, Southampton

Tue 18 July – Cooper Associates County Ground, Taunton



Raising the bar

Along with the rest of England's top order, Tammy Beaumont will look to build on a hard-fought 50 Down Under last winter and capitalise in favourable English conditions.



I am lucky that I have been part of the women's game that has been evolving and growing...



of the coaching team when Brendon McCullum first came into the role and has seen the way that can shift a mentality within a team. Hopefully, we can use that to our advantage moving forward. All credit to the players as well as they have to embrace it.

What legacy would you like to leave?

People always look at what you have won, whether that is the Ashes or a World Cup - we have not won anything since 2017 so that needs to change. I am lucky that I have been part of the women's game that has been evolving and growing. Success for me is seeing a young girl pick up a cricket bat at 12 or 13 and having the same opportunity as a young boy. They can be part of an EPP or they could be part of a professional academy. I am not devolving myself from the responsibility of winning games of cricket on the field. We have to win games of cricket and we win a high percentage but we need to ensure those players coming through have the skills and experience male members of the PCA have had for years. ●



Sisters in arms

Head Coach Jon Lewis has built up a great camaraderie within the England squad since his appointment.

Out!

England celebrate as Charlie Dean strikes Beth Mooney's front pad, leaving Australia 123-4 on day four of last year's one-off Ashes Test match.





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GETTING INTO THE GAME

Being a young cricketer on the cusp of a career in the game is both exciting and daunting. Andy Afford spoke to those at the start of that journey, and also the PCA staff members making the transition an ever-improving professional introduction.

As everyone knows, making a successful start in any career relies hugely on what happens in those early days, weeks, months and even years. It's a formative time – the most formative of times, possibly – and a phase where lacking experience feels like it counts against you. And being supported and valued by your employer goes a long way in novices going on to make the grade and make up the perceived knowledge gap. It also goes without saying that this 'early doors' support is even more vital in professional sport.

With the average playing career likely to be measured in months rather than years, how the PCA helps navigate those early skirmishes with the job in support of the game's newest intake goes a long way in ensuring it's a positive start. "Gone are the days when new players to the pro game were just asked to pitch up on April 1 and head to the nets," states PCA Head of Cricket Operations,

Rich Hudson. "Rookie contracts now cover everything from playing terms and conditions, to the personal development work expected of the new player in broadening out their understanding of the job, as it is in the round. It's all positive, as far as I can see."

With Rookie Camp as a single-venue gathering of the game's latest intake at Edgbaston, it's the breadth of expectation now around that freshman year that makes this first-point-of-contact-contract so important. Whether male or female players.

But getting to a position of mutual understanding between clubs and those representing the wider interests of the players has taken some effort. "If we're being honest about it," states PCA Chief Operating Officer and former Worcestershire man, Daryl Mitchell, "The counties were unfairly taking advantage". The veteran of the game continues to pull few punches with the

former county captain adding, "These were agreements made with young cricketers that were all on summer contracts, or short-term deals for a fixed period, and again, if we're speaking honestly about it, they weren't worth the paper they were written on." Mitchell continues, "They were certainly borderline illegal, and as such outside the minimum wage laws. And without doubt – at best – pretty poor practise. But if there is something good about the set of circumstances as a starting point, it was that no party involved in the negotiations thought they were good, or ever fair."

Formalised rookie contracts for male cricketers started in 2018. With the benefits of them all standardised. They came into place following ➡➡➡

TOP – A well informed panel discuss the game with the female rookies.
MIDDLE – Abtaha Maqsood of Sunrisers and Birmingham Phoenix.
BOTTOM – PCA Chief Operating Officer Daryl Mitchell updates young professionals on the future of the game.





More than anything they provided stability for players, enabling them to feel part of the squad where previously they didn't.

all-party negotiations with ECB and the county clubs, in what became the County Partnership Agreement.

On the field, they created a clear path for new talent to walk along. Complete with 'fair' contracts at agreed minimum salary bands, deemed as being appropriate for players at the start of their professional career.

"These worked out, broadly, as £18,000 for an 18-year-old, £19,000 at age 19 etc," reflects Mitchell further. "More than anything they provided stability for players, enabling them to feel part of the squad where previously they didn't."

But it's away from the greensward that things have developed the most. Mitchell elaborates, "Off the field, the new contracts bring with them specific allowances and requirements that meet personal development hours and expectations for players. What exactly constitutes 'personal development' is down to the individual to define - working in consultation with their PCA PDM."

Successfully completing this phase can be achieved through supported education, work experience, business opportunities, or even wider-reaching development than that. As well as their mandatory attendance at Rookie Camp.

This, in the round, offered those assurances and mandated protections. "It also ensured that time spent away for the game by young players wouldn't be frowned upon by the club, senior players, or coaching staff. When the young cricketers were looking after other areas of their lives," stated Mitchell. "And as much as anything, it's to prepare for life after cricket. Essentially, exploring what might prove a Plan B option."

"As an aside, women's versions of the same contracts are still being talked about rather than things in existence. But equally, such advances have been made to the point where a number of senior players' income in the women's game already compares to salaries paid at the early onset stage of the men's game. And the plan is for this to change for the better," again states Mitchell.



"We're already looking at how we potentially implement rookie contracts into women's game within a year or two."

He goes further still, "The idea of rookie contracts for women makes perfect sense too. Especially when you think of the amount of players holding down jobs, or attending university. Our ability to make these contracts operate on a pro-rata basis means that a cricketer playing on the south coast, but studying in Durham, for instance, is able to structure the contract around when they can be on-site. Also, 60% of the contract value is weighted towards the summer. Which really helps."

By adding in the off-field expectations for rookie players around their education - and even the opportunity to undertake that wider vocational training - has also been important. With careers in sport precarious by their very definition, it does mean that it's likely to be part of a fuller and broader working life, and not a working life in its entirety. And with fewer still leaving the game with enough money to see them comfortable in their retirement, some form of work remains a high-on certainty. For all.

Mitchell sets out his future aspirations for the sport, "If I had three wishes for future contracts, they'd be for improved basic salary levels that are





TOP - Peter Moores leads a workshop at Rookie Camp.

MIDDLE - 2022 cinch PCA Women's Young Player of the Year, Freya Kemp

BOTTOM - Rookies enjoy workshops, seminars and guest speakers at Edgbaston, hosted by Somerset man Jack Brooks.



once again in-step with the cost of living. I'd like to see even more improvement in the educational collaborations and partnership we offer - making them work even better for all parties. And I'd also like to see how the upcoming broadcast deal negotiation feeds into the attractiveness of terms we are able to offer young people in drawing them into the sport. That would be a great start."

Rich Hudson is the PCA's Head of Cricket Operations. He's someone with a particularly practical handle on those formative contracted years for young cricketers, "The contracts work because of what they make legally binding. As entry-level deals they lock in personal development work - largely of the player's choosing - that aligns with what they want to do if cricket doesn't work out. In many cases, it's the work that they do under the direction of the PCA that forms the guts of that first CV, should cricket not work out."

Hudson states further that it might be linked to university studies. It may be linked to an interest in business, or more vocational pursuits generally. But emphatically, he knows it will prove useful. "And it is supported," he adds, before elaborating further. "I also make sure that the counties are doing their bit. We still have the odd niggles to deal with where something hasn't quite been worked out correctly or adhered to - or ever the occasional mistake - but that's what we are here for - to make sure we're that positive conduit between the young cricketer and the club."

And, as Hudson states, the contract also has in it another important clause that rests with the young cricketer. "The first of which is around the commitment to persona development, and the second stipulates that if a player meets the necessary threshold of first-team appearances then their contract is upgraded as a reflection of that. These contract clauses guarantee the player

£27,500 for the year."

Martin Cropper is another member of the supporting cast as the PCA Personal Development Manager for the south-west region. His patch is now Gloucestershire and Somerset, but used to include Glamorgan. He's also someone referred to as 'beating the drum' for the rookie programme generally, "I like to believe that the biggest upside of what starts out as mandatory personal development is that it becomes something that ends up habitual. Forming an outlook for life."

He goes on to describe this time as one of great opportunity for young cricketers, "It's always personalised around the players and their passions or interests," he states. "And generally at a time when their peers are at university and working out what they want to do after that as a career. I characterise it as being a 'soft' means of exploration. With less pressure attached."

Talking further, Cropper offers his view on what amounts to the next level of project sophistication. "We will always benefit from increased collaboration with the counties," offers the West-countryman, echoing the views shared with colleague, Mitchell. ➡➡

Some hard facts & figures

- 30** young cricketers attended the one-day event in 2018.
- 59** is the average attendance over the past four years.
- 67** female cricketers have attended Rookie Camp since 2021.
- 100** hours of personal development as minimum per year in rookie contracts.

Speakers included: Fraser Franks, Peter Moores, Leigh Nicol, Mo Bobat alongside PCA Partners Brooks Macdonald and AllSport Insurance.

Rookie Contracts

“As an ever-more-combined initiative it opens up access to work experience as well as degree-level courses.

“Working in sport – and around sport – doesn’t have to mean remaining playing the game. And if the stewardship of the game has a vulnerability, it’s in how it looks after the 23-24-year-old cricketer who leaves the sport after only completing their first professional contract. How successful their exit is, remains less defined.”

Knowing that the average player leaves the game in their mid 20s says it all. The precarious nature of it is magnified by the knowledge that with cricketers often playing on successfully well into their 30s, it illustrates the average age may be where it is, but the most regularly occurring age for exit is likely significantly lower. All going to show the value of those early years. “As I always tell them,” Reiterates Cropper “It’s the opportunity to gain work experience whilst being paid.”

Sonny Baker is a 20-year-old seam bowler with Somerset. He’s played a handful of first-team games and is a former England u19. He’s also someone fiercely committed to exploring his own personal development opportunities, having already looked into opportunities in bio-medical science, coaching and also biology.

In the breadth of experiences, Baker also speaks about the beauty of exploration without the complication of long-term commitment. “It was as useful to find out what I wasn’t interested in, as much as anything.

“I was ok at school and worked pretty hard, fitting studies in around sport. But staying on top of things meant working early in the morning and getting work done in the evening too. That experience made me realise that there is a lot of downtime as a professional cricketer, particularly in the winter. It’s a nice lifestyle, definitely, but if you can find stuff you’re interested in, there is time to fit it in. But fair play to those players that say they’re totally focusing on their cricket, and it’s not their thing. That’s great too.”



TOP: 67 young professionals attended Rookie Camp 2023, the annual event passed the previous record of 61 players in 2021 with 22 professional teams represented.

The 13th edition was financially supported by the Graham Gooch Scholarship and the Essex Cricket Foundation.

BOTTOM – Somerset seamer and rookie contract holder Sonny Baker leaves the field after taking six wickets against Durham in 2022.



It’s the opportunity to gain work experience whilst being paid.

After breaking into contention for The Hundred last summer, Baker states that this summer’s goal is to play all formats. He mentions luminary and Somerset contemporary, Will Smeed, as a young cricketer travelling the world playing franchise cricket, but also studying for an Economics degree while doing so.

But Baker appreciates that this isn’t the usual winter for those at the onset of a career in the game. “Most of the stuff I did within the 100 hours of personal development was actually coaching based,” states the Devon-born swing bowler. “But I was able to do a biology course that was modular and broad, which gave me that opportunity to rule things in and out as I went.

“If you’re lucky and good enough to end up playing in the IPL, playing for England, and having a career as long as Stuart Broad and Jimmy Anderson - and after that go straight into the media - then that’s brilliant. But it’s good to give yourself options too. That’s what getting the most out of the personal development stuff does, I think.”

And after that, the final word goes to Martin Cropper. “Wherever you add energy and sunlight, things will grow,” he emphasises. “Maybe not offering the same highs as a career in professional sport, but it’s the chance to explore a person’s passions, hobbies and talents outside the game. We think the prospect of that is worth committing to. ●

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Donna's Blog

An update from the PCA's Director of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, Donna Fraser OBE...



They say time flies when you're having fun and like with anything it is important you enjoy what you do. It's hard to believe that I've been in the organisation since October 2022 because it feels much longer, which is a good sign for me. The PCA team have welcomed me, and I very much feel at home and part of the team. EDI issues and challenges are experienced in any organisation and any sector and cricket is no different. We are here to support players in every way possible and it is important for us to create a platform for our members to voice opinions and for us to listen and act. My role is the first of its kind at the PCA and when I started the role, I set out a 90-day plan which identified a number of priorities - my top tasks were:

- Meet and build relationships with key stakeholders including the PCA EDI Working Group, Personal Development Managers, Players' Committee and ECB
- Review the past player survey and develop and produce an updated player survey
- Develop an EDI educational programme for our members
- Recruit Inclusion Champions
- Review internal policies and practices

Communication is key to everything that I do and our members have expressed the need for more EDI education in our player survey results, and this was one of my priorities to address. The 'Learn Before Wicket' (LBW) educational programme is a series of various EDI topics – this is not 'training' but designed to be conversational with healthy and honest debate in a safe environment where our members can be

open, honest and be curious with their questioning and learning.

The beauty of the LBW programme is that the sessions are being delivered by Inclusion Champions, who are former and current players who can relate to our members and who can share their lived experiences within cricket aligned to the topics within the programme. The series involves three, one-hour sessions, whereby members have the ownership to choose their two topics and the third will be on anti-discrimination led by an external organisation. The aim is to have a team of seven Inclusion Champions and we now have five great individuals on board who are passionate about making a difference in the game; Georgia Elwiss, Abi Sakande, Arul Suppiah, David Thompson and Alex Tudor.





LEFT: Donna Fraser delivers an update at the PCA Futures Conference.
ABOVE: Inclusion Champion David Thompson delivers a joint LBW workshop with the Sunrisers and Middlesex squads.

At the beginning of the year, the player survey was revised to focus on all forms of discrimination and also gain some diversity data of our membership for internal purposes to help inform our service delivery. Much of my role is work in progress and the cliché 'EDI is a journey' comes to mind but it absolutely is and as long as we are progressing and evolving for the benefit of our membership, that is key for me. With that in mind, the next six months, I will be working with the PDMs and regional EDI leads to deliver the second round of the LBW series and the outcomes from the ICEC report will also inform my plans moving forward.

Internally I am proud to say that we are a Disability

Confident Committed employer and are in the process of signing the BiTC Race at Work Charter. Being signatories to both means that we are committed to ensuring our practices are inclusive and can continue to check and challenge ourselves against both commitments.

DONNA FRASER OBE
PCA Director of EDI

Inclusion Champions

The role of the PCA Inclusion Champions is to support the PCA in the delivery of their ongoing Equality, Diversity and Inclusion education programme.



GEORGIA ELWISS



ABI SAKANDE



ARUL SUPPIAH



DAVID THOMPSON



ALEX TUDOR

This will primarily take the form of the LBW facilitation across the professional cricket counties and women's regional centres through the off-season and during the summer.

The Inclusion Champions will play a key role in furthering the conversation on the issues of racism in professional cricket as well as broader issues of Equality, Diversity and Inclusion as the programme evolves. At the heart of the role is the delivery and facilitation of discussion-based player workshops.



Abi Sakande
presenting
at the 2021
Futures Awards.

The driver behind the creation of the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, Abi Sakande, has been appointed Co-Chair of the group as its work evolves.

The former Sussex and Leicestershire pace bowler who also won the 2021 PCA Futures Awards takes up a leadership role on the group which meets every two months to discuss EDI progression in professional cricket.

The EDI Working Group came together in July 2020, in the context of Black cricketers contacting the PCA in support of the global movement to stamp out racism and provide equality for future generations.

The widespread solidarity against injustice and racism, combined with support of the Black Lives Matter movement, encouraged many current and former Black cricketers to speak about their experiences. Subsequently, the EDI working group was formed with a mandate from the PCA Board and wider membership in order to address and combat racism and all discrimination

within the professional game.

The group has a diverse representation from the cricketing community, as well as external advisors who have a wealth of experience in EDI in sport, that challenges the PCA's approach to achieving its mission and goals.

The purpose of the EDI Working Group is to provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure that we:

- Hold ourselves and others accountable
- Use education and advocacy to create and support an inclusive culture on and off the field of play
- Provide maximum clarity to players on reporting procedures to address incidences of discrimination

The EDI Working Group's terms of reference have recently been updated to ensure the group remains accountable and has a direct line of reporting on

BELOW: Georgia Elwiss and Abi Sakande deliver an LBW session to the Central Sparks squad.

progress to the PCA Board. The pillars of the group are: Accountability, Clarity and Education and moving forward, a dashboard is being developed to capture actions and progress against each of the pillars.



Following on from research in 2020 and 2021, the **PCA surveyed professional players** from the 2022 campaign to understand their views on EDI within cricket.

The main purpose was for the PCA to continue to understand the current climate among professional players to help inform the content and delivery of educational programmes.

The survey was completed by 221 players with all questions focusing on experiences within the professional game...



95%

feel they have a sense of belonging within their team

85%

feel they have a better understanding of how discrimination can impact players now compared with 12 months ago



3%

experienced discrimination in 2022

2%

witnessed discrimination in 2022



64%

believe their cricket environment is more inclusive now than it was 12 months ago (risen from 48% in the previous year)

36% said 'no change'

83%

say they feel more comfortable discussing any form of discrimination in their cricket environments now compared with 12 months ago



90%

agree the PCA understands how important EDI is to the future of cricket

Career Exploration

IN THE LATEST IN THE PDM COACHING SERIES AND FOLLOWING ON FROM 'MANAGING DESELECTION' IN ISSUE 31, PDM TOM JONES LOOKS INTO THE THEME OF CAREER EXPLORATION...

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WHEN YOU RETIRE?

A common question asked of professional cricketers and one that many people find difficult to answer. Developing a career as a cricketer can be all consuming therefore players can develop a fear of broaching what their transition will look like. This is why the topic of career exploration is an important one to discuss, if players can overcome those first steps then the fear can be turned to excitement and aspiration.

WHEN EXPLORING NEW CAREER OPTIONS THERE ARE SOME KEY CONSIDERATIONS:



SELF-AWARENESS

It is important to have a level of self-awareness that allows you to understand your own values and beliefs, in turn this will help you understand your strengths and areas for improvement. Identifying what motivates you to work is another key factor. Some people are motivated by wealth whereas others are motivated by working in particular environments that meet their values and perceptions or work/life balance.



SKILLS & ABILITIES

It is no secret that professional athletes have a wide array of transferable skills that will help them in new careers. It is important when looking at potential new careers that players are able to match their skillset to particular jobs in the market. Identifying where you have particular strengths that would transfer to certain careers is a great launch-pad to more in depth career research.



KNOWLEDGE AND RESEARCH

Before looking at specific roles, it is important to understand the different types of employment and how it matches your needs and values. There are important questions to be asked such as, would I like to be self-employed? How much flexibility do I need in my working hours? What does a fixed term contract mean for me? Answering these questions will be really helpful when it comes to identifying potential future careers.



CAREER RESEARCH

For those that do not know what they want to do in the future, it is always useful to use widely available job search and career websites. Many of these will come with skill assessment tools that will help match your skills to certain jobs. Those that have more of an understanding can utilise that knowledge to start identifying opportunities as to where they can build experience and knowledge.

**BELOW IS A LIST OF INFORMATIVE JOB PROFILE
AND CAREER INSIGHT WEBSITES...**

National Careers Service:

nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/explore-careers

Prospects: prospects.ac.uk

Laps link: laps.careers

Icould: icould.com

Icould YouTube site: youtube.com/user/icouldstories



A cricket career usually doesn't offer a linear pathway to retirement. Many players sadly end their career unexpectedly and those that are fortunate enough to have long careers still need to be adaptable when the time comes to transition.

When Alex Hartley lost her England contract in 2019, she quickly got to work to identify how she could plan both her cricket and future career.

"When I left the England set up I knew I needed to start looking forward and the media was an area that always interested me. I got some experience with the BBC and attended a taster day organised by the PCA. That reassured me that there was a potential future career away from cricket. Since then, I have invested my time into more training and taken every opportunity I can to upskill myself in the

commentary box. Being able to have my media work alongside playing professionally has given me confidence that I will be able to have a smooth transition away from cricket when the time comes."

Former Surrey and England bowler Jade Dernbach also had a positive experience with career exploration, although he was less sure of what was in store for him.

"When I retired from professional cricket I went through a period of exploring where I might want to focus my energy for future employment. I knew I still wanted to be involved in cricket but also wanted to keep an open mind about other industries. I utilised the network I had built during my career to get some work experience in several industries. This gave me a great perspective of how the future could look and helped me with decision making moving forward." ●

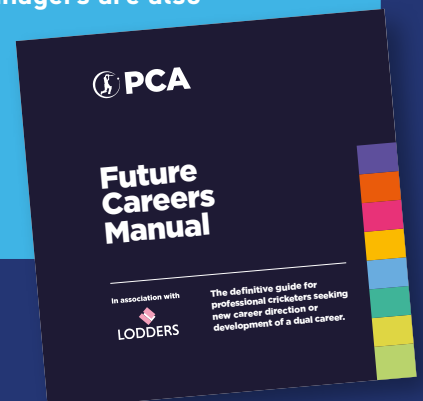


That reassured
me that there was
a potential future
career away from
cricket.

ALEX HARTLEY

Futures Career Manual

PCA members have access to the Futures Career manual where many of the points in this article are illustrated in more detail. Our network of Personal Development Managers are also on hand to guide members through the process. Contact details are on page 61.



Spinning towards the future

Six months on from winning the PCA Futures Awards in association with Lodders Solicitors, Tom Smith is encouraging others to partake in this year's event.

Following his success as overall winner, alongside the award in the CSR and Community category, the Gloucestershire spinner has been busy using the prize money he received and connections he's made to further his personal development.

In December 2022, Smith impressed the judges with the selflessness of his off-field activities playing a vital role in advocating for funding from the PCA's partnership with Vitality to support players with critical health cover. The 35-year-old wanted to make his fellow professionals aware of the benefits of appropriate life cover following the death of his wife Laura in 2018.

Smith didn't set out with the intention of winning the main award, he didn't want to receive any accolades for work that he felt was benefiting others or work he had done for charity, he merely used the exercise as an opportunity to look towards the future.

"When I started writing down what I'd done it became a really nice reflective process looking back over the last year. I'd actually done quite a lot, from trying to piece together my future to doing charitable work, if it wasn't for the Futures Awards I probably wouldn't have had the chance to look back on the good work I'd done and things I've achieved."

Lodders' Managing Partner Paul Mourtou sat on the judging panel and commented: "We had some excellent and varied award applications but we were genuinely blown away by Tom's

achievements and his lasting legacy. We look forward to meeting the 2023 finalists later this year and commend the PCA for running this fantastic initiative."

Winning the award meant a lot to Smith who said at the time that ensuring more than 500 members could receive critical health cover gave him 'huge amounts of pride' and that the PCA and the Professional Cricketers' Trust had given him a 'rich life when previously there was just darkness and uncertainty'.

"It was lovely to get the recognition at the end with the win because the critical health cover is something that is so important to me personally. For someone to give me an award for the work that I've done makes me realise people must have thought it was worthwhile and something that others will benefit from."

Sponsoring the PCA Futures Awards for the second year in succession, Lodders Solicitors provided the winner with £3,000 to put towards their personal development, but for Smith the connections he made and support he received proved just as beneficial.

"The whole process of chatting to Lodders was so valuable because you find out how they're going to help you and their commitment to you in the process."

"The judges were so impressed with the critical health cover that they spurred me on to continue with it. So I'm now working on rugby and football having a similar policy to cricket."





**PCA
Futures
Awards**

In association with
LODDERS



It's an amazing thing to be part of and it gives you a chance to plan for your career post cricket... I'd definitely recommend being part of this year's awards.

The aim would certainly be to have all professional sports covered with critical health cover, it's obviously small steps at the moment and ultimately it will be up to their unions if they decide to take it but these are certainly exciting times moving forward."

Smith wanted to develop his coaching abilities away from Gloucestershire, so has recently started working with Western Storm, alongside his commitments to his county.

"It's great to be working in the women's game at the moment and see how it's developing at a fast pace. I'm also working in the Gloucestershire pathway with their young spinners and then with the first and second teams as well."

Smith's desire to find a cost effective spin tracking technology to develop his coaching has proved difficult. With high set up costs and monthly fees to use the software, Smith is still on the look-out for a way to bring spin tracking into cricket in a more affordable manner.

Admitting that he'd never had to properly do a presentation before, Smith is encouraging players to sign up to this year's PCA Futures Awards to improve their skills off the cricket pitch.

"It's an amazing thing to be part of and it gives you a chance to plan for your career post cricket. Even the process of doing the interview, it was very much about learning new skills which will help every professional cricketer. I'd definitely recommend being part of this year's awards."

Once the busy summer schedule of coaching and playing is completed, Smith still plans to use part of the prize money towards developing his leadership qualities by completing an emotional intelligence course to help support his coaching. ●

Find out more about the PCA Futures Awards in association with Lodders at thezca.co.uk and chat to your PDM about applying for this year's awards.



ABOVE: Tom Smith takes to the field during a Vitality T20 Blast match against Middlesex.
LEFT: Smith appeals at the Kia Oval during day two of an LV= Insurance County Championship match against Surrey.

2023 PCA Futures Awards

KEY DATES

- Applications Open 1 Sept
- Applications Close 29 Oct
- Finalists Presentation Day 21 Nov
- Winners Announced – 28 Nov

CATEGORIES

- Business Impact / Entrepreneurial
- CSR / Charity / Community
- Academic Progression

PRIZES

- £2,000 for each category winner
- Additional £1,000 for overall winner

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Players engage with Alcohol Awareness sessions

Cricketers across the country have been receiving sessions on Alcohol Awareness, educating them on how to develop a healthy relationship with the substance whilst also aiding inclusivity.

The workshops form part of the Personal Development and Welfare Programme (PDWP) run by the PCA for the players, with funding coming from a £30,000 donation made by the Graham Gooch Scholarship and Essex Cricket Foundation to the Professional Cricketers' Trust. Every men's county squad, women's region and England team will attend a workshop in 2023, which are being run by B5 Consultancy founder and former professional footballer Fraser Franks. Forced to retire aged 28 due to a medical condition and with no plans for the future, Franks' relationship with alcohol became a burden to himself and his family. Now, he speaks to the players about his struggles and

provides them with important considerations on developing a positive relationship with alcohol and the benefits of sobriety. The former Brentford defender said: "My big thing is not letting people hit rock bottom. If I can help someone get to a stage where they recognise 'I need to change my drinking', then that is more worthwhile than anything else I can do." With no funding partner, the Trust is extremely grateful for the donation from former PCA President Graham Gooch, whose scholarship has previously funded gambling awareness courses run by the PCA. Other sessions in recent years have covered sexual consent, social media and safe driving.

Developing Your Employability With Hays

Looking to make yourself more attractive to future employers?

Hays – the PCA's Official Recruitment Partner – are running two recruitment days to develop players' employability skills. During the sessions, they will help players develop their CV writing capabilities, interview techniques, confidence networking face-to-face and digitally, and learn how to utilise LinkedIn to aid their employability.

There are also opportunities for current and former players interested in recruitment to work within the company and for those interested in different careers to use their services to find jobs in a range of industries.

TO FIND OUT MORE, SPEAK TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER.

HAYS Recruiting experts worldwide



PCA Learning Platform

The PCA Learning Portal is the home of the Personal Development & Welfare Programme. Developed alongside FICA and free for all PCA members to use, the Portal provides players with bespoke modules, resources and information on a range of important topics. The Portal covers four main pillars: Career Development, Transition, Professional Behaviours and Wellbeing. Within those, players will be given key lessons on social media, anti-doping, transferrable skills and much more to help you develop off the pitch as well as on it. Furthermore, there is open access to FICA's own modules covering Touring Overseas, Managing Stress and Respecting Differences.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SPEAK TO YOUR PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGER.

MEET THE REP

Chris Woakes

With a plethora of domestic and international experience, the serial winner is a welcome addition to the Players' Committee, joining as the new England Men's rep.

Chris Woakes has represented England across the globe, winning 186 caps, lifting two World Cups and the Ashes urn.

The 34-year-old all-rounder has seen it all.

With 317 wickets and more than 3,000 runs for his country, the Warwickshire man is now the voice of the players in the England dressing room.

After being ratified at the 2023 PCA AGM, the England Men's squad have their own representative with voting rights on the Players' Committee for the first time.

"As an England squad you're seen to be the best players in the country, so it's only right that those players have a vote on important issues. Getting the thoughts of the England dressing room heard can only be a positive for us and the PCA."

The 2020 PCA Men's Player of the Year winner knows the importance of the role that the Players' Committee has and how essential those reps are at each club.

"Having that figure head in a dressing room is key to making sure all the views or concerns of the team are being heard, it doesn't matter if you're at the beginning or the end of your career, everyone's opinions can be given back to the PCA who are always looking after the best interests of the players.

"I'm delighted to join the Players' Committee because the older you get,

you realise how crucial the support from the PCA is and the reps role is extremely important because they can help out the whole squad, not just on the field but off it too.

"You never know what the guy next to you might be thinking. I've always been interested in hearing other people's thoughts on the future when we're out on tour. We can bring a lot of knowledge to help support the county game and make sure it's in the best shape possible moving forward for future players."

Woakes has a good relationship with PCA Chair and Glamorgan bowler, James Harris, and believes that he can help develop the relationship between the England Men's squad and the PCA.

"I know how he wants to move the PCA forward and he knows that the England Men's team is a really important group of players to be able to pick their brains and hopefully I can bridge that gap.

"We're extremely lucky to have the PCA to look after us, I've seen first-hand that some countries don't have a players' union and they often struggle when certain issues come up and they miss out on lots of opportunities and support." ●



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





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Tommy Freeman, Northampton Saints

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Where to find us...

LONDON OFFICE

The Bedser Stand, Kia Oval
London SE11 5SS

EDGBASTON OFFICE

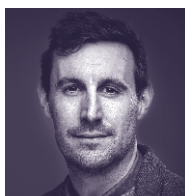
Box 108 & 109,
RES Wyatt Stand
Edgbaston Stadium
Birmingham B5 7QU



DIRECTORS



Rob Lynch
Chief Executive
E rob.lynch@thepca.co.uk
T 07795 994 476



Daryl Mitchell
Chief Operating Officer
E daryl.mitchell@thepca.co.uk
T 07909 995 566



Donna Fraser OBE
Director of EDI
E donna.fraser@thepca.co.uk
T 07973 784 127



Paul Garrett
Director of Finance
E paul.garrett@thepca.co.uk
T 07736 799 983



Rob Smyth
Director of Commercial
E rob.smyth@thepca.co.uk
T 07870 150 734



Ian Thomas
Director of Member Services
E ian.thomas@thepca.co.uk
T 07920 575 578



Rich Hudson
Head of Cricket Operations
E rich.hudson@thepca.co.uk
T 07375 414 694



Emma Reid
Head of Player Rights
and Women's Cricket
E emma.reid@thepca.co.uk
T 07799 472 236



Erin Caldwell
Senior Player
Partnerships Manager
E erin.caldwell@thepca.co.uk
T 07584 582 752



Zoë Leonard
Player Rights Manager
E zoe.leonard@thepca.co.uk
T 07825 531 195

MEMBER SERVICES



Ali Prosser

Member Services Manager

E alison.prosser@thepca.co.uk

T 07769 880 888



Charlie Mulraine

Lead Personal Development Manager

E charlie.mulraine@thepca.co.uk

T 07867 459 201

Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Sunrivers



Lynsey Williams

Lead Personal Development Manager

E lynsey.williams@thepca.co.uk

T 07990 883 971

Central Sparks, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, Worcestershire



Tom Jones

Personal Development Manager

E tom.jones@thepca.co.uk

T 07867 459 202

Essex, Kent, South East Stars, Surrey



Martin Cropper

Personal Development Manager

E martin.cropper@thepca.co.uk

T 07776 598 412

Glamorgan, Gloucestershire, Somerset, Western Storm



Sophie Connor

Personal Development Manager

E sophie.connor@thepca.co.uk

T 07774 398 894

England Women, The Blaze, Thunder



Jas Singh

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E jas.singh@thepca.co.uk

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COMMERCIAL & FUNDRAISING



Aileen Phipps

Commercial Manager

E aileen.phipps@thepca.co.uk

T 07917 521 570



Daisy Newman

Commercial Partnerships Manager

E daisy.newman@thepca.co.uk

T 07834 525 638



Bee Ford

Head of Events and Fundraising

E bee.ford@thepca.co.uk

T 07939 537 537



Sam Relf

Events and Fundraising Executive

E sam.relf@thepca.co.uk

T 07920 250 930

COMMUNICATIONS



Luke Reynolds

Head of Communications

E luke.reynolds@thepca.co.uk

T 07827 980 884



Ollie Collins

Communications Executive

E ollie.collins@thepca.co.uk

T 07557 377 426



Will Moulton

Video and Content Executive

E will.moulton@thepca.co.uk

T 07918 346 141



Paula Cummings-Riddoch

PA to CEO and Office Manager

E paula.cummings-riddoch@thepca.co.uk

T 07393 234 046



Nicola Hollyhead

Finance Assistant

E nicola.hollyhead@thepca.co.uk

T 07488 242 990

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JOHN GORDON WILLIAMSON

(1936-2023)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

John Gordon Williamson, universally known as Gus, hailed from Norton-on-Tees. Initially honing his cricketing talents with his local club, he was a tall, powerfully built right-arm fast-medium bowler and a more than useful lower-order batter. Having starred for Durham Schoolboys, he made his debut for the county in the Minor Counties Championship against Northumberland aged 18, in 1954. When subsequently undertaking his National Service in the Army, four years later, in May 1958, he made his First-Class debut, representing Combined Services against Warwickshire at Edgbaston.

However, like so many of his cricketing

contemporaries hailing from the northeast, circumstances forced him to seek sporting success further afield. Moving south to join Northamptonshire in 1959, there he became Frank Tyson's regular opening partner. Having made his county championship debut v Essex at Ilford in May 1959, over the course of four seasons, he went on to make 56 appearances for the county. His total of 820 runs included an unbeaten 106 made against Cambridge University in 1962. His tally of 120 wickets includes a best return of 6-47 against Kent in his final season, 1962.

Declining the offer of a new contract and returning to the northeast, between 1963 and 1969 he served as Bishop Auckland's professional, subsequently going back to the Norton club. During this period, he adopted the family name of Barkass-Williamson. Once again returning to Minor Counties cricket with Durham, in all for the county he made 59 appearances, his total of 1,025 runs included a top score of 81 made against Staffordshire in 1955. Among his 149 wickets was a best return of 7-62 against Lancashire in 1963. In 1974 he made four appearances for Cheshire.

CHRIS HAWKINS (1938-2022)

WARWICKSHIRE

Slough-born keeper-batter Christopher George Hawkins played four First-Class games for Warwickshire in 1957 but enjoyed a life filled by sport. It was outside of pro ranks that saw him particularly excel, having played for ten years with Buckinghamshire before selection by the Bears.

But it was his expertise as a groundsman that took him firstly to Slough Cricket &

Hockey Club, then Uxbridge CC, Liverpool CC, and ultimately, to Old Trafford. Returning south, firstly with Maidenhead & Bray Cricket & Hockey Club, before being lured by the bright lights of football, and in particular, Maidenhead United. He was 84.

JEREMY LLOYDS (1954-2022)

SOMERSET, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Born in Malaysia but educated in the West Country, Jeremy William Lloyds spent a lifetime serving the game. A fine player, an able coach and, over the course of a quarter of a century, a highly-respected umpire, he rose quickly to the very pinnacle of world cricket. A left-handed batter, comfortable either opening or in the middle-order and a fine close catcher, he was also a more than capable right-arm spin bowler, never afraid to give the ball some air.

Serving his apprenticeship at Lord's as one of the MCC Young Professionals from 1975 until 1978, he made his Somerset debut the following year. Twelfth man for the 1981 and 1982 Benson & Hedges Cup Finals, he finally got his chance in the successful Somerset side that captured the 1983 NatWest Trophy. Capped 12 months earlier, in June of that year, having taken seven wickets against Essex, he went on to hit two undefeated centuries in the encounter with Northamptonshire.

Amid winters spent coaching abroad, in 1985 he moved to Gloucestershire helping them come close to capturing the county championship title in both 1985 and 1986.



Rain delays play but it's all smiles for Jeremy Lloyds during the Royal London One-Day Cup Quarter Final between Nottinghamshire and Durham at Trent Bridge in 2015. A fine all-rounder for Somerset and Gloucestershire, Lloyds was a NatWest Trophy winner in 1983.

Retiring in 1991, his total of 10,679 First-Class runs includes 10 centuries and a top score of 132 not out. He also took 333 wickets, his best return being that 7-88 against Essex.

Having taken charge of Western Province's Youth Programme between 1992-5, he then proceeded to join the reserve list of First-Class umpires. Promoted to the full list in 1998, four years later he joined the elite panel of international umpires. There, he umpired 18 One Day Internationals, five Tests, one T20I and the 2004 Under 19 World Cup. He retired in 2020. He was 68.



ALBERT LIGHTFOOT (1936-2023)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

This Shropshire-born left-hander made his county debut in 1953, before going on to make over 300 first-team appearances (294 First-Class, 31 List A) for Northamptonshire and Combined Services.

A near 20-year veteran, he started his career primarily as a medium-pacer, but went on to make 12 centuries in total, with what was described as his breakthrough innings coming in partnership with the great Raman Subba Row. The pair adding the small matter of 376 for the sixth wicket against Surrey at The Oval in 1958.

His best summer, 1962, realised 1,795 runs and included five hundreds. With the ball, he contributed 172 First-Class wickets with four five-wicket hauls. He was also, famously, one of the Northants side v Leicestershire in 1967

to be caught out by ten different opposition fielders. Him being snared by John Cotton from the bowling of Jack Birkenshaw; the only fielder not to claim a catch. A groundsman at Wantage Road between 1973 and 1978, he was 87.

VINCE LINDO (1936-2023)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE, SOMERSET

Born in Bigwoods, St Elizabeth, Jamaica, Cleveland Vincent Lindo, universally known as Vince, was a right-arm fast bowler and hard-hitting right-handed lower-order batter.

Coming to England in the hope of advancing his cricketing career, having seen Nottinghamshire's newspaper advert in the Daily Sketch for an opening bowler, he made his First-Class debut for the county against Cambridge University in April 1960. Failing to take a wicket, he spent the rest of the season in the Second XI before signing as Gainsborough's professional.

Subsequently settling in Staffordshire, he



enjoyed a long and successful career, mainly in the North Staffs and South Cheshire League. While there, in 1963 he made one appearance for Somerset against the Pakistan Eaglets. Then aged 27, against a side boasting the three Mohammad brothers as well as Intikhab Alam, with the second new ball he took five wickets in 17 deliveries to end with the remarkable figures of 8-18. Immediately offered a contract, regretfully he found that he could earn far more by staying in the leagues.

Representing Staffordshire in the Minor Counties Championship during 1965 and 1966, he later played for the County Over 50s. In what became the precursor of the John Player League, he went on to become an integral member of the International Cavaliers. This collection of mainly overseas league professionals attracted large crowds when they took on county sides each Sunday afternoon, playing 40-over friendlies. As his playing career gradually wound down, he remained in the game as a popular and highly-respected umpire. He was 87.

Vince Lindo came to England in the hope of advancing his cricketing career, having seen Nottinghamshire's newspaper advert for 'an opening bowler' in the Daily Sketch...



KEITH WILKINSON (1950-2023)

WORCESTERSHIRE

A Staffordshire born cricketer, Keith William Wilkinson, made 49 First-Class appearances for Worcestershire between 1969 and 1975 as a tall, powerfully built lefthand middle-order or occasional opening batter. he was also a useful medium-pace bowler.

Scoring 1,657 runs, his two centuries includes a top score of 141 made against Oxford University at Oxford in 1974. Among his 45 wickets is a best return of 5-60, recorded against Sussex at New Road in 1971.

After leaving the First-Class game, he became a buyer for a catalogue company based in Leeds. He also enjoyed sustained success in the Birmingham League as a member of the Old Hill side that captured The Cockspur Cup in 1984, 1985 and 1987. A place and time where had earlier led his side to the 1983 league title. He also played for Stourbridge and Kidderminster, serving as Birmingham League President in 2011. He was 73.

NORMAN HILL (1935-2023)

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Club captain for the 1966 and 1967 seasons, Norman Hill was regarded as one of the era's most destructive opening batsmen, playing for

the county club for 15 seasons before stepping away from the game to pursue a business career when aged just 32.

Debuting in 1953 - and aged 17 - he went on to contribute in excess of 14,000 First-Class runs with 23 centuries. As a run-getter he remains one of only nine Notts batters to pass 2,000 runs in a season, doing so twice in 1959 and 1961. That '61 summer also realised a career-best score. His 201 being made against Sussex at the Steetley Company Works Ground at Shireoaks, near Worksop.

He retired from the game twice. Firstly in 1962. Only to return later the following year, where the Holbeck man eventually handed over the captaincy reins to West Indies great, Garry Sobers. This changing of the guard also saw Hill enter what proved to be his second and final retirement. He passed away in May 2023, aged 87.



MIKE PASSEY (1937-2022)

WORCESTERSHIRE

Worcestershire youngest ever First-Class cricketer, Michael Francis William Passey was 16 years and 63 days old on debut in the drawn encounter with Glamorgan at New Road in August 1953.

Born in Crossway Green, this right-handed off-spin bowler and lower-order batter took 1-57, Glamorgan's Phil Clift being his sole victim. Although on the county staff for three seasons, apart from that one match, his cricketing career remained confined to the Second XI competition.

CLIVE INMAN (1936-2022)

LEICESTERSHIRE, DERBYSHIRE

One of the finest batters of his generation, Sri Lankan born Clive Inman was sadly stateless in terms of Test cricket. However, during his ten years with Leicestershire he broke record after record. The first Asian cricketer to win a Gillette Gold Award in the one-day game, at Trent Bridge in 1965, this prolific six-hitter took only eight minutes and thirteen balls to complete a chanceless half century.

Born in Columbo, Clive Clay Inman was educated at St Peter's College. While there, this left-handed batter, occasional right-handed off-break bowler and fine cover-point, posted five centuries and an undefeated double century. He went on to represent Ceylon, as it was then, on numerous occasions, making his First-Class debut in 1956. Following his friend Stan Jayasinghe to England, together they joined Leicestershire in 1961. Soon the mainstay of the Foxes middle-order, only once in nine seasons did he fail to top a thousand runs. Capped following his championship debut in 1963, when he scored a century against Cambridge University, he made a further 254 appearances for the county. Arguably his most prolific season came in 1968, scoring 1,735 runs at an average a scratch below 40.

An occasional captain, his final tally of more than 13,000 runs includes 21 centuries and a top score of 178. Granted a benefit in 1970, in his final game the following year against Northamptonshire, he signed off in typical style by compiling yet another masterful century. Two years later he made seven appearances for Derbyshire in the John Player Sunday League.

Content to live out his years in Leicestershire, he subsequently worked as an administrator in a garage business before successfully moving into the scrap metal industry. In September, 2018, he was one of the 49 former Sri Lankan cricketers honoured for their services to the game prior to the nation becoming a full member of the International Cricket Council. He was 86. ●



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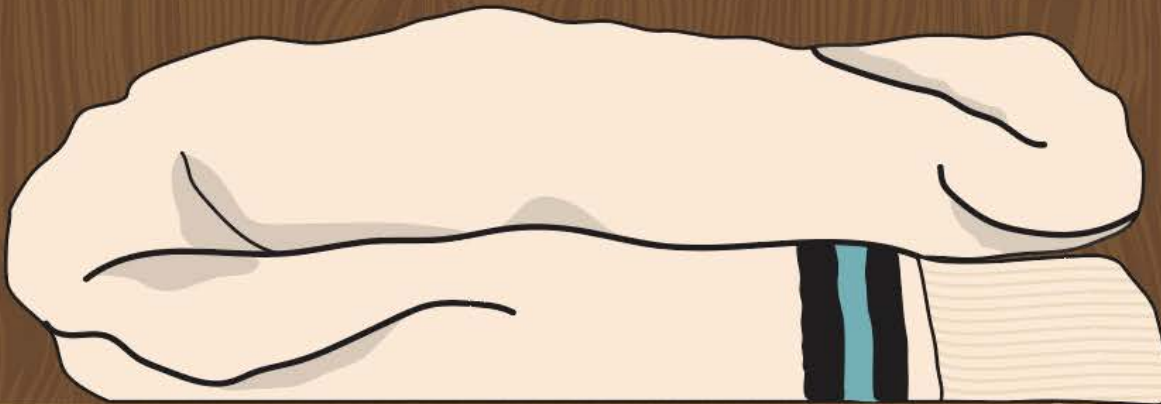
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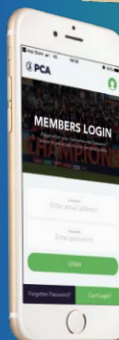
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Close of Play

My Passion

Ali Orr on his cards and currency collection



As a cricketer, I think it is always good to have a passion away from the game that engages your brain differently.

Collecting has been in my family for a long time, my grandad used to collect stamps but I just saw them as a means to send post.

My uncle had a travel business though. He used to bring back foreign currency from all manner of bizarre places, and that was something I felt I could resonate with. Whenever I go on holiday or a cricket tour, I head to the foreign exchange and get a couple of pristine notes and a few coins. I stick them in an envelope and bring them back with me.

I quite like it because it is almost like a memory of the holiday or the experience of where I went when I was young. I put the notes into a massive postcard collector which I

keep at the family home in Eastbourne and I have a massive box where all the coins are sorted into the different countries they came from. I have close to 30 currencies now from all over the world, and the Vanuatu Vatu, which is the currency of Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation, is the most obscure of them.

To collect them all will be hard with so many countries in the world, but it encourages me to travel, which can be no bad thing!

Another hobby of mine is collecting sports trading cards. I was into Match Attacks when



The currency of Vanuatu, a South Pacific Ocean nation, is the most obscure.

I was younger and it is something I love doing now.

I completed the 2022 Formula 1 set, which is between 500 and 600 cards. I collect football ones too, and when I start to get close to the full set - it eats away at me - I see gaps and think 'I just cannot have this'.

It becomes harder to find the rare ones, and I find myself going onto eBay and paying a lot more than I should for them.

I am passionate about cricket, but you cannot do that the whole time so it is about finding something off the pitch I could have passion for, which is what I have found. ●



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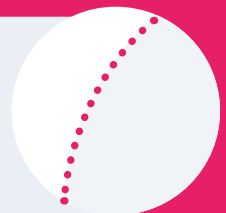
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