

BEYOND THE BOUNDARIES

Issue no.33

Get On Your Bikes And Ride
LONDON TO PARIS REVIEWED

Plus...
JOHN SNOW
CHRIS READ
GEMAAL HUSSAIN

Repping *the* Players



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PCA PRINCIPLE PARTNER:



Welcome



Above and Beyond

PCA Chief Executive Rob Lynch highlights the PCA's influence as a representative body.

Welcome to Issue 33 of your membership magazine, Beyond the Boundaries. It has been an interesting six months on and off the pitch since our last issue with the seeds of change beginning to show in the global employment market.

With the most recent England Central Contracts finalised by TEPP and EWPP, our focus now turns to the vital negotiations we will have on behalf of all our members with the ECB over the next 12 months. These will be seeking to establish the employment terms for the cycle of the next 2025-28 broadcast arrangement across all England contracts as well as via minimum standards in the County Partnership and Regional Partnership Agreements.

With increased franchise leagues around the world providing more playing opportunities for our members, challenges will inevitably arise around the changing nature of careers. I would encourage you to read the contracts feature on page 24 that delves into the relationship between players and the PCA surrounding negotiations.

During the recent FICA AGM I attended in Singapore, some important discussions were held surrounding the importance of having collective representation in the evolving global landscape and working collaboratively with the ICC.

On the pitch this summer we saw some fantastic cricket played in the Men's and Women's Ashes as both sides drew their respective series against Australia.

The women's game in England and Wales continues to grow at a rapid pace with the ECB's taskforce, Project Darwin, looking to evolve the women's domestic game, shaped by player input.

This issue is themed on representation of professional cricketers in England and Wales and that goes beyond employment requirements. PCA Vice Chair Anuj Dal was a victim of online abuse and with the PCA's support he bravely talks us through the process of receiving restorative justice on page 28.

The PCA's Director of EDI Donna Fraser provides an update on page 44 and we are introduced to our newest Inclusion Champion, Gemaal Hussain.

On the topic of new recruits it gives me great pleasure to welcome Nil Neale as our new Chief Finance Officer, whilst thanking the out-going Paul Garrett for his many years of service.

Finally, I would like to thank all those that participated in the Professional Cricketers' Trust London to Paris Bike Ride in October. A fantastic amount of money was raised for the charity but it was an ever-present reminder of the funds the players' charity needs and your support is vital in maintaining the level of service our incredible charity provides. You can read about the epic challenge on page 22.

Enjoy your magazine.

ROB LYNCH
PCA Chief Executive

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*participating locations



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Derbyshire's Anuj Dal and his fight for restorative justice

AT KERRY LONDON PROTECTION IS OUR GAME

Our team of experts includes ex-professional players who have the specialist knowledge to offer the advice cricketers need. Having the right insurance covers in place for your needs will give you and your family financial security should a career limiting injury happen at home or abroad.

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Putting Players First

PCA Chair James Harris outlines key priorities for 2024.

We had a really successful English summer both from an on-field and PCA perspective. There was some fantastic cricket played and to have both Ashes series so hotly contested was brilliant.

Creating a collective voice and putting you at the forefront of everything we do is one of my biggest challenges as Chair. Previously, the players haven't always been the most important people in the room at functions and events. We want the buy-in of every athlete so I want to ensure we think about you first and foremost to create a sense of togetherness.

That came to fruition at the cinch PCA Awards. Previously, players had been at the edge of the room but the couple of hundred in attendance were front and centre and really enjoyed the new format. It was a fantastic event and a fine celebration of an excellent season.

We also made the PCA Player Summit

more player-centric, having in-depth discussions amongst just the representatives in attendance. I wanted to drill down into key topics and listen to your views on how the game should be shaped before presenting this to the PCA and ECB. It was great to have staff from the governing body graciously come to talk to us and allow us to question and debate some of the work they're doing. I think everyone found that positive.

Looking ahead, I'm really excited about the forthcoming CPA and RPA negotiations. Daryl Mitchell did a fabulous job last time and I want to build on that and make things even stronger. We will fight tooth and nail to get the players the deals you deserve for the product you're putting on the field.

Finally, it was fantastic to raise money for the Professional Cricketers' Trust through the London to Paris Bike Ride.



I want to ensure we think about you first and foremost to create a sense of togetherness.

After making it to France with all the riders, Commercial Director Rob Smyth and I then challenged ourselves to get back to Big Ben in a day. I think we set a record time for the journey, around 17hrs 48m. That was pretty cool.

As we return to training in preparation for next season, there's a lot to be excited about. The latter half of this year has been very positive for the PCA and I look forward to continuing to enhance progression in 2024.

JAMES HARRIS
PCA Chair



Freddie's Back

Former PCA President Andrew Flintoff has been appointed as head coach of the Northern Superchargers side for the 2024 edition of The Hundred on his return to cricket. Flintoff was part of the backroom staff for England's white-ball series against New Zealand in the summer as a consultant and was President of the players' union between 2016 and 2018. The former England captain was part of the England Lions coaching set up in the UAE, where a 21-player squad honed their skills in a training camp.

Andrew Salter Bikes Africa

The Pembrokeshire-born off-spinner details his journey off the road.

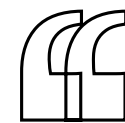
So how did I end up riding a Triumph motorcycle (Tiger 900 Rally Pro for those interested) from Windhoek, Namibia to Cape Town? Well, to be completely honest, because I hung up my old, tired cricket boots and as one door closes... as they say. The trip was always going ahead with the 'Baffle Culture' business I co-founded with good friend Sam. Incredibly harsh and unpredictable terrain made the easy days hard and the hard days... even tougher. The reality is, cricket isn't the be all and end all we are sometimes led to believe, don't get me wrong, it's amazing and it's given me a career and memories to last a lifetime. I suppose it's been great to know that there are other great memories to be had with people outside the cricket bubble which isn't always plausible when inside the professional box.



Captain Fantastic

Former Gloucestershire bowler Martin Gerrard has been made captain of his local golf club, The Kendleshire in Bristol.

By becoming captain, Gerrard is then given the ability to fundraise for a chosen charity. The 56-year-old has chosen to raise money for the Professional Cricketers' Trust which is close to his heart. "This is my opportunity to give something back by way of supporting a charity that does such great work in many different ways supporting all PCA members and their immediate families when they most need it," said Gerrard. "I am very much looking forward to what I hope will be a great golfing calendar year in 2024 and raising as much as I can for such a great cause."



This is my opportunity to give something back.



AN OVER AT... Chris Read

Capped 52 times by his country, the 45-year-old freelancer faced a set of six.

1 **What made you want to play cricket?**
As a young lad growing up in Devon, we lived a mile from the beach, and I remember playing cricket in the garden from knee-high to a grasshopper. The first moment I was allowed to go to nets on Friday night at six, I was there.

2 **What was the proudest moment of your career?**
Representing your country is an immensely proud moment but captaining Nottinghamshire to the Championship title is up there. For me, the four-day trophy was the hardest one to win.

3 **How did you find the initial period after leaving professional cricket?**
I had prepared well; I did my coaching qualifications while I was playing and got myself coaching in as many environments as I could.

4 **What are you doing now?**
I am coaching full-time on a freelance, consultancy basis. I am an assistant coach with the women's Hobart Hurricanes in the WBBL. I have done work with England Under 19s, Nottinghamshire as well as the women's Trent Rockets team.

5 **What are your future goals as a coach?**
I would like to continue to coach at a high level and I aspire to be a head coach, if I can continue to build up my experiences.

6 **What skill from your playing career has helped you in a coaching capacity?**
I captained Nottinghamshire for 10 years and that gave me leadership experience. I would say that has helped me recognise and understand different player needs. I did that job for so long and I learned a hell of a lot about different players.





Global Progress

The Federation of International Cricketers' Associations has had a transformative 12 months in the global game, focusing in on key topics for the players following rigorous consultation on what matters most.

Following on from the success of the Global Employment Reports in the men's and women's game, FICA has used the ICC events calendar to drill down on specific issues by holding formal team meetings across the Women's T20 and Men's ODI World Cups.

November saw the FICA Annual Meeting which was attended by FICA Board, member players' associations and a number of influential guests from the professional cricket landscape. Held in Singapore following multiple men's team meetings, a number of key topics were discussed and debated.

PLAYER FEEDBACK AND FICA GLOBAL SCHEDULING SYMPOSIUM

The Board received external presentations and an update following men's team meetings held during the ODI World Cup in India, and women's team meetings held in South Africa earlier in the year. The Board noted the strong player feedback on the global structure of the game and

scheduling, in particular, and approved the hosting of a player led Global Scheduling Symposium in 2024.

US CRICKETERS ASSOCIATION

The Board was pleased to note the formation of the US Cricketers' Association and confirm its acceptance into FICA with observer status. The Board noted that alongside player leadership, Walter Palmer, the former Head of the World Players' Association, will be joining the USCA Executive Committee. The Board was disappointed to hear several further reports of national governing bodies, leagues and teams around the world actively opposing or threatening players who exercise their right to organise, form and join players' associations. FICA will be investigating these reports and will continue to assist player groups around the world who ask for its support.

FICA DOMESTIC LEAGUES HUB

The Board approved the 2024 launch of the FICA Leagues Hub as a tool for players and

agents globally in the domestic leagues landscape, and as a consolidated resource in the game. Given there are almost no enforceable global protections in place for players competing in sanctioned cricket, despite them being prevented from competing outside of it, the Leagues Hub will highlight in which leagues player terms have been negotiated with player collective representatives aligning with international best practice, and in which leagues they haven't. It will also highlight those leagues in which the late or non-payment of players has been reported.

FICA AND PAKISTAN

The Board was pleased to welcome Sana Mir to her first in person Annual Meeting and discussed issues in Pakistan and how FICA may best be able to assist and support players and the game in the region moving forward.

ICC EVENTS 2024 - 2027

The Board noted the ongoing positive progress with the ICC with respect to player Squad Terms and player commercial rights for the next cycle of ICC Events, and other issues impacting players at global level. The Board also discussed the need for global minimum standards with respect to player safety issues including heat and air quality, which will be raised with the ICC. ●

TOP: The FICA Board attend the Annual Meeting in Singapore.
BOTTOM: Men's and Women's captains get together ahead of their respective World Cup's in India and South Africa.



Heads Up

By extending the PCA's partnership with Vitality, the health and life insurer, the 2024 summer will see all professional male and female players in England and Wales provided with the most innovative cricket helmet ever produced.

The PCA and Vitality are working alongside Masuri to supply world-leading TrueFit 3D-PRO helmets to the players.

Using head scanning technology for a custom fit, the helmets are

manufactured using the latest 3D printing techniques to create an internal lattice structure padding system to provide the finest level of protection.

England white-ball captain Jos Buttler said: "For the PCA to work with Vitality and Masuri for the benefit of player safety is testament to how they support us as a group of professional players, treating everybody as equal with every player benefiting from this agreement."

World Record Attempt

As if cycling from London to Paris wasn't enough of a challenge, PCA Commercial Director Rob Smyth alongside Chair James Harris decided to ride back from the French capital in a world record attempt.

The duo joined the other riders on the three-day trip to Paris and then returned to the English capital in a phenomenal time of 17 hours and 48 minutes.

"Cycling back from Paris was a crazy idea and arriving in London at 2:30am on a bike was pretty surreal but hopefully it meant a few more people donated," said Smyth. Smyth's partner on the return journey, Harris, was pleased that all the riders managed to complete the challenge and hopes that more awareness has been made for the Trust. "Going there and back was an incredible feeling, I enjoy cycling but that was something else. The work that the Trust do is phenomenal, and I've seen how it can help past and present cricketers that fall upon hard times."

London to Paris and back in an amazing 17 hours and 48 minutes



If I Knew Then...

70s icon John Snow offers himself a few words of advice.

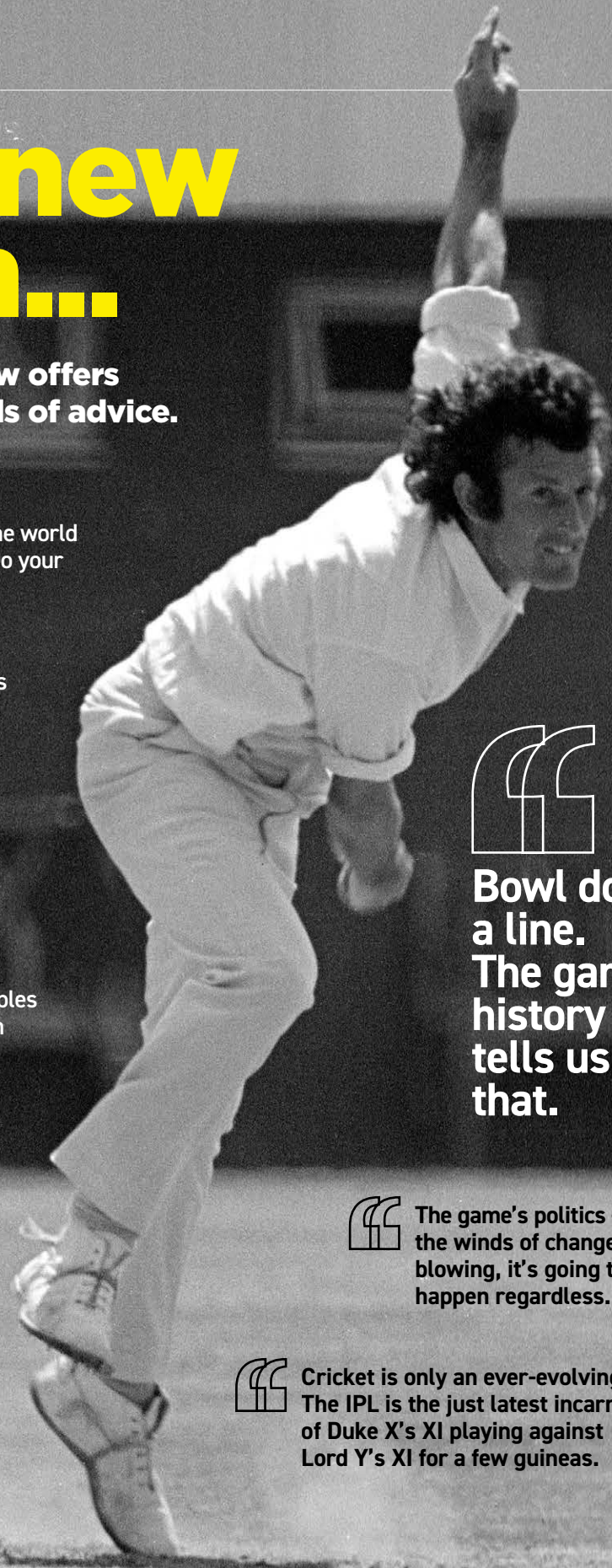
“ When you’re young the world can feel a big place. Do your best to see a bit of it.

“ Even when bowling as a pair, it still means you doing your thing.

“ See coaching as filing off the rough points.

“ Understanding the mechanics and principles of different sports can only help you.

“ Cricket is a philosophy every bit as much it is a sport.



“ Bowl down a line. The game’s history tells us that.

“ The game’s politics - if the winds of change are blowing, it’s going to happen regardless.

“ Cricket is only an ever-evolving helix. The IPL is the just latest incarnation of Duke X’s XI playing against Lord Y’s XI for a few guineas.

Striving For Inclusivity

The Southern Vipers and England batter, Maia Bouchier, explains why she wants the sport to be a place that welcomes everyone.



IT’s exciting to be part of a generation where it doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from; you can be yourself and people will be there to support you.

One key reason I chose to speak out about my sexuality earlier this year was because of the opportunities provided to me through cricket. I want to be one of those people who uses my platform to encourage inclusivity and openness, not just in cricket, but in all sports. And in life.

When I was younger, I didn’t really know who I was. However, knowing people in the same position as me in cricket – but who understood their sexuality – helped me become more aware of myself.

Things are improving for the LGBTQ+ community in certain countries but it can still be difficult. If people are feeling sad or upset in their daily lives, we want sport to be a place where they can enjoy themselves and feel happy and included. Cricket is a great example of that.

The environment and the atmosphere that encapsulates both the Southern Vipers and England cricket teams is so important. They encourage me to be myself on and off the pitch. I want to be part of groups that pave the way for younger generations to feel like cricket is a place where they can be completely true to themselves.

Sexuality is still something people find hard to talk about. However, having these conversations in the media and in sport will encourage others to open up about their experiences. Furthermore, we also want to

show those who still don’t understand that we are just normal people.

It’s been incredible to see the support I’ve had over the last year. I’ve recently celebrated my one-year anniversary with my partner Jess and that was special. It’s been great to be able to sit down and chat about how we met, our life together so far, and what it could be like in the future. ●

“ It’s exciting to be part of a generation where it doesn’t matter who you are or where you come from.





Where Are They Now?

Somerset's T20 winners 2005. Overcoming Lancashire to win by seven wickets on T20 Finals Day at the Oval, what become of those fine young men...

This year's win became just Somerset's second T20 title, despite being one of the country's most-competitive short-form sides. Especially so when playing at Taunton. The 2005 summer saw the Ciderman captained by a young Graeme Smith, the South Africa left-hander adding not only high-quality batting but also his trademark leadership and direction.

Finals Day saw them turn the tables on Leicestershire in the semis, when the Foxes appeared to be cruising to victory. Eventually falling four runs short in their chase.

Rain meant the now 16-over final against Lancashire started late, with Lancs making 114-8. Somerset passed the total three wickets down, with 11 balls to spare.

GRAEME SMITH (C)

Omni-present skipper of South Africa, the left-hander's 64 not out saw him named player of the match in the final. Retiring from the game in 2014, these days Johannesburg-born Smith plies his trade as a media pundit and as Commissioner of the new SA20 League.

MARCUS TRECOTHICK

A Somerset & England legend and former county captain, this Ashes-winning left-hander made over 26,000 First-Class runs opening the batting with distinction between 1993 and 2019. Still involved in the game, he's England men's batting coach.

ABOVE: Captain Graeme Smith and his Somerset squad celebrate winning the 2005 T20 Cup at the Oval on July 30.

RIGHT: Carl Gazzard and his skipper, Graeme Smith, celebrate their Twenty20 Cup semi-final win against Leicestershire Foxes.



MATT WOOD

Devon-born Wood played for the Cidermen between 2001-2007 before switching allegiance to Trent Bridge the following season. He became the club's Player Pathway Development Manager in 2010 and remains in post.

IAN BLACKWELL

Originally a hard-hitting spin-bowling all-rounder with Derbyshire, Chesterfield-born Blackwell was good enough to play 34 ODIs and a single Test for England between 2002 and 2006. He's currently a well-liked and well-respected First-Class umpire.

RIGHT: Andrew Caddick appeals for the wicket of Northants' Martin Love during their Twenty20 Cup quarter-final.

JAMES HILDRETH

The 'other' not out batter in Somerset's final win, the Milton Keynes-born right-hander would go on to play over 700 all-format games for Somerset. Retiring from the sport in 2022, he now works in financial services as a director of Hildreth Financial Management, based in Taunton.

CARL GAZZARD (+)

Gazzard played primarily one-day cricket for Somerset, his progress blocked by incumbent keeper-batter Rob Turner. With no more luck when handed the gloves he retired from the game aged 27 at the emergence of Craig Kieswetter. Another financial consultant, this time for Cooper Associates, again in Taunton.

KEITH PARSONS

Another 500-game merchant, Parsons shored up the Somerset middle-order with much pluck and aplomb between 1992 and 2013, and was named man of the match when Somerset won the C&G Trophy at Lord's in 2001. He is the current cricket professional and festival director at King's College, Taunton.

RICHARD JOHNSON

Paceman Johnson won three Test caps for England in 2003, his spell with Somerset bookended by two with Middlesex in a hugely-successful career in the game. Post playing, he was the bowling coach at the Oval before returning to Lord's for a third stint, this time as head coach.



ANDREW CADDICK

An England ever-present alongside strike partner, Darren Gough, his love of aviation saw him famously – and somewhat unusually – gain his pilot's licence. A Somerset great – 19 years of service in the West Country – he remains 'above the clouds' as a director with UK Aviation Sales Limited, an aircraft brokerage and charter company.

WES DURSTON

A 300-game all-format career saw Durston enjoy spells with Somerset and Derbyshire, where he would ultimately skipper the one-day side. A strong striker of the ball and tricky off-spinner, Durston has remained in sport coaching cricket and also Hockey, latterly at Denstone College.

CHARL LANGEVELDT

A typically bustling South African seamer, Langeveldt also enjoyed spells with Leicestershire, Derbyshire and Kent. A prison warden before committing full-time to cricket, he has coached extensively since his playing days, notably with Bangladesh and South Africa. ●



Past Players Day

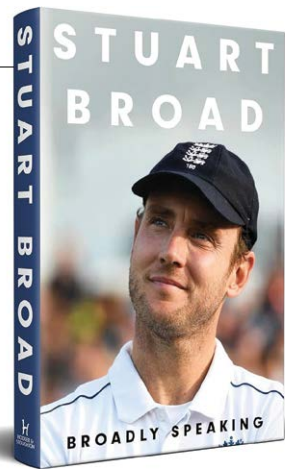
The Cheltenham Festival at Cheltenham College once again provided the destination for the PCA's Past Players Day.

On day two of Gloucestershire vs Glamorgan, many former players from across the country gathered for a lunch and drinks reception in a marquee on the boundary edge at one of the most picturesque grounds in county cricket.

The PCA Past Players Day is set to be in 2024, with a date yet to be decided.

Broadly Speaking

Having retired from professional cricket following the 2023 Ashes series, Stuart Broad has ventured into writing with the release of his autobiography entitled 'Broadly Speaking'. The England legend bowled his side to victory in the final game of the series, taking a wicket with his last ball in Test cricket, following hitting the last ball he faced in the game for six in true Broad fashion. The 37-year-old finished his international career with an incredible 847 wickets and swiftly made the career transition in to the commentary box. The six-foot five-inch swing bowler shares his favourite moments from the game which made him and those that almost broke him in this candid, entertaining and honest story which reveals the personal side of a true cricketing great.



New Era Training

Former Kent player Callum Jackson had diversified his personal training business and opened a multi-purpose facility in Battersea, London. New Era Training is an innovative space that allows Jackson to utilise his cricket coaching skills alongside hosting his personal training clients. Based in converted railway arches in the south-west London suburb, Jackson is sure to make the most of a unique gap in the cricket and fitness market.

FIND OUT MORE AT NEWERATRaining.NET WITH A PCA MEMBER OFFER AVAILABLE.

The Voice

The PCA has teamed up with British African-Caribbean newspaper, The Voice. The partnership sees the PCA and The Voice working in partnership to bring readers news and views from professional cricketers from the British African-Caribbean community. The likes of Cordelia Griffith and Roland Butcher have already featured in the publication as the game looks to expand its reach.



Health Checks

The PCA's first Past Player Wellness Day took place at Edgbaston in September, as Wellness International administered the health screening initiative.

Former players from across the country gathered to have their cardiovascular health examined by a Wellness International expert.

Attendees had everything from blood pressure to cholesterol

and body composition measured to evaluate each individual's cardiovascular health and analyse the probability of a cardiovascular episode occurring in the next decade.

The day was made possible thanks to funding from the Professional Cricketers' Trust with the ambition for further days to be held in the future.

Former England international, Mike Watkinson, said: "I was given the opportunity to have a health check by the PCA and when you get the other side of 60, medical ailments can creep up on you, so having the tests done has been very useful."

Thank You Members



In their numbers, PCA members signed up to the new Voluntary Past Player Membership announced at this year's AGM.

The PCA continues to value all past players and the Association wants to ensure that support levels are maintained at the current level with the initiative supporting the funding of this.

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

Past players have access to a variety of different services including: Access to County Championships fixtures with a guest, free entry to Past Player Day, access to 24-hour Confidential Helpline, Personal Development Manager to support career plans, educational funding of up to £1,500 a year, member offer discounts and free Beyond the Boundaries magazines.

PLEASE CONTACT ALISON.PROSSER@THEPCA.CO.UK FOR MORE INFORMATION.

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Do I need my car insurance when I am playing overseas?



As the Official Motor Insurance Partner of the PCA, All Sport Insurance are on hand to support members with their car insurance needs.

With winter now approaching we asked All Sport whether year-round playing schedules & overseas commitments would have any implications for our members and their car insurance. Here's what they said:

➔ REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE ROAD TRAFFIC ACT

Under the Road Traffic Act, you are required to insure your vehicle if it is used or kept on public roads. Therefore, even if your vehicle is simply parked on the road whilst you are away it will still require insurance.

➔ PARKING ON PRIVATE PROPERTY

If your vehicle is parked on private

property, such as in your garage or driveway you could consider cancelling your insurance, however before doing so there are other factors to consider.

➔ OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

You need to make a "Statutory Off-Road Notification" (SORN) if you take a vehicle off the road and therefore want to stop taxing and insuring it.

Guidance provided by Gov.uk states..."You must insure and tax your vehicle if you do not have a SORN. If you do not, you'll automatically be fined £80 for not having a SORN. There's also a fine for having an uninsured vehicle."

If you do make an off-road notification, you would also need to remember to reverse this, along with reinstating your insurance before using the vehicle again.

“ Before cancelling your insurance, it is important to consider the wider risks which your insurance is covering.

If your vehicle is leased it is usually a requirement of your lease agreement that you insure the vehicle at all times, therefore for leased vehicles cancelling insurance is unlikely to be an option.

Car insurance not only covers you when your vehicle is being used on the road, importantly it also provides cover for fire, theft or other damage which may occur when your vehicle is parked off road or not being used. Therefore, before cancelling your insurance, it is important to consider the wider risks which your insurance is covering and not just those which occur when you are driving on the roads. ●



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CONTINUING THE FIGHT

SHAUN UDAL

In a horrific 14 months, Shaun Udal was diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, lost his mother, his brother and great friend Shane Warne.



In May 2023, during an exclusive video interview with the Professional Cricketers' Trust, former England, Middlesex and Hampshire spinner, Shaun Udal, bravely told his story of Parkinson's, family grief and losing a great friend.

Six months on from the interview and Udal has received countless messages of support from the cricketing world and wants

to make sure others don't suffer in silence.

The 54-year-old, who took 1,330 wickets and scored 11,279 runs in 771 appearances, gave an update about what living with the disease has been like in recent months.

"Thanks to the Trust I've been to see a new neurologist and they recommended that the drugs I take should be less volume but more frequent. I still get bursts of pain

but it's certainly improved.

"The new advice has made a difference in the last few months in terms of feeling a bit better day by day. I get bouts of two or three days without sleep whereas it used to be every night I couldn't sleep."

Udal was away when the video was released on the Trust's website, social media, and during the Sky Sports broadcast of Vitality Blast Finals Day.

"I was a bit anxious as to how it would be received, but a couple of the Hampshire lads said they stopped their training and watched the big screen, so it obviously made an impact on the day which is what it's all about.

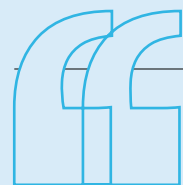
"It was quite a heart-warming thing to see and it was very emotional, it brings a tear to my eye when I watch it back now. It was very humbling seeing the reaction that it got and it filled me with a bit of warmth. Sometimes people stop me and say they've seen the video and it was really powerful.

"I hope the video has been beneficial for other PCA members, if they go through hard times there are people out there to talk to."

Despite not being a strong advocate of social media, Udal said that he received many positive messages after his video was published and hopes as many people see the video as possible. ➔➔➔

A picture from Shaun Udal's inspirational interview where he opens up about a challenging 14 months





I'm eternally grateful to the Trust and so is my family, it's a stupendous charity. SHAUN UDAL

"Lots of people on social media said how powerful the video was, that is the good side of it, it can be good when used positively and if it can raise more awareness of this terrible disease, that's a good thing.

"I don't mind people seeing that I was at an all-time low, because hopefully they can see that I came through it despite what has happened."

The former England spinner didn't hold back in reaffirming how important the Trust has been to him during this most difficult time.

"Without the Trust's help, especially Ian Thomas, I don't think I'd be here talking to you now, that's how big a help they've been and hopefully that can continue. I'm eternally grateful to the Trust and so is my family, it's a stupendous charity who deserve all the help they can get. They've been incredible to me."

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 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.



TOP: Shaun Udal's inspirational piece to camera is broadcasted to thousands of fans at Edgbaston.

RIGHT: Better times: Shaun Udal is mobbed by a certain Andrew Flintoff after taking the wicket of MS Dhoni on day five of England's Third Test against India in Mumbai.



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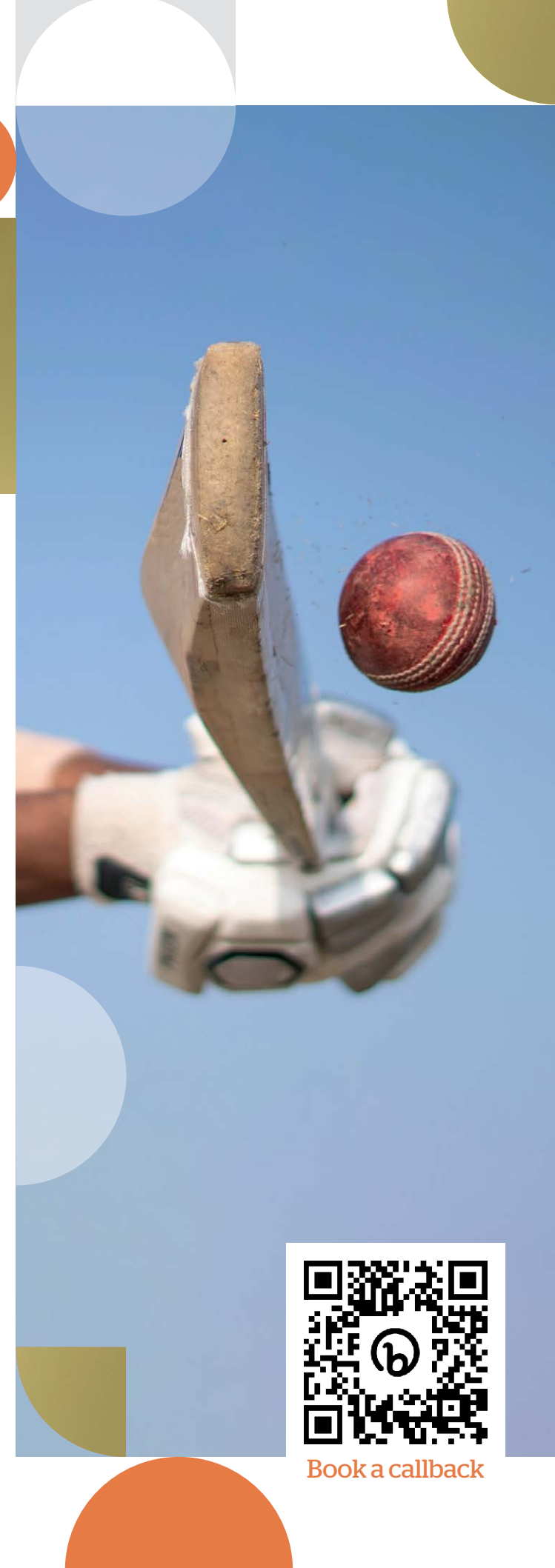
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THE EPIC TRUST Bike RIDE

More than 30 riders completed the phenomenal challenge finishing in front of the Arc de Triomphe on the Champs-Élysées.

Following months of training, or distinct lack of, riders gathered with anticipation on a beautiful sunny morning in October at the Kia Oval to take on a mammoth test of their cycling ability all the way to the picturesque French capital.

Leaving with smiles on their faces and waves to the cameras, the cyclists set off on an epic 418km journey not knowing what trials and tribulations they would encounter over the next three days, all to raise money for the Professional Cricketers' Trust.

The bucket-list challenge was supported by the PCA's Official Financial Wellbeing Partner, Brooks Macdonald as ride sponsors, Kerry London as helmet sponsors and Pavé cycling apparel who provided the kit.

Along the route, Professional Cricketers' Trust Director James Harris experienced a fall on the first day but managed to escape with a few cuts and bruises.

Middlesex's Martin Andersson was unfortunate to experience a mechanical malfunction on his own bike, but after being forced onto a replacement, the all-rounder found a new lease of life on his new wheels.

Fortunately, after a gruelling three days, all the riders completed the



challenge, raising over £50,000 from over 1,000 contributors, all of which will go to funding the Trust's life-changing and life-saving support.

As if cycling from London to Paris wasn't enough of a challenge, PCA Commercial Director Rob Smyth and Harris decided to cycle from the French capital back to London.

"The bike ride was fantastic, seeing so many partners and sponsors alongside the players all raising vital money for the Trust will live long in the memory," said Smyth.

Smyth's partner on the return journey, Harris, was pleased that all the riders managed to complete the challenge and hopes that more awareness has been made for the Trust.

"The work that the Trust do is phenomenal and I've seen how it can help past and present cricketers that fall upon hard times.

"We do challenges like this to raise vital funds for the Trust because it currently operates with no funding partner."

Tasked with producing a video diary and keeping everyone on the

“When the ride got difficult, I just thought of all the people that the Trust will be able to help out with the money that we were raising.”

ROB JONES, WORCESTERSHIRE

Trust's social media entertained, England and South East Stars pair Alice Davidson-Richards and Freya Davies provided an excellent insight into the experience from the riders' perspective.

The challenge began on October 10, which is World Mental Health Day, allowing for further conversations to be had surrounding the importance of past and present players' mental wellbeing.

"It's comforting knowing that we have the support of the Trust if we need it, it's an important part of the cricket community," said Davidson-Richards.

"We need to have more conversations surrounding mental health and it's something that I've had to do recently, to

make sure I keep my head straight."

The ride was also completed by Surrey duo Dan Worrall and Jordan Clark, alongside Gloucestershire's James Bracey who has previously participated in Trust challenges.

"It was an unbelievable experience. It's been the best three days ever, thanks to the Trust for their hard work in organising everything.

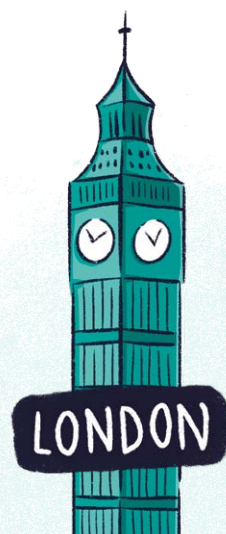
"It seemed pretty daunting at the start but it's been really good fun and the driving factor is obviously the money that we've raised for a great cause in the Trust," said Bracey.

New Worcestershire recruit Rob Jones was cycling in his third Trust bike ride and explained what kept him going during the tough moments.

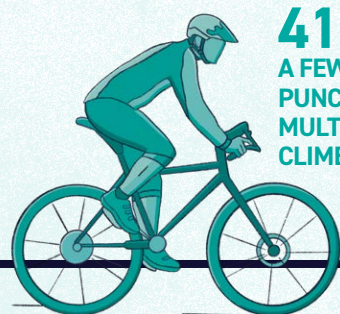
"The Trust is always there for you whether you've played one year or 20 years, they're always just a phone call away.

"When the ride got difficult I just thought of all the people that the Trust will be able to help out with the money that we were raising." ●

You can still help the Trust complete its life-changing and life-saving work by donating, search 'JustGiving Professional Cricketers' Trust'.



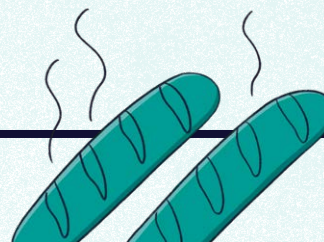
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JOE ROOT



NAT SCIVER-BRUNT



BOB MITCHELL



ROB LYNCH

The Power of *NEGOTIATION*



With the ink having just dried on the recent England Men's and Women's contracts, the negotiating table is still very much in use as the PCA looks to represent the players in an array of game-changing negotiations. Ollie Collins spoke to those involved...

Negotiating a new contract is always an important time. Be them domestic, regional or international players.

A good contract provides the bedrock for good performance. Financial security and stability, the ability to manage workloads, and helping to generally mitigate some of the worries that players might experience in what is far from a normal working life.

A contract that a player is unhappy with can have the opposite effect. It's why the PCA – along with the Team England Player Partnership (TEPP) and the England Women's Player Partnership (EWPP) work so hard at the negotiation table. All done in conjunction with the ECB.

This next round of contract negotiations involving the County Partnership Agreement (CPA), Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) and ECB employment and commercial agreements, comes during the most complex contractual landscape the game has ever experienced. Due in no small part to the rise of T20 franchise leagues around the world.

PCA Chief Executive Rob Lynch sits on the TEPP Management Board, alongside hugely experienced legal representative, Bob Mitchell. "The PCA's role is to manage and present the views of its members in employment and

commercial negotiations with the ECB," said Lynch. "The players are aware that we work on their behalf to deliver the best possible results, allowing them to concentrate on their performance and home life."

England Central Contracts were first introduced 23 years ago for men's players and both current TEPP Chair, Richard Bevan, and longstanding counsel Mitchell have been at the forefront of the negotiations ever since.

Former PCA Chief Executive Bevan spent 11 years with the players' union before moving on to the League Managers' Association (LMA). In that time he was also a Federation of International Cricketers' Associations (FICA) Director. Mitchell was instrumental in the original creation of TEPP and is a Partner at Harbottle & Lewis law firm, specialising in all aspects of sports law. He regularly advises the PCA and FICA on protecting cricketers' interests and image rights. "We take the PCA's knowledge of insurance and how those contracts work in conjunction with domestic T20 contracts around the world," said Mitchell. "Then we bring in the relevant people with specialist knowledge to make sure the players are properly protected. As well as seeing they get appropriately remunerated."

When former England Test captain Joe Root ➤➤➤



“We’re trained to be good at cricket, we’re not trained in negotiating contracts or understanding necessarily what we’re worth as players.”
JOE ROOT



made his debut in 2012 – earning his first Central Contract the following year – TEPP was already well-established within the game. Root is only too aware of the player-body’s aim to enable players to remain focused on their priorities, having led TEPP in his time at the helm for England. “We’re trained to be good at cricket, we’re not trained in negotiating contracts or understanding necessarily what we’re worth as players. So to have that guidance from professionals that have been involved for so long in Richard, Bob and Rob can only be beneficial,” remarked Root.

In 2024, 10 years will have passed since the England’s Women’s team first received Central Contracts. Nat Sciver-Brunt was a recipient of one of them and has seen big changes in the development of EWPP, first set up in 2017, and the women’s game on the whole.

Having starred in the Women’s Ashes series, the 31-year-old is now a member of the EWPP board. “The landscape looks really different in women’s cricket. Contracts have changed a lot since I started. The brilliant part about working with the PCA is we can raise

ABOVE: Joe Root and his trademark reverse scoop in action for England.

BOTTOM: Root and fellow Yorkshireman Harry Brook in the middle for their county.

current issues occurring across women’s sport, Rob and Emma Reid do a great job in negotiating for us, it’s been ever evolving and I’m sure it will continue that way in the future.”

The recent England Men’s Central Contracts have introduced the opportunity for players to sign multi-year deals for the first time, with 18 players putting pen to paper on two and three-year contracts. Root was one of three players, alongside Harry Brook and Mark Wood, to sign a three-year deal with the ECB in what is now a points-based system. “It makes me feel secure,” said the man with over 18,000 international runs. “My focus – as it has always been – is to perform the best I can for England. And do it for the foreseeable future.

“Constant communication between TEPP and the PCA ensures that the best decisions are being made for the players. As an element it’s paramount.”

Important negotiations are also on the horizon in domestic cricket. With the new CPA in the men’s game and the RPA for the women. The PCA conducted an exhaustive consultation phase with all players, collecting data from pre-season meetings, the AGM and Players’ Summit. All collated via the dedicated PCA reps. “We have a good understanding of what the player’s priorities are,” remarked Lynch. “This enables us to set out our

strategy to deliver on these priorities for our members during any negotiations.”

Following the rise of women’s cricket in recent years, the ECB has set up a taskforce named ‘Project Darwin’, with the ambition of revitalising the domestic women’s game, something that The Blaze’s Sciver-Brunt is excited about.

“Regional cricket is good, but it’s great to be thinking about how to make it even better. By being proactive, it can only improve the women’s game and the England team too.”

His reputation made at Yorkshire, Root is passionate about the structure of county cricket. It’s his belief that if players are excited about playing English domestic cricket it will improve the system. The Sheffield-born batter is also adamant that allowing players the freedom of movement will lead to progress on all fronts. For this to happen, counties need to enter the CPA negotiations with an open mind. “I don’t understand why anyone wouldn’t want

BELOW: Nat Sciver-Brunt celebrates after taking the wicket of Ashleigh Gardner during the Ashes.

players to play abroad. An improved player makes them more of an asset and more likely to be selected for England.

“And it’s a two-way street. Clubs need to respect the players’ views and the players need to respect their responsibilities to their counties. The relationship between the players and their county needs to be strong. That has never changed.”

Despite knowing these leagues provide greater playing opportunities for members, Lynch is aware they come with complications. It’s one of the motivating factors behind the ECB offering multi-year deals. “We are beginning to feel the impact of this change in the global employment landscape. Coming, as it does, as a genuine threat to the game in England and Wales. This is only going to get more complex. Flexibility is needed on all sides.”

For now, certainly, Sciver-Brunt is insistent that the players in the England women’s team see playing for their country as a priority. “I’m not concerned at the moment but in the future, yes it could affect the England team. The franchise circuit is an exciting prospect.”

With regards to the men’s game,

Mitchell shares the same concerns. It’s possible that in the not too distant future we may see IPL franchises, particularly, attracting players to play in their worldwide teams, then loaning them back to their international sides. According to Mitchell it amounts to ‘turning contracts as we know them on their heads’.

Root wants to ensure the best players are available to play for their country, enabling England to remain one of the strongest international teams across all formats. The Yorkshireman says English cricket should be ‘wary’ of the increase in opportunities for players operating outside of county contracts. “Players will want new deals negotiated, reflecting the financial changes around the next MOU. But we still need to make sure that England cricket remains the pinnacle.”

The FICA AGM in Singapore highlighted the importance of global representation. Root again, “Rob (Lynch) has done great work with FICA from an international perspective. There’s a great understanding of where the game is going. We need to continue those same conversations with the ECB and English cricket. It will definitely shape how cricket looks in the future.” ●



“The landscape looks really different in women’s cricket. Contracts have changed a lot since I started.”
NAT SCIVER-BRUNT



The PURSUIT of JUSTICE

With no intent to pinpoint blame following an interview on discrimination with the BBC, Anuj Dal became a victim of racist abuse, so he sought justice. Luke Reynolds finds out more about his story...

Tuesday 8 February 2022 is a date that Anuj Dal will always remember, the day he attended Parliament to provide evidence to the Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee.

Attending with PCA colleagues in Chair James Harris, Non-Executive Chair Julian Metherell and Chief Executive Rob Lynch, the Derbyshire all-rounder was a key figure, providing an eloquent account of the depths the game found itself in.

In his role as Vice Chair of the player-body and the representative from his county's dressing room, the then 25-year-old presented the challenges he and his peers of ethnic minority have faced in the game through his lived experience, in a balanced manner.

Resolute on maintaining anonymity of past incidents, Dal's maturity beyond his years led to media interest and a thought-provoking piece on the BBC in April, just two months later. The public service broadcaster provided a platform for Dal, of South Asian heritage,



Anuj Dal in conversation with Beyond the Boundaries.

RIGHT Dal speaks at a Digital, Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee hearing about his experience.

to acknowledge the past but at his request, to focus on a future of collaboration and equality.

Being a voice for the greater-good is clearly a passion of the former England Under 19s right-arm seamer, appointed Harris' deputy in 2021. However, Dal's inner-strength was tested to its core following a racist attack on his Facebook profile in response to his BBC interview.

Left stunned on the verge of the 2022 summer, he contacted the PCA to start an 18-month journey to bring the perpetrator to justice, provide closure and to educate the offender and the wider-game, there are consequences to these actions.

HOW DID YOU FEEL WHEN YOU RECEIVED RACIST ABUSE?

I remember being sat in the middle of one of our player meetings when I saw the message and I was quite shaken up by that the fact somebody that I never even knew has sought me out on Facebook and sent me a direct message.

I wanted to understand why they have targeted me, and I had lots of questions at that point.

It was quite a scary time to be honest, I didn't know who this person was, I didn't know whether they were going to come and find me at the ground or seek me out or go to my home address.

WHAT WERE YOUR NEXT STEPS?

Fortunately, through the PCA and Charlie Mulraine my Personal Development Manager, I showed him the message and he gave me an indication that we should do something with this and it was escalated.

Throughout that time after Charlie recommended that we go through the police, Matt Himsworth through B5 Consultancy was there as my

personal lawyer throughout the whole procedure. He was a sounding board and somebody who could set expectations. His service was completely invaluable, and I wouldn't have been able to do it without him.

Working with Matt, we contacted Nottinghamshire police and got in touch with one of the officers who then came to my address and took a statement and then explained the process and what it was going to involve.

HOW HELPFUL WERE THE POLICE?

They put a marker on my parents' house, my house and also the cricket ground so it was taken very seriously.

The police were brilliant, especially the officer I had dealing with it. They made me feel very comfortable.

It was a lengthy process because they had to track the individual down which required lots of data and they had lots of programmes to be able to do this.

I was under the impression there wasn't going to be anything in terms of potential criminal prosecutions

because it was very blurred in terms of the contents of the message so there wasn't anything they could pinpoint and say this is a criminal offence that they could go to prison for.

We got to a stage three or four months down the line where they managed to track the individual, they located where he was. Finding their location was a shock for me because I didn't think it would be a possibility.

We were then recommended Restorative Justice where somebody from their team would essentially meet with the individual, look to get information from him which they would pass to me.

WHAT DID RESTORATIVE JUSTICE DO FOR YOU?

We had three or four meetings and at every one I felt like it was all about what I wanted to get from the process.

They took care of the details of what I needed from the individual and gave the information back to me. They made me feel very supported and that's the important thing.

The last thing I wanted was to go to court for a formal procedure. That would have been quite intimidating, and I said to them that's my main issue. The



Restorative Justice process gave me that closure without having to go through an intensive procedure.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

I did have the option to meet the individual face to face which I turned down in the end because I didn't want to know who it was or put a face to a name.

He wrote me a letter and he said he had instantly regretted what he said and that he didn't think it would have the impact on me that it actually did. I think from my side it was for him to understand the severity of his actions and to ensure he would never do it again but also there was a marker that was put on him as an individual with the police so if anything was to happen again then criminal procedural route would be the next step.

That was the benefit for me, I knew a lot of bases were covered and it was never going to happen again with this individual. I knew I had to put him through quite a gruelling process, over a year and a half for him having to go and give statements to the police.

WHY ARE YOU SPEAKING OUT ABOUT THIS?

Hopefully this can be a bit of a showpiece for people to understand there are actual consequences for actions that are not tolerated.

I consider myself fortunate that I have gone through this process, understanding the resources from the PCA. Ultimately, we want to get to a point where nobody is using this resource, completely eradicating such issues within the game.

People might think even if you have 100,000 followers that they might not see it. I guarantee you a lot of players are seeing a lot of things and reading a lot of things, and everything gets taken personally. Cricketers are not robots, we take things to heart, we have emotion at the end of the day.

WHAT IS YOUR ADVICE TO PCA MEMBERS?

I want to try and urge players to start speaking out because that is the biggest factor to start putting people off from saying these things.

I spoke to Matt at great length at the end of the season and thanked him for everything that he had done throughout this time. He's such a valuable resource there for all players which is amazing and a common theme throughout the PCA, people don't actually realise some of the services that are offered to players, hence why I am trying to raise awareness for this.

Players don't need to hide behind any issues that they are dealing with. There are facilities and resources that are here to help and B5 Consultancy is just a fantastic example of that. ●



What is Restorative Justice?

Restorative Justice gives victims the chance to explain to offenders the impact of the crime and get answers to questions through a safe, facilitated process. It holds offenders to account for their actions, helps them understand the impact of the crime, take responsibility and make amends. Restorative Justice has the power to change people's lives.

"Restorative justice brings those harmed by crime or conflict and those responsible for the harm into communication, enabling everyone affected by a particular incident to play a part in repairing the harm and finding a positive way forward." Restorative Justice Council



I want to try and urge players to start speaking out because that is the biggest factor to start putting people off from saying these things.

Back from the Brink



Leicestershire keeper-batter, Harry Swindells, was on Leicestershire's released list in mid-September, until a last-gasp call-up changed his life. Ollie Westbury stories how his fate turned around in the blink of an eye.

The summer of 2023 saw the pendulum swing from real lows to an exhilarating high for Harry Swindells – all in the space of 24 hours.

In the final year of his contract with Leicestershire, and having been out of favour for the majority of the 2023 season – Swindells had started planning for life after cricket.

That was until he made a stunning, match-winning unbeaten 117 for his side in the Metro Bank One Day Cup Final against Hampshire at Trent Bridge which ultimately saved his career, seeing him rewarded with a new two-year deal with the Foxes.

But much of his season was pure frustration to that point. "I thought I was going to play a little bit more than I did," said Swindells. "I forced my way into the T20 team and I was sort of in and out, I got dropped three or four times.

"I had not featured in the red-ball side and did not play in

the 50-over competition, but I kept on trying to work as hard as I could for hopefully one opportunity."

Swindells continued to work hard even when things were going against him, perhaps built from the inner steel that saw him make his way into the professional arena.

He did not come into county cricket via the conventional route. With a proud working class upbringing, Swindells was playing men's cricket by the age of 12 with little opportunity to play his sport at his state school. He found himself playing for Narborough & Littlethorpe's third XI as well as for their Under 17 team. By the time he was 16, and on the academy at Leicestershire, he had been forced to play the highest level of club cricket he could.

That meant joining Sam Evans at Leicester Ivanhoe, a partnership that would go on to produce one of the most important partnerships in the Foxes' recent history in the ➤

Harry Swindells

2023 One Day Cup final.

The 24-year-old, who is also the PCA rep at the Uptonsteel County Ground, believes this journey provided him with a solid foundation for his career.

“I am a state school boy so I did not really play too much cricket at school, I went down the club cricket path and that system.

“I am very fortunate that I have had a lot of good mentors and a lot of great people around me from such a young age and that has helped me to become the player I am today.

“It threw me in at the deep end and you have to develop from a young age ways to perform against older men, who were better, bigger and stronger than you.”

Swindells is part of a sports-mad family. His father lives and breathes football, but Harry is the only cricketer in his family – something he feels has helped his progression. A rapid progression as a



It is the reason you try and train so hard to win a trophy like that for the team.

young lad that led to representing England Under 19s in 2017, alongside the likes of Harry Brook and Will Jacks.

“I have had to find ways to do it myself and I have never been pressured into playing cricket. I am very grateful for that as I am not sure how it would have gone if I was always pressured into doing something.”

However, his family have always been there to support him, especially on one of his darkest days as the realisation set in his career could well be over. On a bleak mid-September day, the wicketkeeper was sat in a cafe with his dad planning the next steps in his career after being told he would not be offered a new deal.

Thankfully, Swindells’ story was not over and just hours later Alfonso Thomas, the Foxes interim head coach, called him to say he was playing in the final, his first List A game of the summer.

He had been considering a career as a mortgage advisor or in a trade, and within a few days, the complexion of his career had turned on its head, for the better. And his friends and family were all there to see it.

“It is the reason you try and train so hard to win a trophy like that for the team, it was an amazing day, all my family and my friends were there so it was special.

“My opportunity came in the final and thankfully it went my way. I was



hoping it would come, and I have had some pretty good times at Trent Bridge which was quite nice to fall back on.”

The Foxes were 89-6 when he came to the crease but he was batting with his old mate Evans and the pair got them back into the game to set 268 to win, with Swindells hitting a maiden List A century. The underdogs won by two runs.

“It was amazing, we were in a pretty sticky situation, but being out there with Sam (Evans) made the situation easier.

“I have played with him for the last 15 or 16 years we knew what we had to do and take it deep, thankfully everything came together.”

A pipe dream just days previous, Swindells gave Leicestershire their first List A silverware since 1985 and saved his career. A lesson to never give up. ●

TOP: A flick over the midwicket boundary takes Harry Swindells four runs closer to a trophy winning century.
LEFT: Leicestershire's middle-order bat is awarded his Player of the Match trophy and a bottle of Chapel Down.



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Behind the Velvet Rope

Rewarding the outstanding performers and performances from an incredible 2023 season, the cinch PCA Awards were brought to you live from the Troxy.

Culminating in an event held in East London, the current and former players, partners and stakeholders were not let down by the 54th edition of England & Wales cricket's most prestigious awards ceremony.

As an event, the awards grow in stature year on year. Helped in no small part in 2023 by a fantastic season. One that saw two concurrent Ashes series light up a home summer.

A peer vote – for magnificent performances across the last 12 months – the top four performers were presented with the highest individual accolades as a marker for their sterling efforts.

For cinch PCA Men's Player of the Year, Harry Brook, that meant a first of its kind PCA Awards hat-trick. Having won three player-voted awards in

successive seasons, following his cinch PCA Men's Young Player of the Year award successes in 2021 and 2022.

"I wasn't expecting to win this if I'm honest," said the 24-year-old. "The highlight for me has been contributing to wins for my country. I want to continue doing that."

Voting for Tammy Beaumont, it proved once again that the right-hander is a world-leading opening batter. Beaumont scored an Ashes Test double-hundred and became the first woman to reach triple-figures in The Hundred.



Two obvious highlights in what was a fantastically consistent 12-months of cricket.

Yet, despite a terrific year, the PCA Women's Player of the Year was surprised to be nominated. "The likes of Nat (Sciver-Brunt), Georgia Adams and Bryony Smith had brilliant summers. But to have your peers vote for you is what makes these awards so special."

Again, speaking on behalf of the team, the 32-year-old continued. "Yes, the double-hundred was nice, but we didn't win that game, so I should have got more in the second innings, but I am incredibly proud

OH WHAT A NIGHT: PCA members and current crop of players all enjoy a fantastic night at Troxy, East London.



TO HAVE YOUR PEERS VOTE FOR YOU IS WHAT MAKES THESE AWARDS SO SPECIAL.

Tammy Beaumont

of that achievement. And the summer we had as a team."

Following in Beaumont and Brook's footsteps are 17-year-old Mahika Gaur and Somerset's James Rew. Taking home the PCA Women's and Men's Young Player of the Year awards respectively.

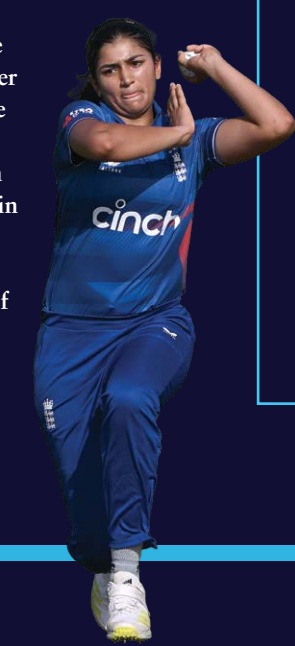
Rew's breakthrough season saw him accumulate five centuries in red-ball cricket – including a career best 221 against Hampshire – seeing him lead the vote, ahead of Gloucestershire's Ollie Price, and Surrey & England's Jamie Smith.

For Gaur it was a season that

saw her light the touchpaper in terms of representative cricket. Bursting onto the scene for club and country, the 6'2" left-arm quick topped the poll ahead of her Thunder and England teammate Sophie Ecclestone and Northern Diamonds' Bess Heath. Her figures of 3-26 in England's first ODI against Sri Lanka being the catalyst for it all.

On the big night in London, for the pair to share their success in front of 500

guests felt like another marker in history. The great names that have won those awards in years gone by forming the foundations of the event – and its success – is built from. ●



ROLL OF HONOUR

- cinch PCA Women's Player of the Year
Tammy Beaumont
- cinch PCA Men's Player of the Year
Harry Brook
- cinch PCA Women's Young Player of the Year
Mahika Gaur
- cinch PCA Men's Young Player of the Year
James Rew
- PCA Outstanding Contribution Award
Tom Smith
- Rado Recognition Award
The England Women's team
- ECB Special Merit
Stuart Broad and Katherine Sciver-Brunt
- PCA Umpire of the Year - Men's Game
Michael Gough
- PCA Umpire of the Year - Women's Game
Anna Harris



Mappin & Webb
LONDON



Silver Linings

Cast by Mappin & Webb, the PCA Outstanding Contribution Award was awarded to Tom Smith at the Troxy. Here's how his night unfolded.

Matters on the field saw trophies handed out to PCA Players of the Year and Overall domestic MVPs Georgia Adams and Liam Dawson at the most prestigious night in cricket. But it was the Outstanding Contributions Award that had everyone on their feet. Created in the Mappin & Webb workshop by their silversmiths, the bespoke trophy recognises Tom Smith's efforts outside of the field of play. Since the passing of his wife Laura in 2018, Smith has made it his duty to make fellow professionals aware of the benefits to appropriate life insurance. Having played a vital role in advocating for funding to support players with critical health insurance, the Gloucestershire spinner has turned his story into one of positivity and hope.

Helping others in memory of his late wife is something that will have a lasting impact on the PCA and its members. Reflecting on the night, Smith said that "having all the players standing, and walking through the crowd was so special, at the end of the day that's who I was trying to support." ●



Walking through the crowd was so special, at the end of the day that's who I was trying to support.

Tom Smith



Mappin & Webb
LONDON

Mappin & Webb PCA Partnership

Mappin and Webb, a renowned British luxury brand, has been at the forefront of silver craftsmanship for over two centuries.

Over the years, Mappin and Webb have had the privilege of creating some of the most iconic sporting trophies in history, such as the first Football League Cup in 1962 and the Ryder Cup back in 1927. The Mappin and Webb silver workshop is a testament to the brand's commitment to excellence and attention to detail. Mappin & Webb are proud to be the official award and trophy supplier to the Professional Cricketers' Association. As part of our partnership, we are pleased to offer all members 10% off Swiss brand watches* and 15% off our jewellery collections. *(exclusions apply)

As a business we also pride ourselves on the unique, bespoke service available to clients who desire a more personalised and custom experience. This service allows clients to create their own one-of-a-kind pieces of jewellery tailored to their individual tastes and preferences. The process begins with a consultation with one of Mappin and Webb's expert craftsmen or designers. During this consultation, the client can discuss their vision, ideas, and requirements for the piece they wish to create. The craftsmen will provide guidance and expertise, helping the client refine their ideas and offering suggestions to ensure the final piece is both aesthetically pleasing and functional.

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For all enquiries, please contact
Karl Bailey, Corporate Sales Manager:
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T: +44 (0)7795 398 735

An Ashes Summer

The summer of 2023 will be remembered for two of the greatest Ashes series ever contested across the men's and women's game. A pair of draws was far from the full story, with the hosts clawing back early setbacks and ending both series as the dominant force, pushing for historic victories. Beyond the Boundaries picks out the best shots from behind the lens of Getty Images.



The Dawn of a new Era

June 22: It's all smiles in the huddle ahead of the Women's Ashes Test match at Trent Bridge. Despite English efforts being in vain, their first innings score of 463 saw a double-century from Tammy Beaumont alongside half centuries from Heather Knight and Nat Sciver-Brunt that would set the tone for the rest of the series. With figures of 10/192 across two innings, Sophie Ecclestone also became just the fifth woman to take five-wicket hauls in both innings. Significant above all was the final fifth day, a late turnaround saw the Aussies gain the lasting advantage. Thwarted by a haul of wickets from Ashleigh Gardner, England finished 89 runs short.

Suited and Booted

June 28: Ben Stokes strides out of the Long Room with purpose ahead of the second Men's Ashes Test match. Surrounded by the Bacon and Egg ties of the MCC, the gentle buzz around the home of cricket that morning was largely focussed on talk of an infamous declaration at Edgbaston. A last-ditch partnership between Pat Cummins and Nathan Lyon took Australia home in that game with two wickets to spare. But Stokes' England promised to stay true to themselves and not lie down.



Stumped

July 2: After carrying off a Just Stop Oil protester on the first morning of the Lord's Test match, Jonny Bairstow's series was about to get even stranger. Straying from his crease after the final ball of an over on the last day, Alex Carey lobbed the ball at the stumps leaving Bairstow stumped. Innocuous at first, the incident would ignite the series. Australia took a 2-0 lead at the close of play with tensions boiling over throughout the day.



The Ashes Reignited

July 5: A nail-biting night's cricket in front of a packed house at the Kia Oval saw the Ashes come back to life with England's three-run win coming on the last ball. Led by Danni Wyatt's powerful innings, England managed to wrestle back some initiative after a middle order collapse left them 119-6. With wickets a plenty for both spinners, Sophie Ecclestone held her nerve at the close to bring England home.



Bells and Whistles

July 16: Lauren Bell dismisses Alyssa Healy for just 13 leaving Australia treading water at 27-2. When it was England's turn to bat a magnificent 111 not out from Nat Sciver-Brunt took the hosts to within five from the last ball. With the added pressure of a potential 8-6 series lead, the then 29-year-old could manage only a single. Despite disappointment, goals set by coach Jon Lewis to "inspire and entertain" had been well and truly met.



Driving Initiative

July 29: After rain in Manchester put a dampener on proceedings, England continued to put Australia on the back foot with their unapologetic aggression. Pictured, Zak Crawley lofts a drive over the cover boundary on day three of the fifth Ashes Test at the Kia Oval. Scoring 73 runs from just 76 balls, the 25-year-old had set the tone for England throughout the series and wasn't going to stop.



Out of the Blue

July 12: England's fielding provided entertainment for the crowd in their first ODI; McGrath, Perry, Mooney and Jonassen were all presented with early let offs before Ecclestone saw off Lichfield in the 13th over by plucking the ball from relative thin air. Heather Knight shepherded her side home in Bristol, finishing unbeaten on 75 after England had previously stuttered to 236-8 in chase of 263. With the series now levelled, the Ashes were tantalisingly within reach for both sides.



The Curtain Call

July 31: Two legends of English cricket, Stuart Broad and Moeen Ali, walk off to an appreciative Oval crowd after bringing the series to a vintage close. Chris Woakes and Moeen Ali shared seven wickets on the final day to send a promising run chase – that started 140 without loss – down the pan. But the evening session would all be about Broad. Haring in from the Pavilion End – bandana flowing in the wind – Nottinghamshire's finest found the edge of Todd Murphy's bat to end Australian hopes of a record chase. Hitting his last ball for six as a Test batter clearly wasn't enough. ●

Developing Unanimity To Improve Cricket For All

Members join together at Player Summit to develop a collective voice and share their desires with the PCA and ECB.

As cricket's landscape grows at an exponential rate, so does the importance of understanding what players want their union and governing body to provide for them.

Set amongst the hustle and bustle of London, this was a central theme that ran through the 2023 PCA Player Summit.

Across two autumnal days, a total of 23 players from across England and Wales gathered to discuss the game's key issues before lobbying representatives of both the PCA and the ECB, clearly setting out their concerns and desires.

They came armed with the thoughts of their dressing rooms, having been tasked with collecting their teammates' views beforehand. This translated into many in-depth conversations, with everyone involved keen to share their views and experiences to create a unified voice.

Several topics were debated, with the upcoming renegotiations of the County Partnership Agreement (CPA) and Regional Partnership Agreement (RPA) at the forefront. Other areas included the future of The Hundred, how best to continue growing the women's game and concerns over scheduling.

Developing this shared consensus on the opening morning was vitally important for PCA Chair James Harris to ensure he knew exactly what to pitch to the PCA and ECB across the remainder of the Summit.

"We had a really constructive couple of days. We had more conversations amongst the players and gave them as much opportunity as we could to air their views," Harris recalled.

"We need to make sure that going into the CPA and RPA negotiations, the PCA is as clear as possible about what the players want the outcomes to be.

"Now we've canvassed that opinion, over the next six months going into the negotiations we will be better positioned to go and get what the members want."

Many of those in attendance expressed their appreciation at having their voices heard by the PCA and the ECB. Representatives of the governing body – Richard Gould, Vik Banerjee, Alan Fordham and Beth Barrett-Wild – came in on the final day to talk the players through their upcoming plans.

Being able to hear from and speak to the PCA was greatly appreciated by all of those in attendance, including Essex PCA rep Sam Cook.

"It's so important that players' views are expressed and it's really good that everyone was aligned on pretty much all the issues that were presented," he said.

"They certainly listened to what we had to say and it's extremely important that going forward we continue to lobby the ECB, hold them accountable for the decisions they're making and make sure players' interests are always at the forefront of what they're doing."



Players join together at the 2023 PCA Player Summit to share their desires as a collective voice.



Over the past couple of years, the men have become real allies of the women's game.
LUCY HIGHAM

This was echoed by Harris, who added: "It's great the ECB are prepared to talk to us and listen to the players. To be able to tell them our views and what we think about the game is wholly important. Hopefully they'll go away with some good points and have a think about a few things."

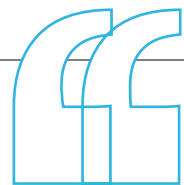
Continuing to develop the women's game was discussed at great length across the two days. Players highlighted the need for better infrastructure and improved training and support for coaches, while also discussing the how best to increase the professionalisation of squads, where salaries should be increased and providing support for non-contracted players.

Rather than just letting the female members in attendance to deliberate these topics, many of the male players spoke up and shared their experiences of how cricket has changed for them, indicating their desire for the women's game to grow and flourish.

The Blaze PCA rep Lucy Higham greatly appreciated this, stating: "It's interesting to sit and listen to where the men's game is and how they've got here.

"We're still quite inexperienced. Having those conversations and learning about what is happening, why it's happening and understanding what underpins things such as increasing is vastly important.

"Over the past couple of years, the men have become real allies of the women's game. They were speaking on behalf of us and to be in that position where we're all rallying for the same outcomes in the game that we love, we play, and we dedicate ➡



Passion is the word that comes to mind.

ROB LYNCH

our lives to, is so important.”

This was just one example of the unanimity that dominated proceedings throughout the Summit as players made clear their ambition to work as a group to improve the game for all. This impressed PCA Chief Executive Officer Rob Lynch.

“From the England men’s and women’s teams through to the counties and regions, I’ve never seen a time when the players have been so engaged and knowledgeable about the issues that the game faces,” he enthused.

“Passion is the word that comes to mind; the players are the game’s biggest asset and it’s great to see them wanting to have their say for the future of cricket.” ●

MEET THE REP

Lucy Higham

“I see myself as the mother hen of the group so being the PCA rep for The Blaze is something I slotted into nicely,” says Lucy Higham.

This season has been one to remember for Higham, who has represented The Blaze and the Northern Superchargers in three finals over the course of the summer.

The off-break bowler also achieved her best figures in List A cricket with the 5-19 she took against the Central Sparks back in April.

The 25-year-old was born and bred in the East Midlands having grown up playing for Leicestershire before moving to Nottinghamshire in 2017.

Her connection to the region and her talent led to her becoming the PCA rep at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic, at the time The Blaze were still known as Loughborough Lightning.

She told the PCA: “My first year as rep was during Covid, since then with the way the game has grown with more players getting professional contracts, it has been great to try and help play a part in it.

“I think the PCA is massively important, when we first went professional there was no route into professional cricket other than playing for England.

“That has changed now. It was a

big learning curve and the support on offer has been fantastic. With the growth of the women’s game, the guidance and the encouragement they offer is second to none.”

The Hundred has offered a platform to female cricketers to show their skill on the biggest stage and the PCA will continue to play a big part in evolving it further.

The Association wants feedback from all players to help move forward, and Higham says at The Blaze they get opinions from a variety of age ranges.

She continued: “The age of players



Our young players have some fantastic opinions, as well as the senior players of course, they are not afraid to speak.

LUCY HIGHAM

giving feedback is becoming less important, we have a great group at The Blaze, and the young players are really mature, so we are quite lucky in that respect.

“Our young players have some fantastic opinions, as well as the senior players of course, they are not afraid to speak.

“I see it as my job to gauge those thoughts and opinions and to feed them back to try and implement change.”

Higham has had her own challenges during her career to this point, and she can recall the support the Association provided during those difficult times.

She said, “I have spent a lot of time being injured and the help they have given me has just been absolutely impeccable and I probably would not be where I am today without their help.

“With the way the game is growing the support alongside that is going to need to adapt and I want to help support that.” ●



Key topics

1 ALIGNED MEMBERSHIP & SUPPORT: Need to hear the views of all players, not just reps; potential to bring in junior reps to work more with younger members; non-professional women’s players should also receive support.

3 SCHEDULING: Men’s players concerned about welfare issues surrounding current schedule, particularly volume of four-day and T20 cricket; women’s players believe not enough professional cricket is being played.

5 INFRASTRUCTURE AND FULL-TIME CONTRACTS IN WOMEN’S GAME: Players keen for fully contracted squads but don’t believe infrastructure is in place for this to happen yet; semi-pro contracts mooted to ‘bridge the gap’ and allow players to continue dual careers whilst receiving support.

2 SALARIES: Men’s players highlighted dissatisfaction with 12.5% deduction for participating in The Hundred; women’s players concerned domestic salaries too low and want The Hundred to be a bonus, not a lifeline.

4 FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT: Players want the PCA to continue to protect this freedom where possible.

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





Donna's Blog

Our EDI vision is to create a culture of inclusion amongst our membership and workforce where everyone feels respected, treated fairly and has access to opportunities to thrive.

One year has flown since I joined the PCA and this vision has been at the front of my mind ever since. Being 12 months in offers a great opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved to date. The 'Learn Before Wicket' (LBW) EDI education programme has gone from strength to strength with new Inclusion Champions joining the team and new content based on player feedback.

The LBW series originally started with seven topics and now we are offering eight topics, one of which is in collaboration with Nujum Sports, delivering Faith & Religion. You never know how education content will land until it's delivered so I am pleased that players have been open and honest with their feedback in order for the education to be better. As a reminder, the topics are: Inclusive Language, Intersectionality, Allyship, Unconscious bias, Faith & Religion, Disability Inclusion, LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Anti-discrimination.

"The sessions are educational and helps everybody understand certain behaviours, but also makes you aware of what you're saying, doing and how you act with others." Current Northern Diamonds player.

"Very interactive. I will certainly think about my language more." Current Leicestershire player.

We are well underway with our second round of topics with the professional squads and we're now in the process of working with the ECB's EDI team and Anti-Discrimination Unit to identify an organisation to support us with delivering a new anti-discrimination module.

While the LBW series has been taken into changing rooms, the ICEC Report was published in the summer. The PCA welcomed

the report and we are very committed to working with the ECB and our stakeholders to address the significant recommendations. We genuinely always viewed the report as an opportunity to drive change for the benefit of our membership whilst looking at ourselves as a player association. As a result, we are exploring the support we offer if players report any forms of discrimination.

Our reporting mechanisms haven't changed, however, it's about what we do to support our members if something arises. Therefore, we have developed an EDI complaints process to ensure there is consistency of action in a timely manner. Alongside this process, the accountability of who is responsible to manage situations lies with me, but with a triage team within the PCA. Developing the process highlighted the need to explore independent mediation support and we are in the process of understanding what such costs will look like. Our view is that as a medium, mediation offers our members that independent voice to support player on player issues and PCA staff.

"I had never been told what to do in this situation nor could I find information... An easy-to-find document that clearly outlined what to do and what would happen, would have helped."
PCA member on understanding the reporting process



Looking ahead

Planning for 2024 started in the autumn, just like all athletes we plan for the year ahead way in advance, so I already have a view of what I want to achieve next year – taking into account that there are a couple of areas I didn't quite deliver this year, which will roll over to 2024.

My vision still remains which is aligned to our values, but the deliverables and KPIs will change year on year to help progress against the vision. In 2024, *we will continue to embed equity, diversity and inclusion into our culture and our operations with a focus on accountability, education and clarity through sharing our progress.*

THERE ARE FOUR KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2024:

LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABILITY	PLAYER ENGAGEMENT	WORKPLACE INCLUSION	LEADING ASSOCIATION IN EDI FOR PLAYERS
Develop inclusive leadership behaviours and skills capabilities. Have our leadership team contribute to building our culture.	Continue to deliver EDI education across our membership in support of the ICEC report.	Create a culture where all people feel safe, respected and connected – able to contribute and perform to their full potential.	Promote the PCA as an employer of choice and a leading professional players association.
Develop structures and strategies that motivate our leadership team to promote equity and inclusion and celebrate diversity.	Develop relations with Player Representatives to help inform EDI programme and EDI communications plan.		Develop strong connections and collaboration across the game, external partners and communities.
			Diversify our supplier database.

So here's to another year, thank you to my PCA colleagues, the EDI Working Group, the Player Representatives and an extra special thank you to my six Inclusion Champions: Alex Tudor, Abi Sakande, Arul Suppiah, David Thompson, Georgia Elwiss and Gemaal Hussain for your commitment, passion and support for the LBW programme.

I look forward to sharing our progress in the next issues. Wishing you all an enjoyable festive season, be safe and see you next year! ●



Continuing to embed equity, diversity and inclusion into our culture and our operations.

Reporting Discrimination:

Visit: thezca.co.uk/reporting-mechanisms/#reporting
Call: 0800 389 0031

- cricketintegrityline.co.uk
- equality@thezca.co.uk
- equality@ecb.co.uk

Whistleblowing Hotline:
thezca.co.uk/reporting-mechanisms/#whistleblowing

Call from outside line dial the direct access number for your location: **0-800-89-0011**;
At the English prompt dial: **844-979-4951**

EDI WORKING GROUP

Our EDI Working Group has been instrumental in delivering our EDI vision and I want to take this opportunity to thank them all for their support in 2023. The development of our EDI dashboard has offered direction by holding the group to account to take action. This approach will continue next year and no doubt the conversations and decisions being made will help cricket progress.

Championing Authenticity

Gemaal Hussain has joined the PCA Inclusion Champions team and can't wait to start supporting players with their Equality, Diversity and Inclusion education.

Having to wait for a professional debut until the age of 25 and retiring from the game just five years later, Gemaal Hussain brings a unique perspective to the PCA Inclusion Champions team.

An international coach with Scotland and Pakistan's women's sides, as well as the Singapore men's team, the 40-year-old is now dedicated to lifestyle mentoring and coaching for ambitious and aspiring cricketers looking to make their mark on the professional game.

The former Gloucestershire and Somerset seamer is the latest PCA member to join the now six strong team of Inclusion Champions led by EDI Director Donna Fraser, in delivering the 'Learn Before Wicket' (LBW) educational programme.

What made you want to become a PCA Inclusion Champion?

I know that EDI is a big topic and it's an important issue in life, not just cricket. I can offer an interesting perspective having spent time in the professional game and enduring quite a difficult process of trying to break into the game. With my coaching I've taken on some quite diverse roles in Scotland and Pakistan women's teams. I feel I have a wide array of experience and I can add value to the really good work that the PCA is doing.

Why is EDI education so important?

Raising the awareness is crucial, I think we all owe it to ourselves to remain as educated as possible in this

space. I think the PCA have earned the responsibility to address these types of issues, they've done a great job with elements on the other side of the boundary rope.

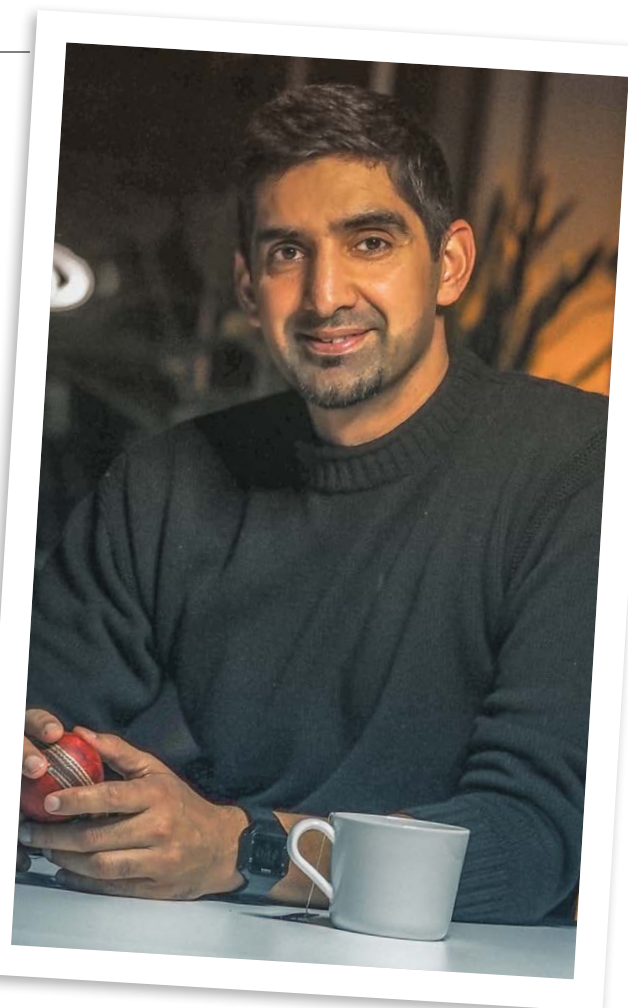
Are you looking forward to delivering the LBW sessions?

I am looking forward to it. My first one will be with the Worcestershire Academy, and it will be nice to speak to a group who are a similar age to the groups I've been working with recently. Obviously, Donna is an expert in the field so it's going to be great to have the opportunity to learn from the best.

What do you want to bring to the role?

I've obviously got my perspective on things, I communicate very well and I'd like to bring a voice of authenticity to the process. I'll bring my own experiences to the table, and I think quite a lot of players will be able to relate to my experiences. I come from a British Pakistani background and my journey has allowed me to understand what it takes to work out solutions to various problems. More than anything I want to help cricketers to overcome challenges around these topics.

PCA Inclusion Champions: Georgia Elwiss, Gemaal Hussain, Abi Sakande, Arul Suppiab, David Thompson, Alex Tudor. ●



Gemaal Hussain appeals for a wicket for Somerset at The County Ground in Taunton, May 2011.



CRICKET FOR ALL

Out4Cricket is working across all levels of the game to make cricket a fully inclusive environment for the LGBTQ+ community.

Out4Cricket is the brainchild of Lachlan Smith and Leo Skyner and came about when their two LGBTQ+ inclusion teams played against each other in 2021.

Following the successes of Graces CC and Birmingham Unicorns CC, Smith and Skyner realised the clubs demonstrated that the LGBTQ+ community wanted to engage with cricket, but many, haven't been able to find a way to get involved that includes

them for who they are, thus Out4Cricket was born.

The organisation now engages with all levels of the game from recreational to elite cricket, giving advice and running education sessions to ensure that cricket is a sport for all.

"We decided we needed a proper way of engaging with stakeholders and if they need support or advice that they have a proper place to come to. Out4Cricket was developed as a community interest company which has enabled Leo and I and the people involved to have a vehicle in which to engage the sport and have conversations around inclusion in cricket."

Out4Cricket have been working with recreational clubs via educational pieces and are currently developing a charter with the ECB so clubs can demonstrate their culture and approach to LGBTQ+ inclusion.

"You may not have LGBTQ+ teammates but whether you do or not, people within your club will more than likely have friends, colleges, family members that are part of the community and so showing allyship and making

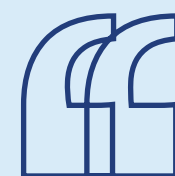
Professionals from around the country have donned their kits with rainbow laces and got involved with the PCA's support of the LGBTQ+ community.

sure your club is inclusive for everyone is really important."

The community interest company helped run the LGBTQ+ T10 cricket festival with Warwickshire in Birmingham this summer and have started working with the PCA in their EDI education workshop series, Learn Before Wicket.

"It's important to understand the barriers that LGBTQ+ people face in cricket and give players the opportunity to ask questions they might not be comfortable asking in other formats. We spend time looking at LGBTQ+ growth in cricket in England and Wales and getting the players to think about what allyship with the LGBTQ+ community looks like.

"Working with Donna Fraser and the PCA has been really productive and it's great to see the PCA being proactive and leading in EDI education in cricket and striving for change." ●



Playing cricket at an elite level, particularly within the male sphere, there's a lot of countries around the world where it's just not safe to be an LGBTQ+ person.

LACHLAN SMITH

You can find out more information on LGBTQ+ inclusion in cricket at out4cricket.org.uk and Leo and Lachlan are happy to answer any questions you might have via the Contact Us section.



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ANYA SHRUBSOLE
WESTERN STORM, SOUTHERN VIPERS & ENGLAND
 The first ever female on the Somerset Academy when aged 13, the Bath-born swing bowler's ability to move the ball in the air marked her out as one to watch. A host of England individual bowling records later, finishing as a 31-year-old and a multiple world champion and England's player of the tournament during the 2014 World T20.



ARRON LILLEY
LANCASHIRE & LEICESTERSHIRE
 The 32-year-old off-spinning all-rounder from Ashton-under-Lyne played 122 T20 games, 16 First-Class matches, and 36 List A appearances across an 11-year two-club career. A T20 Blast winner with the Red Rose in 2014, he was also an integral part in Lancashire's NatWest Trophy triumph in 2015. It being the first limited-over win for the club for 16 years.

CHARLIE MORRIS
WORCESTERSHIRE
 Hereford-born and Taunton educated, performances for Devon saw the right-arm swing bowler recommended to Worcestershire, where the now 31-year-old would go on to play 150 all-format games. With the 2014 First-Class season a highpoint – it realising 52 wickets and a promotion – alongside a Cricket Writers' Young Player of the Year nomination.



Retirees PCA members leaving the game.

ALEX HARTLEY
THUNDER & ENGLAND
 Thunder's Alex Hartley looks set to be as big a success off the field as the slow left-artermer proved on it, in her role as an energising and entertaining member of the BBC's radio output. Born in Blackburn, she would go on to play 32 times for the national team, winning the 2017 World Cup and pre-dating the emergence of contemporary Sophie Ecclestone. A career-best 4-24 came against West Indies at Kingston in 2016.



ALASTAIR COOK
ESSEX AND ENGLAND
 One of England's greatest openers and his country's highest run scorer in Test cricket. Cook played 161 Tests for England and was never dropped from the side. He missed just one game through injury back in 2006 – the year he scored a century on debut. Continuing to play for Essex for another five years after withdrawing from the international scene and now retires at the age of 38 having won both the County Championship and Bob Willis trophy with his county.

ANDREW SALTER
GLAMORGAN
 A wicket taken on Championship debut with the very first ball bowled – the first by a Glamorgan player in 56 years, and only the third time ever – makes for the best and arguably most challenging starts imaginable. Latterly used more of a batting all-rounder, the 30-year-old from Haverfordwest would go on to play over 200 all-format games for the county club.



GARETH BERG
MIDDLESEX, HAMPSHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
 This seam-bowling all-rounder was born in Cape Town, entered the county game on an Italian passport, and proved an influential presence across all three counties he played for. In a 15-year career he racked up over 300 first-team appearances, as well as 15 T20Is, in the colours of the 'Azzuri'.



DANE VILAS

LANCASHIRE

A county captain between 2019 and 2022, 38-year-old Vilas played six Tests (2015/16) and a single T20I (2012) for South Africa as a wicketkeeper-batter. In seven years at Old Trafford – four as captain – he led the Red Rose to three T20 Finals Day appearances and two Championship runners-up spots in 2021 and 2022.



KATHERINE SCIVER-BRUNT

NORTHERN DIAMONDS & ENGLAND

The Barnsley-born swing-bowling all-rounder's England career began in 2004, and she has since that time proven the mainstay of the attack, when free from injury, in all forms of the game. Bustling and bristling on the field, open and engaging off it, the 38-year-old retires as a World Cup winner, an Ashes winner and a great of the game as England's all-time wicket-taker in 50-over and 20-over cricket.



GRAEME WHITE

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

A T20 Blast winner in 2016, slow left-artermer White leaves the playing side of the game as the Steelbacks' leading short-form wicket-taker. The 36-year-old remains at Wantage Road as a multi-functional coach, leading across fielding and spin bowling, as well as second team head coach.



LUKE WRIGHT

LEICESTERSHIRE, SUSSEX & ENGLAND

Retiring from the game to take up the role of England selector, the bustling all-rounder played 50 ODIs for England and 51 T20Is, primarily as a hard-hitting top order batter. One of the game's first cricketers acknowledged as a 'franchise player', finished his career at the age of 37 after completing assignments in India, South Africa, New Zealand, Australia, Bangladesh, the Middle East and the UK.



GARY BALLANCE

DERBYSHIRE, YORKSHIRE, ZIMBABWE & ENGLAND

For a goodly period England's no.3, the left-hander amassed five Test hundreds in 24 matches, at an average better than 40, however three hundreds out of the gate marked him out as capable of even greater heights. A dual international – growing up on a tobacco farm in Harare – Ballance's career started and ended playing in Zimbabwe.



MATTIE MCKIERNAN

DERBYSHIRE

Lancashire-born all-rounder scored a maiden First-Class hundred against Leicestershire in 2022 on one of only eight First-Class appearances. He found himself, ultimately, as more of a short format specialist, his skiddy leg-breaks leading to 42 professional appearances and 45 well-earned wickets.

MICHAEL HOGAN

GLAMORGAN, KENT

A First-Class debut aged 28, this tall New South Wales born seamer made himself an ever-present with Glamorgan from 2013 onwards, when playing on a British passport. As the leader of the attack, he took better than 45 wickets every season until retirement, captaining the club in 2017 and 2018.



STUART BROAD

LEICESTERSHIRE, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & ENGLAND

A great of the game, Broad's ability to impact his sport was never more apparent than during 'that morning', when taking 8-15 against Australia at Trent Bridge in 2015. In total, the Nottingham-born opening bowler took five Test wickets in a single spell on seven occasions. A multiple Ashes winner, World champion, and an England T20 captain, this taker of 604 Test wickets has since found a new home on Sky Sports.



STEVEN DAVIES

SOMERSET, WORCESTERSHIRE, SURREY & ENGLAND

An influential force across a 20-year career, the Bromsgrove-born wicketkeeper-batter would play 13 times for England and go on to make in excess of 500 all-format first-team appearances at county level. He made 25 First-Class hundreds with 621 catches and 34 stumpings during that time.

SIMON KERRIGAN

LANCASHIRE, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A single Test in 2013 was underpinned by successful spells in the county game with Lancashire and latterly Northamptonshire. In his pomp, and bowling in tandem with fellow slow left-artermer, Gary Keedy, the pair would famously bowl the Red Rose to a Championship title in 2011. His total of 364 First-Class wickets included 16 five-fers and ten wickets in a match on three occasions.

TOM LACE

MIDDLESEX, DERBYSHIRE, GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The 25-year-old Hammersmith-born wicketkeeper-batter played 54 all-format games for three different counties between 2018 and 2022. A maiden hundred (143) came when playing for Derbyshire against Glamorgan at Swansea in 2019, made in a 291-run partnership with Billy Godleman. It is the highest tally for any wicket by a Derbyshire pair against the Welsh county.



STEVEN FINN

MIDDLESEX, SUSSEX & ENGLAND

Bursting onto the scene as a 16-year-old, Watford-born Finn would go on to play 36 Tests for England, where at his best, he was one of the team's most influential performers finishing with 125 Test wickets at an average of 30.40. The 34-year-old also took an impressive 129 white-ball wickets for his country and now fills his days as a self-deprecating but insightful voice on Test Match Special.

TIM MURTAGH

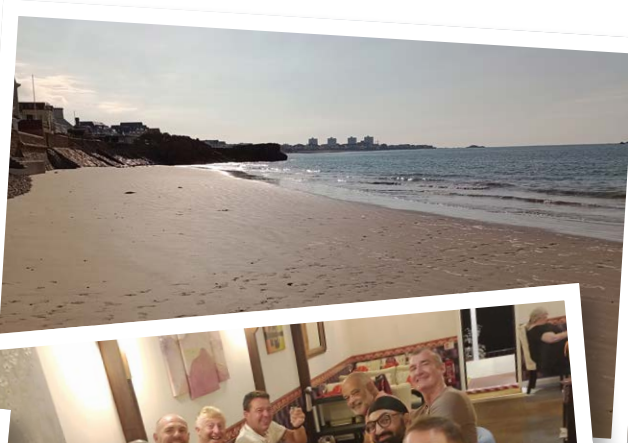
SURREY, MIDDLESEX & IRELAND

In taking a Test-best 5-13 against England at Lord's in 2019, the performance summarised everything good about the Lambeth-born seam bowler. Consistent, skilful and persistent, the 42-year-old proved good enough to play over 260 First-Class matches across 23 seasons, finishing with over 950 wickets, costing 24.55 apiece. Part of Middlesex's Championship-winning team in 2016, he remains at the Home of Cricket in a full-time coaching role. ●



Legends Jet Off To Jersey

A successful season on and of the pitch for the PCA England Legends culminated in a trip across the channel to face their Jersey counterparts.



The PCA England Legends found the time for a stroll on the beach and a curry whilst raising money for charity.

More than £150,000 was raised by the PCA England Legends for local clubs and schools in 2023 with the support of lead sponsors, Greene King.

The Legends enjoyed a bumper season, winning seven of their nine matches and playing in two highly competitive tournaments.

This season finished with a highly anticipated mini tour to the largest of the Channel Islands, Jersey.

Legends skipper Alex Tudor and fan-favourite Paul Nixon talk us through their Jersey journey:

TUDOR: I went to Jersey a few years ago to see if they would be interested in having the Legends over for a game. Stephen Newell our manager got in touch and made it happen and the lads seemed really excited for a mini tour to end the season.

NIXON: We all met at Luton airport and then had a short hop over on the flight. We arrived and went to the hotel by the beach where a few of us got in the water, a little dip to freshen up after the flight was brilliant. We had a team meal that night and it was great to spend time with guys I hadn't seen for a while.

TUDOR: The next morning, we went to the special educational needs school, Mont à L'Abbé,

in conjunction with the Lord's Taverners. It was emotional being there, the enthusiasm that the kids showed was great. The enjoyment that they got from playing these games was amazing to see. It means whatever your disability, you're able to participate in some form.

NIXON: The kids loved it and they had some great fun and laughter. Being there was quite emotional and seeing the smiles on their faces was incredible. One boy caught a ball whilst balancing on his frame and then threw the stumps down, the joy on his face and his sheer happiness will stay with me for the rest of my life.

TUDOR: We had a fantastic lunch and then a really good competitive game against the Jersey Legends. We got 192-4, thanks to a brilliant hundred from our Player of the Summer Ali Brown and managed to restrict them in the



A really good competitive game against the Jersey Legends. We got 192-4, thanks to a brilliant hundred from our Player of the Summer Ali Brown.

ALEX TUDOR



chase and come away with an 18-run victory.

NIXON: We had a great crowd in a beautiful little amphitheatre setting. There were loads of kids running around playing in the nets, getting autographs, it was a great atmosphere. We went for food and drinks after the presentation with the Jersey lads. We have good fun but it's all about raising money for causes above ourselves. There were a few sore heads the next morning after the game, so we were happy there wasn't any turbulence on the flight home.

TUDOR: I'm really proud of all the Legends this year, we've raised over £150,000 for clubs and schools with the help of our sponsors Greene King. We know that money goes to worthy causes such as investing in youth sections and improving facilities for the next generation. ●



If you're associated with a club or school that could benefit from hosting the Legends, get in touch on pcalegends@thepca.co.uk to find out the benefits and register your interest for 2024.

neon

Neon Cricket, the Official Bat Supplier of the PCA England Legends, has been busy developing a women's cricket range, inspired by England's leg-spinning all-rounder Sarah Glenn.



To find out more, we spoke to the 24-year-old...

WHAT WAS IT LIKE HELPING TO DEVELOP THE NEON CRICKET WOMEN'S RANGE?

So exciting! It's not often you get to design your own bat and the team were fantastic in understanding what I wanted and making the whole process personal to me. I had a vision in my mind of how I wanted it to look and I was thrilled with how it turned out.

HOW IMPORTANT IS IT THAT THERE IS WOMEN'S AND GIRL'S SPECIFIC KIT?

Everyone holds their bat differently, and we all have different strength levels at different ages so it's inconceivable that a one size fits all approach could work. I also had to use men's pads when I was younger, as I was too tall for the boys size, but they'd slow me down running between the wickets.

HOW MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE DOES GOOD KIT MAKE, WHEN YOU WALK OUT TO THE MIDDLE DOES IT IMPROVE YOUR CONFIDENCE?

Adaptations to your kit can go a long way and I want everyone to be playing at their full confidence, like I am. Going out there knowing you can perform to your best as your bat is the right weight, and your pads are appropriately sized, make such a difference.

THE NEON INFINITY BAT HAS JUST BEEN RELEASED, DESIGNED WITH YOUR HELP, HOW PROUD DOES THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

Having the infinity symbol which resembles memories of my grandma is really special. It reminds me of when I went to her for advice through tough times, and celebrating in the good times. I hope the range can help women and girls not feel like their only option is men's kit, and that they have the option of the infinity if they need.

SEARCH THE INFINITY RANGE AT: NEONCRICKET.CO.UK

Identity

IN THE LATEST IN THE PDM COACHING SERIES AND FOLLOWING ON FROM MANAGING DESELECTION AND CAREER EXPLORATION IN PREVIOUS ISSUES, PDM TOM JONES LOOKS INTO THE COMPLEX THEME OF IDENTITY...

Like anyone else, cricketers may face many challenges related to their identity. However, these can be unique due to the nature of the sport and the pressures associated with it.

When a player embarks on a professional career, they find themselves in an unparalleled, often all-encompassing environment. Coupled with an ever-increasing global schedule, players can base their identities around their occupation and skillset, instead of a wider focus on themselves as humans and everything they bring to the world.



“It wasn’t until I started to build a purpose away from the game that I started enjoying cricket again.”
ALEX HARTLEY

Spending considerable time out of the game due to injuries is a challenge to all sportspeople, especially when it comes to their identity. However, this can also be an opportunity to invest energy into other interests.

England fast bowler Mark Wood explains: “I’ve got a young family and I love spending time with them. I love going to my local cricket club – it’s where I’m happy, comfortable and all my friends go there. Having little bits and pieces too – a podcast or a business venture – keeps the mind ticking and me motivated.”

Recently retired spinner Alex Hartley has revealed how broadening her identity helped her fall back in love with the game after losing her England contract. “I found it really difficult to see where my career might end up,” the former Thunder player explains. “The emotional journey I’d been on had

shaped me as Alex Hartley the cricketer. It wasn’t until I started to build a purpose away from the game that I started enjoying cricket again.

“For me, that was developing my career as a broadcaster. Investing my energy into commentary offered a sense of perspective and, eventually, I started to feel love for the game again. Cricket became a hobby rather than the be-all-and-end-all.”

When faced with these challenges, cricketers should take advantage of support mechanisms around them to help broaden their identity. Personal Development Managers at the PCA promote a holistic approach that includes education, career planning and self-awareness, which can help members develop a stronger and more resilient sense of identity. However, this takes time and effort. It’s important to recognise that worth and identity extend beyond their performance on the field. Players should embrace the opportunities for personal growth and fulfilment that lie outside the realm of cricket. ●



10 ways cricketers can expand their identity:

- ➔ PURSUE EDUCATION
- ➔ EXPLORE HOBBIES AND INTERESTS
- ➔ BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH PEOPLE FROM MULTIPLE BACKGROUNDS
- ➔ SET GOALS BEYOND CRICKET
- ➔ PROMOTE POSITIVE WELLBEING
- ➔ GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY
- ➔ SEEK PROFESSIONAL GUIDANCE THROUGH PDMS
- ➔ ROBUST SCHEDULE PLANNING
- ➔ NETWORK AND CONNECT WITH OTHERS
- ➔ EMBRACE CHALLENGES AND SETBACKS

THE ENVIRONMENT OF ELITE SPORT CONTRIBUTES TO THIS IN MANY WAYS:



PUBLIC PERCEPTION V PERSONAL IDENTITY:

When the external perception of a player doesn’t align with their actual values, this can cause internal conflict and impact on mental wellbeing.



TRANSITIONING AWAY FROM CRICKET:

When leaving the sport, players often ask questions such as: ‘Who am I without my sport?’



INJURIES:

Players lose their structure when away from cricket for long periods and often interact less with teammates, potentially leading to social isolation.



SOCIAL ISOLATION:

The demands associated with cricket can mean it’s a lonely career. Athletes may have difficulty maintaining relationships outside of the sport, which can impact their sense of belonging.



IDENTITY OUTSIDE CRICKET:

Opportunities to explore and develop other interests beyond cricket can be difficult to find. Cricketers may not have the chance to pursue education or hobbies whilst playing, making it difficult to establish a well-rounded sense of self.



MEDIA AND PUBLIC SCRUTINY:

Judgement from the media and public can impact how cricketers perceive themselves and how they are perceived by others. Negative media coverage or public criticism often takes a toll on self-esteem and self-identity.

Career Transition

PCA Futures Week shines a light on enhancing player's personal development whilst telling career transition stories from the PCA membership.



Moving on to your second career after being a professional player can be tough. That's why PCA Futures Week aims to equip past and present players with the knowledge to make the transition as smooth as possible. A crucial seven days in the PCA's calendar, the Association's digital channels shared success stories of players transitioning to their next career as well as those currently going through the process.

Taking place in the first week of November, the flagship event is the Futures Conference, which took place for a sixth year, this time at the Elite Athlete Training Centre at Loughborough University, where members aged 23-60 from across the country heard from industry experts across two days. With an open invite to all members, the 16 participants took part in 13 sessions throughout the Conference which included several activities, exercises and discussions aimed at giving the players clarity on future career options.

Day one finished with a 'Player Stories' session in which former players Katherine Sciver-Brunt, Ben Cotton and Greg Smith shared their own personal transition stories. After hearing from the PCA's Official Financial Wellbeing Partner, Brooks Macdonald, followed by the Official Partner of the PCA Futures Awards, Ladders Solicitors, the event concluded with a 'Networking Carousel'.

This enabled attendees put into practice the skills they'd learnt over the two days giving them the chance to speak with PCA partners and other former players that had gone through the transition. ●

All past and present players have access to a regionalised Personal Development Manager. If you would like career advice, contact your PDM via page 60.



I've been a PCA member almost 40 years and to see the work they're doing is fantastic. It's great to see the younger players here and thinking about transition, because trust me you have to stop playing at some point and this Futures Conference gets them thinking about the transition as early as possible." **ECB MATCH REFEREE, DEVON MALCOLM**



We take care of our own.



Gloucestershire's left-arm spinner Tom Smith and his two daughters received support from the Professional Cricketers' Trust after the tragic passing of his wife, Laura.

"The Trust have given us so much, both financially and mentally. Without them, I wouldn't have been able to play cricket as much as I have done, and I'm also so grateful for the precious moments and family time in the last year of Laura's life."

professionalcricketerstrust.org



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Beyond the Boundaries catches up with fresh recruits Matt Footman and Cookie Patel to discuss their new responsibilities as Personal Development Managers.

During the summer, the PCA welcomed two new Personal Development Managers (PDMs) to the team. Matt Footman – a former PT, PE teacher and performance lifestyle adviser – is working with Kent, Middlesex, and Sunrisers while Cookie Patel, who has more than 20 years' experience in the game, is supporting players at Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire, and Warwickshire.

With the aim of the PCA's Personal Development and Welfare Programme to enable individuals to excel and develop sustainable performance within and outside of cricket, we caught up with two of the newest recruits who help to deliver the personalised support service...

HOW ARE YOU FINDING BEING A PDM?

Matt Footman: I'm really enjoying it, working with a great bunch of people. It's great to be involved in professional cricket; that's something I've always aspired to do.

Cookie Patel: Starting in August was great because it allowed me to see some cricket and meet the players in their most comfortable setting. I'm really enjoying the environment of the PCA and getting to know everybody at the teams I'm working with.

WHAT ATTRACTED YOU TO THE ROLE?

Footman: Mentoring scholarship athletes as a performance lifestyle adviser narrowed the focus of what I really wanted to do. I wanted to find something where I could use all the skills and experiences I've collated in my previous jobs and combine the enjoyment of helping people with my passion for professional sport. It's a dream job.

Patel: Firstly, it's still working in cricket – my whole career has revolved around that. Where I've worked in coaching, coach education and development, I've got a lot to offer in terms of understanding the pressures and demands of the sport, plus the needs of professional cricketers. The big thing for me is helping players move along their journey.

WHAT HAVE YOU LEARNED SO FAR?

Footman: The challenge of getting to know many people in a short space of time. You're on the road a lot and not seeing everyone every week isn't easy so I'm learning how to do that. The more time I'm spending with people, the better and easier it gets.

Patel: It's a different pace than what I had in my previous jobs. You're spinning lots of plates in the PDM role but it's at a different speed. You have peaks and troughs too – at this point in the winter, things are starting to kick off again after a quieter time. But it's great.

ARE THERE ANY PROJECTS YOU'RE HOPING TO WORK TOWARDS?

Footman: We're looking at a project where we can roll out education and information to players interested in starting a business and those who already have one. It's about how we can support cricketers and the entrepreneurial interests they may have.

Patel: Given my background, one of the things I'm keen to look at is how to support players on their coaching journey with a structured partnership between the PCA and ECB. Both Matt and I are also doing our Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) Level 5 Coaching & Mentoring qualifications as well. ●

All past and present players have access to a PDM, contact details of your regional support are on the next page.

Introducing Your PCA Team

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James Harris
Chair



Anuj Dal
Vice Chair



Heather Knight
Vice Chair



Julian Metherell
Non-Executive Chair



Caroline Artis
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Hannah Bowe
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Siobhan Newmarch
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Simone Pound
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1930 - 2023

Thank you Harold Goldblatt

Goldblatt was one of the Association's founding fathers and a key figure in the early development of the PCA.

With an influence that shaped the very foundations of the PCA, Harold Goldblatt's work in the early years of the Association is still benefitting players today.

Many current cricketers may not understand the significance of Goldblatt's contract writing, but they should. Quite simply, the game would not be where it is now without his contributions.

An unsung hero of the PCA, Goldblatt had a huge impact on the Association despite being a non-member. A successful chartered accountant and businessperson, he was co-founder of Goldblatt's Accountancy & Registered Auditors, retiring in 1998, although he subsequently remained actively involved in the firm as a consultant.

With the need for accountancy advice and a treasurer for the originally named Cricketers' Association, created in 1967, PCA founder Fred Rumsey made some inquiries to see who might be available.

Rumsey recalls appointing Goldblatt in 1967 and being 'very happy' with the decision.

"I phoned Harold and about halfway

through my pitch he said yes. In 1968, at the first AGM his company was appointed auditor. He gave constant and extremely good advice on financial matters and Harold threw himself into the challenge of getting the organisation going. He was one of the major and important members of the early Association.

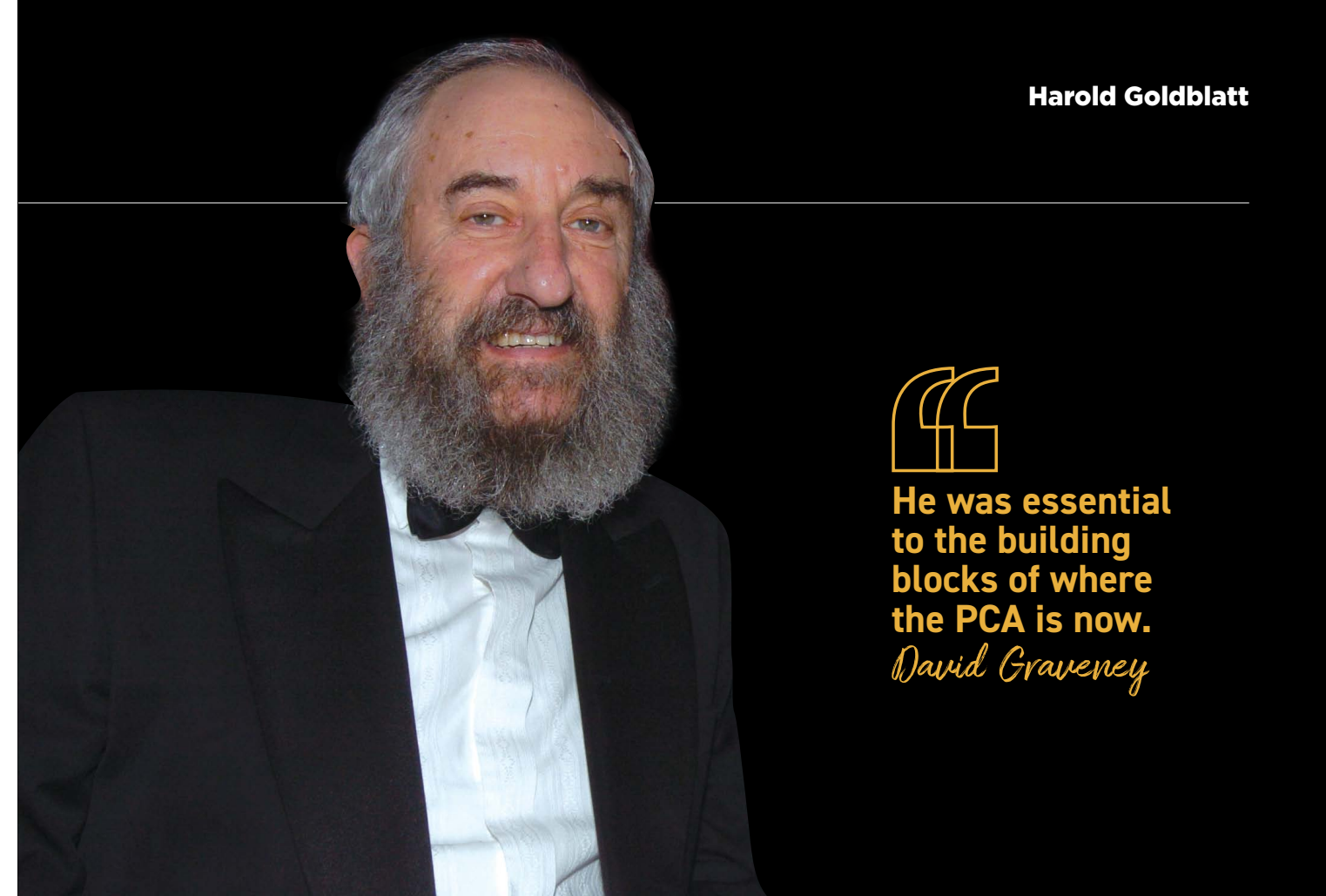
"He was a very likeable character, very willing and easy to talk to. He was a man of some verbal strength. It was because of his advice that a great number of those early decisions were made, he was very influential in providing the path that the PCA would take in the first 10 years.

"We benefitted from him enormously, but more importantly the current players are still benefitting from the work that he did."

Former PCA Treasurer, Secretary and CEO, David Graveney, first became the PCA's Gloucestershire rep in 1975, spending more time with Goldblatt than most at the Association and remembers his friend fondly.

"Harold was such a wise man, as the PCA evolved, he was excellent at advising the right

level of caution before others went ahead with decisions. He was private as a person, but it was clear that his Jewish religion was key to him as an individual.



He was essential to the building blocks of where the PCA is now.

David Graveney

"He took me under his wing at various stages and he used to take me to some fantastic Jewish restaurants in St John's Wood. I was very lucky for him to show an interest in my career and life. He wouldn't want lots of praise, but it's important his legacy is remembered."

Goldblatt drew up the paper for the first minimum wage discussions securing £4,000-a-year contracts when previously players could be paid as little as £600 for their services during the summer. Alongside this, he wrote the first pension scheme, standardised contracts and helped set up adequate health insurance.

His influence was also felt with the introduction of the original under-22 contracts, an early pre-cursor to the current male rookie contracts now offered to players under the age of 23, further highlighting his pioneering philosophies.

Highlighting the importance of the man, Graveney continued: "When the PCA was formed the governing bodies treated us with the height of suspicion. We were trying to get proper pensions, health insurance, minimum

wage contracts and Harold was at the front line of lobbying the board with the likes of Richard Bevan and myself. Harold had contributed massively during that time and helped us try to achieve our goals."

League Manager's Association CEO and former PCA Chief Executive, Richard Bevan, worked with the former accountant and advisor during the back end of the 1990s and remembers Goldblatt's professionalism and strive for success.

In 1996, Bevan met with the PCA Players Committee to discuss expanding the services of the organisation, but with a lack of support from the ECB and a distinct lack of funding, new avenues had to be explored.

"We basically had no money, so we went about trying to find some commercial partners and developed how we would go about that with Harold. Through those conversations with David Graveney and Harold we set up PCA Management Limited and all the commercial aspects of the organisation would then go through the limited company.

"We used to meet with Harold in London and he was very conscientious, passionate and commitment to the Association, he was a guardian and an ambassador. He was great at helping us through all those discussions.

"Harold was a very committed, passionate person, very thoughtful and acted as the glue that brought professional cricketers together in the early days of the PCA."

Current PCA Chair and Glamorgan bowler, James Harris, paid tribute to Goldblatt's work for the players' union.

"Every past, present and future professional cricketer should be very thankful for Harold's involvement in the game. Many of his beliefs and successes have been developed over the years and remain a bedrock of what the PCA stands for today."

Harold Goldblatt sadly passed away in May 2023, aged 92. ●

Harold Goldblatt featured in the PCA's 50th year celebration videos, filmed in 2017, which can be viewed on thePCA.co.uk

Obits

COMPILED BY KENNETH SHENTON



David Stripp (1935 - 2023)
SUSSEX

A fine all-round sportsman who, while playing First-Class cricket for Sussex, also enjoyed success as an agile and athletic goalkeeper for non-league football club, East Grinstead. As a cricketer, he was a middle-order right-hand batter, and also a right-arm fast-medium pace bowler. Born in Crawley Down, Sussex, David Arthur Stripp began his cricketing career as a member of the MCC Ground staff at Lord's. First playing Second XI cricket for Sussex in 1953, during 1956-57 he went on to make 12 appearances for the county scoring 183 runs and taking six wickets. Released at the end of that season he subsequently enjoyed peerless success in the amateur game with his hometown club. He was 88.



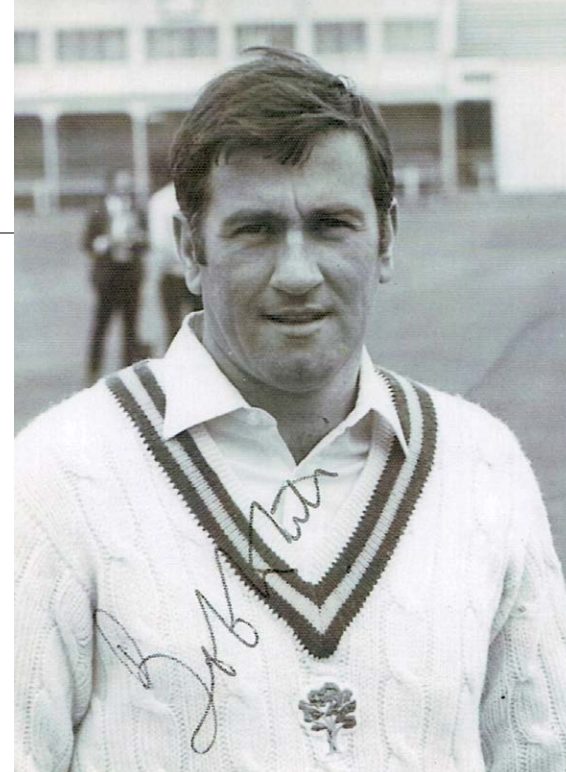
Rustom Cooper (1922-2023)
MIDDLESEX

Rustom Sorabji Cooper was not only the world's oldest former First-Class cricketer, but also Middlesex's oldest former player. Like many, he lost his best years to the Second World War. A free-scoring middle-order batter, 'Rusi' represented Bombay in the Ranji Trophy, scoring a match winning 104 during the 1945 final. Dennis Compton – then serving for the Army – was playing for the opposition. He suggested that Cooper might be a fit at Lord's. Barely twelve months later, Cooper arrived in England, playing club cricket for Hornsey and eight times for Middlesex from 1949 until 1951. He returned to Bombay in 1954, where he became an esteemed figure in maritime legal services and finished with a First-Class batting average of 52.39. He was 100.



Roy Swetman (1933-2023)
SURREY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE & ENGLAND

Eleven Test caps in the era of wicketkeeping great, Godfrey Evans, bore testament to what was a long and enduring career of twists and turns. Swetman also played for three counties along the way which marks him out further during time when few players ventured far. Injury to Evans handed the gloveman a debut in Australia on the 1958-59 Ashes tour. Making 41 in what turned out to be the only Test England didn't lose.



Bob White (1936 - 2023)
MIDDLESEX & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Fulham-born Bob 'Knocker' White made the move from Lord's to Trent Bridge out of necessity. As a left-handed bat and off-spinner, after 115 matches with Middlesex, he'd sent down precisely 2.3 Championship overs. With the near-imperious Fred Titmus standing squarely in his way. Primarily used as a middle-order man, when joining Notts in 1970 he would go on to become the club's top wicket-taker in 1971. He played 413 First-Class matches (169 List A) in total, scoring in excess of 12,000 runs and taking 693 wickets. He would later skipper the second eleven at Notts, as well as making the First-Class umpires list in 1982, adding an additional 314 First-Class and 323 List A games to an already extensive playing record. He was 87.

He retired from the game in 1961 when offered a job in the building trade, only to return after reinventing himself as an off-spinner and hugely-successful batter in club cricket. The year was now 1966, and the persistence of Nottinghamshire's England opener Reg Simpson, proved the decisive factor in a three-year stay. The gloves went away for good after a spell with Gloucestershire between 1972-74. In total 'Swetty' accrued 286 First-Class matches, 530 catches, 66 stumpings and two centuries. He was 89.

Bob Ratcliffe (1951 - 2023)
LANCASHIRE

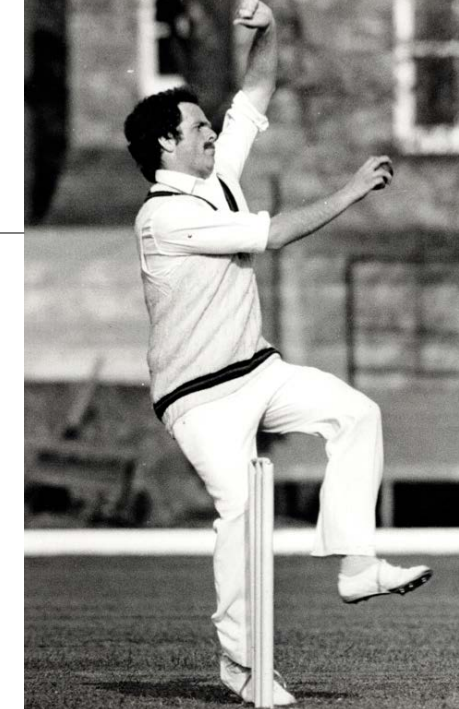
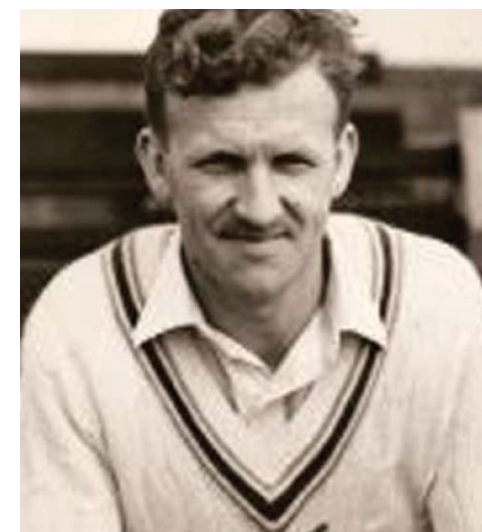
Born in Accrington and educated at Hollins County School, Robert Malcolm Ratcliffe, universally known as Bob, first came to prominence as a teenager helping his local team capture the Lancashire League's Worsley Cup. A right-handed lower-order batter and a fast-medium bowler, having won representative honours with the National Association of Young Cricketers and successfully passed through the county's youth ranks, he joined the Lancashire staff in 1970.

Making his First-Class debut versus Nottinghamshire at Trent Bridge two years later, he would go on to make a further 81 appearances for the Red Rose county between then and 1980. A member of Lancashire's victorious Gillette Cup team of 1975, he was capped 12 months later. His 205 wickets included a career best 7-58 against Hampshire at Bournemouth in 1978. He also took 85 Sunday League wickets.

As a batter his tally of 1,002 runs includes a top score of 101 not out made against Warwickshire at Old Trafford in 1979. During the course of what turned into a remarkable match, in partnership with wicket keeper, John Lyon, who also made a maiden century, the duo created a new county

Robin Gardner (1933-2023)
SURREY, NOTTINGHAMSHIRE,
GLOUCESTERSHIRE & ENGLAND

Eleven Test caps in the era of wicketkeeping great, Godfrey Evans, bore testament to what

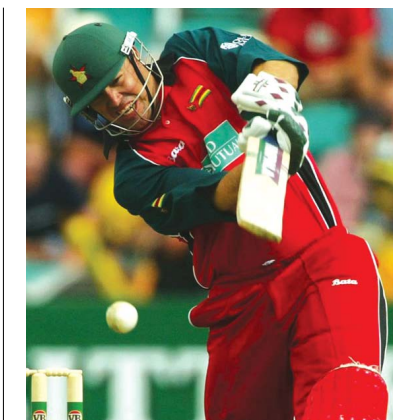


record for an eighth wicket partnership. The pair's total of 158 just beating the previous best of 150, set in 1900 against Leicestershire by Albert Ward and Charles Robert Hartley.

Released by Lancashire in 1980, following two years as professional with Perth in Scotland, he returned to Lancashire to run his own cricket academy while becoming Cherry Tree's professional in the Ribblesdale League. Between 1981 and 1986 he also made 14 appearances for Cumberland in the Minor Counties Championship. Due to return to his hometown club for the 1988 season, instead he moved south to become the cricket professional at Marlborough College. He was 71.

was a long and enduring career of twists and turns. Swetman also played for three counties along the way which marks him out further during time when few players ventured far. Injury to Evans handed the gloveman a debut in Australia on the 1958-59 Ashes tour. Making 41 in what turned out to be the only Test England didn't lose.

He retired from the game in 1961 when offered a job in the building trade, only to return after reinventing himself as an off-spinner and hugely-successful batter in club cricket. The year was now 1966, and the persistence of Nottinghamshire's England opener Reg Simpson, proved the decisive factor in a three-year stay. The gloves went away for good after a spell with Gloucestershire between 1972-74. In total 'Swetty' accrued 286 First-Class matches, 530 catches, 66 stumpings and two centuries. He was 89.



Heath Streak (1974 - 2023)
HAMPSHIRE, WARWICKSHIRE & ZIMBABWE

An outstanding all-rounder, and the first Zimbabwean to take 100 and then 200 wickets in Tests then ODIs, Streak also stands as the only countryman to have completed the double of 2,000 runs and 200 wickets in ODIs.

The son of a cricketing farmer, born in Bulawayo and educated at Falcon College, Heath Hilton Streak made his First-Class debut for Matabeleland in 1993. Winning his first Test cap later that year, he went on to make a further 64 Test appearances. He also appeared in 157 ODIs. Against a backdrop of increasing political interference in the sport, he served as captain between 2000 and 2004.

Having spent a season with Hampshire in 1995, nine years later he joined Warwickshire, spending four seasons at Edgbaston. He marked his debut there by ending the encounter with Northamptonshire with a superb match analysis of 13-158. Capped in 2005, the following year he captained the county before taking his leave at the end of the 2007 season after making 109 appearances across all formats. His 65 Tests having realised 1,996 runs, and brought him 216 wickets.

Later, running his own cricket academy in Bulawayo, he subsequently coached in Bangladesh and played in the Indian Premier League. He died of advanced colon and liver cancer, aged 49.



Brian Brain (1940 - 2023)

WORCESTERSHIRE & GLOUCESTERSHIRE

A former King's School pupil, making his debut in 1959, the right-arm pace bowler would go on to take 824 First-Class wickets for Worcestershire and Gloucestershire in a pro career that ended aged 40.

A breakthrough season in 1964, when taking 31 wickets in a Worcestershire title-winning push, was followed by another 44 when the county retained the Championship in 1965.

He would go on to take 84 wickets in both the 1973 and 1974 seasons, the second of which again saw Worcestershire finish as champions. He joined Gloucestershire between 1976 to 1981, before finishing his playing career with a season playing for Shropshire in the Minor Counties competition. He was 83.

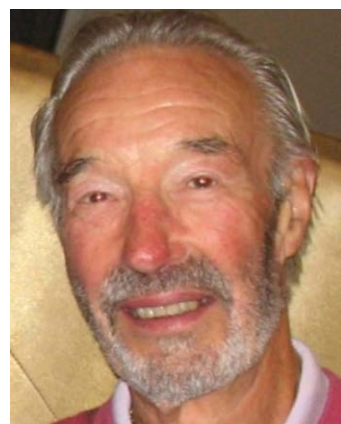


Graham Lake (1935 - 2023)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Born in Croydon, Graham Johnson Lake first made his mark playing club cricket for Barnet before quickly graduating to the Minor Counties Championship with Hertfordshire. A right-arm fast-medium bowler and a lower-order batter, after National Service in the Royal Marines, between 1956 and 1958 he made 13 appearances for Gloucestershire. Missing the 1957 season through injury, he had a top score of 18 and a best bowling analysis of 4-39 against Lancashire at Blackpool in 1956.

His subsequent career saw him become a world authority on all aspects of rubber fatigue. While beginning as a research assistant at the British Rubber Producer's Research Association, he studied at evening classes at the University of London. His pioneering research brought him international recognition, and a whole raft of prizes and awards that included the 1995 Colwyn Medal and, eight years later, the Charles Goodyear Medal. He went on to lecture at the University of East London. He was 88.



John Waring (1942 - 2023)

YORKSHIRE & WARWICKSHIRE

John Shaw Waring was a 6ft 5ins tall, well-built right-handed fast-medium bowler and a more than useful lower-order batter who played for Yorkshire from 1963 until 1966.

A native of Ripon, educated at Borough Bridge Secondary Modern School, having played his early cricket for Dishforth and Thirsk, he joined the club in 1959. Taking 108 wickets for them the following year, he helped lead them to the York & District league title in both 1961 and 1962. By then he had joined the Yorkshire staff.

Making his First-Class debut the following year against Northamptonshire, at Wantage Road, between then and 1966 he made 28 appearances taking 53 wickets. Never quite able to make himself a regular, his finest hour came in the Roses encounter at Headingley in that memorable Championship-winning season of 1966. Having helped Fred Trueman skittle Lancashire out for 59 in their first innings, he ended with a match analysis of 10 for 63. An outstanding bowling return of 7-40 in the second

innings brought a stunning Yorkshire victory by ten wickets inside two memorable days.

Waring also played for Leeds, Harrogate and Scarborough, as well as helping Bingley to a league and cup double in 1969. In the interim he had come to trials for both Surrey and Nottinghamshire, and one First-Class game for Warwickshire in 1967. From 1970 until 1973 he took 63 wickets in 23 appearances for Cumberland in the Minor Counties Championship.

Kendal's professional in 1971, his 68 victims topping that year's Northern League averages. He later played for Darlington in the North Yorkshire and South Durham League, captaining them in 1980. A former Captain and President of Ripon Golf Club, he was also a Past President of Harrogate and District Union of Golf Clubs.



Gwyn Richards (1951-2023)

GLAMORGAN

Maesteg born Gwyn Richards first came to prominence when representing Welsh Schools. A First-Class debut for Glamorgan came against Middlesex in 1971, while the right-hander was serving as a member of the Lord's Ground Staff.

A middle order batter and off-spinner, it would be 1976 before he cemented a regular place in the side. A maiden century, 102 not out against Yorkshire at Middlesbrough, earned him his county cap.

Particularly productive in one-day cricket, his steady bowling played a part in Glamorgan reaching the 1977 Gillette Cup Final.

Between 1971 and 1979 he made 107 appearances for Glamorgan totalling 3,370 runs and taking 46 wickets. Plus 96 List A appearances.

Initially managing a sports shop in Porthcawl for Welsh rugby star, JJ Williams, he later took over the business and rapidly expanded into

school wear, successfully opening further branches in Port Talbot and Maesteg. He played club cricket for Briton Ferry, Gowerton and Maesteg Celtic. He also represented the South Wales Cricket Association. He was 71.



Bishan Singh Bedi (1946 - 2023)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

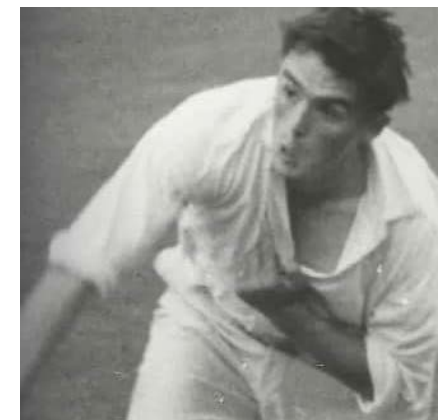
Back in the days when spin bowlers were regarded as artistes, the most artistic of said artistes was undeniably India's Bishen Bedi.

At a time when the country pretty-much cornered the market in this stock-in-trade - boasting as they did off-spinners Srinivas Venkataraghavan and Erapalli Prasanna, supporting leg-spinner Bhagwat Chandrasekhar (a childhood victim of polio) - the group's leader was left-armed Bedi.

A twirly, feet-tied-at-the ankles run. And a toss-it-ever-higher attitude, his wickets came through his combined mastery of trajectory, kidology, brinkmanship, pace and sharp spin away from the right-hander.

He captained India for 22 Tests and played for an extended period with Northamptonshire in the County Championship.

A Sikh, born in Armsitsar, Bedi also found fame for his array of brightly coloured patkas. He played 67 Tests between 1967 and 1979. Taking 266 wickets. He is India's highest-ever First-Class wicket-taker with 1,560 victims. He was 77.



Michael Dilley (1939 - 2023)

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

A native of Rushden, Michael Dilley would play for Northamptonshire from 1956 until 1963. He was a tall right-arm fast-medium bowler and a more than useful right-handed lower-order batter.

Having joined the county staff aged 17, he made his First-Class debut the following season, partnering Frank Tyson as Northants took on Lancashire at Blackpool's Stanley Park.

Educated at Wellingborough School, Michael Reginald Dilley, universally known as Tex, would make 33 appearances for the county over seven seasons. His best year was 1961 when he claimed 43 wickets. These included a record two hat-tricks within the space of six weeks. The first against Notts at Trent Bridge in July, was followed by the dismissal of Les Lenham, Ken Suttle and Ted Dexter against Sussex at Hove, a game that brought him career best figures of 6-74.

The following year he was a member of the victorious Northants side that beat Leicestershire to win the inaugural 65-over Midlands Knock Out Trophy. Departing Northants following the final ever First-Class game played at Rushden, over the next few years he would lead that club to unprecedented league success. He later repeated these achievements when moving to Irthlingborough. While running a successful garden centre he went on to become a stalwart of the Northants Over 50s side. He was 84.



Lawrence Williams (1946 - 2023)

GLAMORGAN

A member of Glamorgan's 1969 County Championship winning squad, David Lawrence Williams, a native of Tonna, Neath, was famously dubbed "The Tonna Terror."

A right-arm fast-medium bowler and a lower-order batter, he was educated at Neath Grammar School. Having made his name initially in club cricket with Ynysygerwn and Gorseinon, he then moved seamlessly into the First-Class game. While serving Glamorgan from 1969 until 1977, he was also a very fine rugby union player.

Claiming 56 First-Class wickets during that successful 1969 season, he bettered that total 12 months later. Then, his 61 wickets included a career-best return of 7-60 against Lancashire at Blackpool.

Capped in 1971, that year, he set a new club record by taking 33 wickets in a Sunday League season. Alongside a final total of 363 First-Class wickets are an additional 194 in List A.

Leaving the county, together with a number of fellow players in somewhat acrimonious circumstances, Williams returned to Welsh league cricket, also representing South Wales Cricket Association. Between 1980 and 1985 he helped launch Wales into Minor Counties cricket. A local authority employee, for many years he also looked after the pitch at the Ynysygerwn club. He was 76. ●



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The ECB: equality@ecb.co.uk

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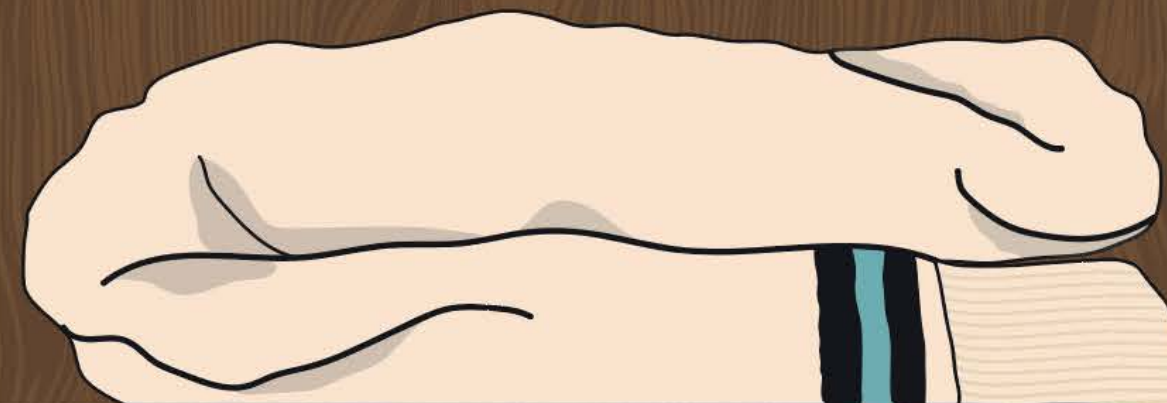


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We encourage members not to delay a phone call, there is no such thing as a time waster with this service.

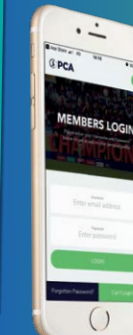


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Close of Play

My Passion

Emma Lamb on healthy plants, healthy mind



Like lots of other people, I started a new hobby in lockdown, and that was collecting house plants.

I had a ladder shelf and after I read that greenery was meant to be good for your mental health I just started to put plants on it – I had one or two already.

It is good for anxiety which I think is quite an important thing as a cricketer player.

I had a few teething issues, as looking after plants is not an exact science, but I really do enjoy looking after them. You are learning on the job, and it is a process where you keep trying different things and eventually, you get there. I have killed quite a few so I am certainly not the perfect plant mum.

At the moment they are all quite small plants but I have between 20 and 30. I

cannot buy too many more because my partner will not be happy – he has to water them when I am away. It is quite funny as it is safe to say he is not a fan of doing that.

My kitchen is north facing so it is perfect for the sun, so I have loads in there. In my living room, I have ones that need partial sunlight, so I put the plants in the rooms where they are likely to get what they need.

At the start, I just brought any that I liked, but that was difficult at times, so I make sure they fit the room they will be kept in.



I have killed quite a few so I am certainly not the perfect plant mum.

I use an app called 'PictureThis', you take a photo and it tells you if your plant is in good condition or not. It tells you how to care for it, when you should cut the leaves, what kind of temperatures it needs and how much sunlight it needs.

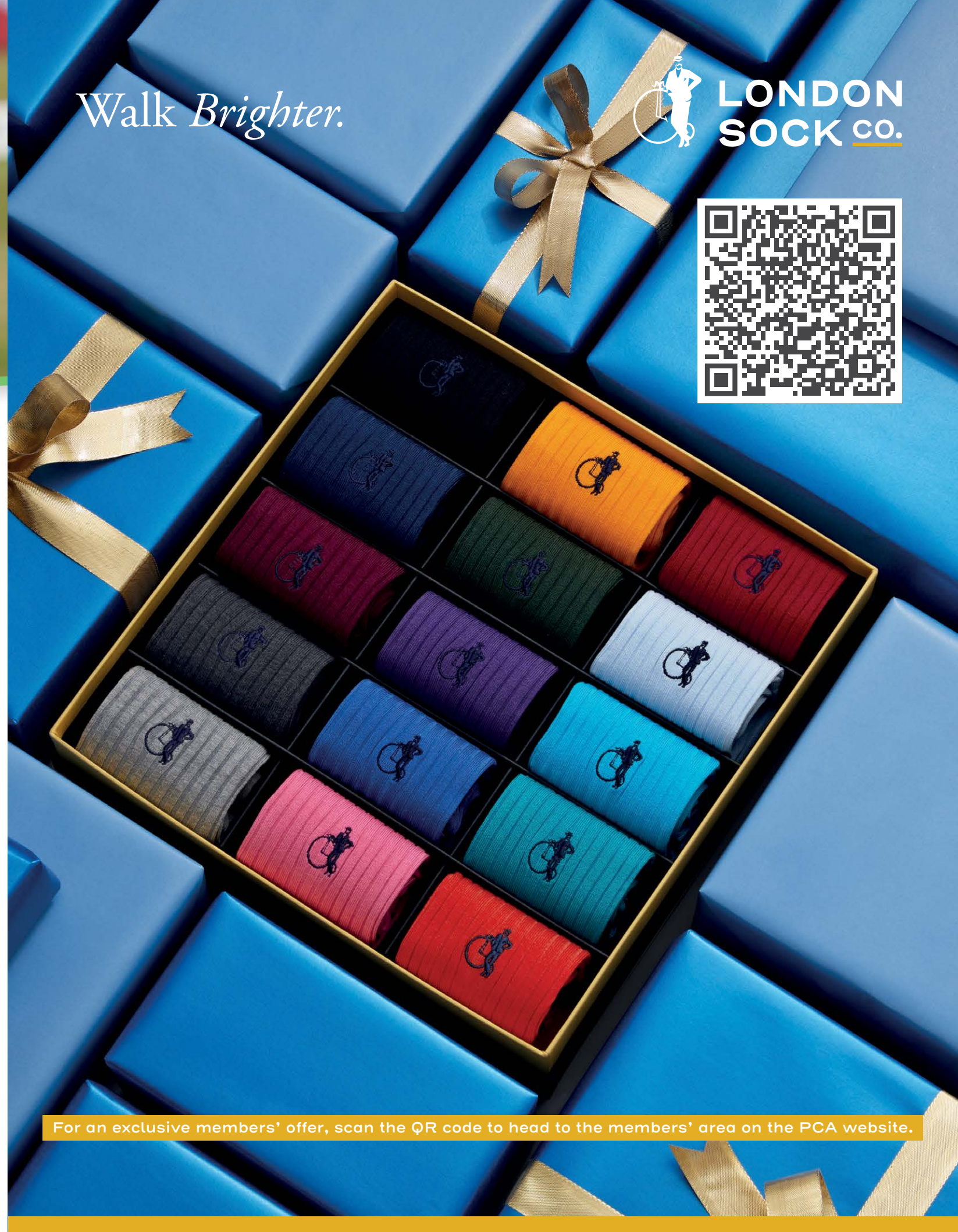
A few of the girls have got into it too. Myself and Fi Morris always talk about plants and Tara Norris loves plants, but she has not got loads of room. It is quite a theme in my friendship group.

My aspiration, hopefully when we get a bigger house, is to get some big bay windows so I can get bigger plants. ●

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