

Boundary View

Spring 2017 - No. 15

The Newsletter of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Founded 1972

STOURBRIDGE TEST STAR DIES IN CLUB'S 175TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

Former Worcestershire, Kent and England opening batsman Peter Richardson died on 16 February 2017. He was aged 85.

Richardson scored 2,061 runs in 34 Tests between 1956 and 1963, making five centuries, and was named as one of *Wisden's* cricketers of the year in 1957.

He made 104 at Old Trafford in the Ashes Test of 1956, the match in which Jim Laker took a record 19 wickets. His highest Test score of 126 was made against West Indies at Trent Bridge in 1957.

On Christmas Eve 1956 at the New Wanderers ground in Johannesburg, opening batsman Richardson took the entire day to score 69 out of 169 for three. On Boxing Day he obtained his hundred after 488 minutes at the crease, in what was then the slowest century in Test cricket. He was dismissed for 117 after occupying the crease for a total of 525 minutes.

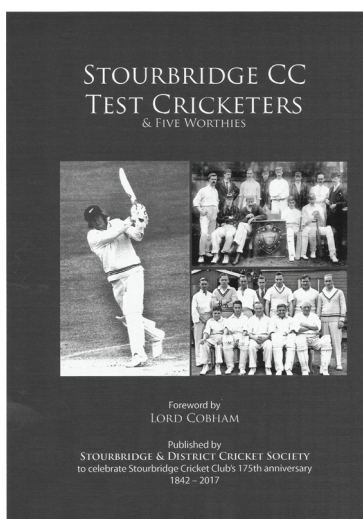
The Hereford-born left-hander played 161 first-class games for Worcestershire between 1949 and 1958, when he left in controversial circumstances to join Kent. He made a further 162 first-class appearances before his retirement in 1965. He scored a career total of 26,055 runs (av. 34.60), including 44 centuries, the highest of which was 185 for Worcestershire against Somerset at Kidderminster in 1954.

Peter Richardson played for Stourbridge CC in 1959, while he had to spend an idle season qualifying for Kent. He is featured in a pen portrait (as also is his brother Dick), in a book of Stourbridge cricketers who have played Test cricket.

See next column for further information and order details.

AGM REMINDER

Members are reminded that the AGM will be held on 13 April 2017, at 7pm prompt. Agenda on page 4. The Valuation Event will start at 8pm.



It is expected that the Society's book to commemorate the 175th anniversary of Stourbridge Cricket Club will be available for collection at the AGM.

"Stourbridge CC Test Cricketers & 5 Worthies" contains 24 pen portraits of cricketers, all of whom played for Stourbridge CC. Twelve played for Worcestershire, seven for other counties. In five cases, the subjects did not attain Test status, but came very close. One became a Test umpire, another served as a Test selector, while the other three played for their country in representative matches.

The book will be on general sale at £9, but S&DCS members can obtain a copy at meetings for £7.50 (Please add £2 if you want the book posted to you).

TOM PRITCHARD 100 N.O.

One of the 'Five Worthies' featured in the above book reached his own century on 10 March 2017.

The former Warwickshire right-arm fast bowler, Tom Pritchard beat his best-ever first-class score by 19 runs, when he clocked up three figures.

Besides his county career, he also played league cricket for a number of clubs including Stourbridge, before bowing out with Enville and returning to his native New Zealand.

He is in excellent health and lives with his daughter's family. He no longer has a bottle of stout at breakfast, but has a daily Reineck lager at lunchtime!

In case he doesn't get a card from The Queen, a congratulatory email has been sent to him on behalf of the Society!

CHAIRMAN'S VIEW

First published in 1921 when Don Bradman was twelve years old *The Cricketer*, Britain's oldest sports magazine and the world's largest selling monthly cricket magazine is still producing outstanding cricket coverage.

The Cricket Paper published every Friday, the ECB national newspaper of the year, provides expert up to date coverage of world cricket, an impressive beginner in the art of journalism.

We can at times take everything for granted, believing quality will always prevail. This, however, is not true. Cricket has a unique and wonderful history and whilst magazines, newspapers and the World Wide Web project an air of invincibility, Cricket is already way behind in the pecking order of attractions for so many. There is a multitude of reasons for this as we all know.

I believe the game has improved immeasurably over the last ten years and continues to do so year on year. We must never stand still as society members in our quest to promote the game. It will be a measure of our success as a society if we all make an effort to encourage young people to get involved in cricket.

We must talk up cricket as a means of pay back for all the great fun, friendship and entertainment it has given to us over the years.

The new ECB 'All Stars Cricket Programme' aimed at children 5 to 8 years of age, with family involvement, is a mass marketing exercise designed by the England Performance Department to broaden interest in cricket at every level, which hopefully will last a lifetime, whether as players, volunteers, officials or spectators.

With spring around the corner and clubs in Britain preparing for the season, let us hope *The Cricketer* reaches its century and remains in some form or another, our herald for years to come of all that is good about cricket.

Mike Tomkins

MARCH MEETING

Please note that John Homer replaces Dave Bradley who is unable to attend.

The opinions expressed in Boundary View are not necessarily those of Stourbridge & District Cricket Society

Dave Nicklin (President)

Committee Members:

Mike Tomkins (Chairman); Anthony Collis (Secretary / Editor); Ken Workman (Treasurer); Terry Church (Programme Secretary)

TIM JONES

WCCC - Heritage Group Chairman

The Society's festive meeting featured Tim Jones who provided background details of his much-acclaimed biography of Don Kenyon. He recalled the countless hours of research, phone calls and preparation, which helped make the actual task of writing the book that much easier. It was a tribute to his subject that every one of his enquiries elicited responses that were nothing but good. "No one spoke ill of Don; even Geoff Boycott who *returned* my call! After one of his expletive-laden rants about the current state of 'creekit', he enthusiastically and positively answered my questions about Don," said Tim, a lifelong supporter at New Road.

He admitted his research was helped by the fact that his subject kept meticulous details of all the first-class matches in which he played – a record number of 589 for Worcestershire alone. He scored 34,490 runs and hit centuries against all of the first-class counties, except Middlesex – his top score against them was 96. He scored the hundred against his home county when he played for Combined Services in 1946.

Tim recalled that Don Kenyon's farewell appearance coincided with the only time he batted with a promising young New Zealander. "He opened with Glenn Turner who made his Worcestershire debut in that match against the Pakistani tourists in 1967," Tim told the meeting.

Don succeeded Peter Richardson as captain in 1959. The only other candidate for the post was Teddy Tinkler, whose experience for the County, apart from occasionally captaining the Second XI, was just one first-class match in 1953 when he scored seven.

Don was a leader of men who treated his men like the adults most of them were. He was thought of very highly by his

players. They knew when they failed or missed a catch; Don would simply say "What are you?" That was enough.

Kenyon won eight England caps but has a disappointing Test career. His debut occurred in India in 1952, when he shared a second wicket stand of 142 with Tom Graveney. Like Tom and Peter May, Don batted with style. However in eight



matches his only score of note was 87 against South Africa at Trent Bridge in 1955. His Test average of 12.80 was more than twenty runs fewer than what he achieved throughout his career.

The highlight of Don Kenyon's career came in 1964, when he led Worcestershire to their first Championship after 99 years of trying and repeated the success twelve months later. The Club celebrated the initial success by going on a world tour, which visited seven non Test-playing countries and travelled over 34,000 miles.

In 1988 the team was invited to Buckingham Palace where the Duke of Edinburgh presented them with a Brands Hatch motor-racing trophy as the John Player Cup (which Worcester had won at Lord's on the previous day) could not be located!

Tim's talk was enhanced by clips of newsreel and nostalgic voice recordings.

Q&A session

In view of DK's poor Test record, how did he become a selector? - He was a good reader of the game and a good judge of character, Tim replied.

What happened to the tree planted in Don's memory? - It has not been replaced after being drowned in floods. It is a possible idea for a Society.

Asked about the Heritage Group, of which Tim is Chairman, he said the group was founded by the late Bernard Bridgewater. The space in the foyer of the Graham Hick pavilion is now full and displays are now being set up in The View. There is still much in storage and nothing to do with WCCC is turned away.

Asked about his personal collection of WCCC players' autographs, Tim said the only living cricketer's signature he still needed is that of Dennis Good (now in Canada). Members deplored the present-day scribbles – which some thought showed contempt for the collector.

What role did Don play in the Basil D'Oliveira affair? – Don was a strong supporter of Basil's inclusion, Tim had found that relevant papers were unavailable at MCC - either lost or embargoed.

Next to his family, cricket was his passion. He was the inaugural President of our Society in 1972 and was an active member until his death. Tim reminded members that Don was about to host the showing of the cine film he made of the Club's world tour when he collapsed at a Worcester Cricket Society meeting in 1996. He sadly died before reaching hospital.

**15 December 2016
Att. 83**

Tim is pictured with Jean Kenyon, who celebrated her 90th birthday with a surprise party at New Road on 13 January 2017.

STB CC - THE EARLY YEARS

In 1957, *County Express* reporter, the late Jack Haden compiled a 20-page booklet of early news and scores of Stourbridge CC from 1842 until 1881.

To test the water, a small quantity was reprinted by our Society and all were quickly sold out. **A further reprint has been obtained.**

The booklet will be on sale at Society meetings for £3.00 (Please add £1.50 if it needs to be posted to you).

Cheques, payable to Stourbridge & District Cricket Society, to be sent to:
34a Chawn Hill, Stourbridge
DY9 7JB.



**Our first guest
of 2017.**

Paul Pridgeon
stands beside
the honours
board with his
name high-
lighted for the
occasion.

PAUL PRIDGEON Worcestershire

Our first guest of 2017 was introduced as “one of Wall Heath’s Holy Trinity” by the aptly-named Terry Church. The other two were the late Jack Flavell and Stuart Lampitt.

Paul admitted to being a little over-come on his return to the club where he enjoyed playing cricket and football. Although cricket was his strength, he was a good enough centre-half to appear for Stourbridge in the 1974 Welsh Cup Final, when the Glassboys lost to Cardiff City, by the only goal in each leg.

Although Paul played 240 first-class matches for Worcestershire spread over 18 seasons, he decided that he would talk about his work since retiring from county cricket in 1989.

He admitted that he was always a happy-go-lucky individual with little regard for the future. He spent five winters in New Zealand, where he took an interest in coaching. Back in England, he focused on obtaining his coaching certificate as his first team appearances gradually diminished.

At Lilleshall Paul coached England under-14s and under-15s together with

Ray East of Essex. Besides being the National Sports Centre, Lilleshall also served as a rehabilitation facility for persons recovering from serious sports injuries. Fate was about to play its hand.

East became annoyed by a patient who kept getting in the way during coaching and he ordered ‘Pridge’ to make sure the man kept away. He took a softer approach and the man duly complied.

Some months later, Pridgeon was considering offers to return to New Zealand, when he received an invitation to explore an opportunity at Shrewsbury School. On arrival, he was told to report to the master in charge of cricket, who turned out to be none other than the man in rehab who irritated East so much!

Paul was ‘blown away’ by the school’s sport facilities – six permanent cricket squares, four more incorporated in football pitches; 22 nets, of which 18 were grass and four were artificial.

“I couldn’t help comparing what I had in my time at Summerhill Secondary School in Kingswinford – two football pitches and nothing for cricket,” Paul recalled. He was made an offer he could not refuse, which included his son’s schooling for 10% of the annual fee, which today costs £33k.

“My first priority was to change the school’s genteel style of play and teach them a winning mentality. At football, tackles were decided on an ‘After you, Claude’ basis.”

Paul is proud of what has been achieved at Shrewsbury. “We have developed some excellent facilities – an indoor cricket centre built to the same specifications as at Loughborough. This has helped us to attract some very promising players – James Taylor plus Worcestershire’s new captain Joe Leach, his brother Steve who plays for Shropshire and up and coming youngsters, Ed Barnard, Ollie Westbury. Taylor’s early exit from the game is a massive blow to England.”

Paul regarded Wayne Larkins and John Jameson as two of the best attacking opening batsmen. Asked why so few spinners play today, Paul thought unless they are top class like Warne, Swann or Murali, many clubs and captains believe they are not conducive to the modern game.

He was extremely pleased that Norman Gifford is set to become Worcestershire’s president.

19 January 2017
Att. 93

Paul asked that his fee be donated to
Help for Heroes.

DEREK BREWER CEO & Secretary MCC

Due to an unscheduled, two hour-long halt at Leamington Spa station, Derek Brewer arrived just in time for the meeting’s scheduled interval. Derek opened his talk by thanking everyone for waiting and proceeded with a short account of his life in cricket.

Derek recalled that he had ideas of becoming a journalist. Later, he was introduced to Reg Hayter, who ran a sports news agency who told him to write alternate home match reports at Fulham (Derek’s team!) and Brentford. The reports were acceptable, but he advised him to get his degree.

He duly got a 2:1 at Aston University and while there played as an off-break bowler for Moseley in Division 1 of the Birmingham League. His first wicket was that of Ron Headley. In due course, he came to the attention of Alan Oakman who, as a trial, invited him to choose ten matches to play for Warwickshire’s 2nd Eleven in 1978. Feeling he had reached his level of ability, Derek’s choice of venues (*I shall pass this way, but once*) included Edgbaston, Headingley and Old Trafford.

After graduating, he joined NatWest / RBS where he spent 24 years. In 1999 he



came a Regional Director for RBS in the East Midlands. In 2005 he then changed tack and succeeded David Collier, CEO at Trent Bridge.

“I will never forget the morning of my first day in charge of my first home Test match – England v Australia at Trent Bridge in 2005,” Derek said. “The umpires came onto the field, not from the pavilion, but from the West Wing and Parr Stand, which was odd. I looked through my binoculars and saw they were carrying cans of lager, which they opened as they approached the square. I feared the worst, but security saved the day. The pair

be- had done a similar publicity stunt at Wimbledon that year.”

In 2012, Derek became Chief Executive of MCC. His new career has proved to be even more challenging and eventful than before. The first difficulty to overcome was restoring Lord’s to normality after the hallowed greensward was used for the archery competition in the Olympic Games. “Permission had been given for two large stands in front of the pavilion. Track way had been put down to help bring in the equipment needed, added to which the structure’s sheer weight and very wet weather resulted in over a third of the outfield having to be relaid ahead of the England v South Africa Test Match.”

Derek fielded a variety of questions, which included amongst others: a) the absence of the T20 final at Lord’s, b) the future of the game, c) the proliferation of Test venues, d) Durham’s plight and e) grass roots cricket. He requested that his responses be confined to those he gave verbally to members at the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 10:20 pm; it was hoped Derek had a speedier return journey!

9 February 2017
Att. 90

Derek asked that his fee be given to the
MCC Foundation.

MEETINGS' PROGRAMME for 2017

All meetings start at 7.30pm (unless stated otherwise) Programme subject to change
If in doubt, for example, due to severe weather, phone 01384 292170

Mar 9	London Coach Trip	The Oval and Millennium Stadium - sold out (no refunds for no shows) Last minute emergencies - contact Terry Church on the number above
Mar 16	Dennis Breakwell Som'set & N'hants	Brierley Hill-born, Dennis played 231 f-c matches 1969-84 for Somerset and Northamptonshire. He will be in conversation with John Homer (Dave Bradley is unavailable)
Apr 13	AGM followed by Valuation Event	NB – The AGM starts at 7pm; the Valuation Event, which will begin at 8pm , will be presented by Mark Hannam (Fieldings) with Mike Williams (Midlands Cricket Society).



KEN'S YEARS OF SILVER SERVICE

Ken Workman was presented with a framed picture of 'Cricket at Hagley' in recognition of his 25 years of service as Treasurer of the Society.

In his speech of thanks, Ken said he had many fond memories of the Society and related the occasion when David Green was the speaker.

"He must have arrived at 3.30 and gone straight to the bar. When the time came for him to speak, it was clear that he would not cope.

Our late-President, Don Kenyon decided that a Q&A session was the only option, except for the fact that Don not only asked the questions, but had to provide the answers too!"

DO YOU HAVE WEBSITE DESIGN EXPERTISE?

The Society wishes to redesign and take its website in-house.

Our outdated site is administered by an external third-party, an arrangement that is considered unsuitable for our current and future needs.

We invite interested members to contact the Secretary, at the Editorial address below, for a preliminary informal discussion.

AGM AGENDA

13 April 2017 - 7pm prompt

1. Welcome
2. Attendance & Apologies
3. Approve Minutes of 2016 AGM
4. Discuss any Matters Arising
5. Annual Report for 2016/17
6. Election of Committee
7. Any Other Business

Any item that a member wishes to be discussed under AOB must have been submitted in writing to the Secretary no later than Friday, 31 March 2017.

adcollis@blueyonder.co.uk
34a Chawn Hill, Stourbridge DY9 7JB

NEW MEMBER

We welcome the following person who has recently joined the Society:

Allen Watkins - Kidderminster
In case you are wondering, although the spelling is different, Allen is the son of the late "Allan" Watkins of Glamorgan and England.

F.A. CUP RUN ENDS

Forty-eight hours before our last meeting of the year, the Memorial Ground was packed with 2,500 fans who celebrated Stourbridge's superb win against League One side Northampton Town in the second round of the FA Cup.

Mike Tomkins congratulated S&DCS member Hugh Clark, President of the "Glassboys", on the team's last minute goal which proved enough to book a place in the 3rd round.

But the match at Wycombe on 7 January ended in a 2-1 defeat and won a money-making 4th round tie against Premier League 'Spurs for the Buckinghamshire side.

EX-CAPTAIN CHAIRS PCA

Daryl Mitchell is the new Chairman of the Professional Cricketers' Association in succession to Mark Wallace, the former Glamorgan wicket-keeper. He will link up with his former teammate David Leatherdale who is now the PCA Chief Executive. Mitchell becomes the third Worcestershire player to become Chairman after Tim Curtis (1987-96) and Vikram Solanki (2009-13). The former Worcestershire and England bowler, Fred Rumsey formed the PCA in 1967, but he was then playing for Somerset.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Deadline for receipt of copy is for each *Issue* is (Last Friday of Month)

Autumn (August) *Winter* (November) *Spring* (February)

Preferably all articles should be typed and emailed to the address below

The editor reserves the right to edit or refuse the publication of any material submitted without further reason.

Editorial Contact Details: E-Mail: anthony@acol.org.uk Phone: 01384 442244

Snail Mail: 34a Chawn Hill, Old Swinford, Stourbridge DY9 7JB

The Stourbridge & District Cricket Society is a member of the Council of Cricket Societies
www.sdcs.councilcricketsociety.com