

Biographies of Leading DHS Cricketers

Jack Siedle



Ivan Julian "Jack" Siedle (11 January 1903 - 24 August 1982) was a South African cricketer who played in 18 Tests from 1927-28 to 1935-36.

Family background and personal life

Born on 11 January 1903 in Berea, Durban, Natal, Siedle was the youngest son of Otto Siedle, who was born in Woolwich, London of southern German stock and who trained as a watchmaker, subsequently emigrating to Durban where he became prominent in the shipping business and public affairs. Otto Siedle's wife Mary became deputy mayor of Durban. Jack's older brother Karl Siedle played first-class cricket for Natal before the First World War, in which he was killed; his sister Perla Siedle Gibson became a well-known singer and a symbol of her country during the Second World War.

Siedle married Lesley Maud McPherson on 14 March 1931, with his cricket colleague Eric Dalton as best man. Their son, John Siedle (1932-2008), played a few first-class cricket matches for Natal and Western Province in the mid-1950s.

Early cricket career

A right-hander who played for Natal for 15 seasons from 1922-23 to 1936-37, Jack Siedle bowled occasionally and kept wicket just as infrequently, but his chief value to South Africa was as an opening batsman. He had had no great success when he was picked, in the 1923-24 season, for the match that was the trial for the 1924 tour to England and the 56 he scored in his second innings there was his highest score to that point, as well as the top score for his side, but he was not picked for the tour.

For the next couple of seasons that decision was made to look wise as Siedle struggled for runs in the Natal side, not improving his highest score and averaging little over 20 runs per innings. But in the first match of the 1926-27 season for Natal against Border he hit his first century, 114. Two matches on, he did better, sharing a partnership of 424 for the first wicket with John Nicolson against Orange Free State which remains the record for the first wicket for Natal and for the whole of first-class cricket in South Africa to this day; Nicolson made an unbeaten 252 but Siedle's dismissal for 174 broke the partnership.

Siedle was in less good form the following year, though he managed a second century against Orange Free State. He was then called up for the third Test at Durban against the touring England team, opening the innings and scoring 11 and 10. That was not enough for him to retain his place for the remaining games of the series. First-class cricket in South Africa in 1928-29 was restricted to a series of matches around Christmas in Durban, but Siedle took advantage of the match against a weak Border team to hit an unbeaten 212, his highest score to that point, and the innings secured his place on the 1929 tour to England.

Test Regular

Siedle did well in the early first-class matches of the tour to England: in the second county match of the tour, he hit an unbeaten 169 against Leicestershire, taking more than five hours to reach 100 but then adding a further 69 in little more than an hour. Three weeks later he almost repeated the feat by making 168 against Yorkshire including 20 fours in what Wisden Cricketers' Almanack described as "an admirable innings". After that, however, he was forced

to retire ill in the match against the Minor Counties and he then missed six of the next seven tour matches, and they included the first two Tests of the five-match series.

He returned to fitness in time to be selected for the third Test, but he was not a success, being dismissed for 0 and 14 as England won the match by five wickets. There was no success for him in the remaining Tests in the series, either: he scored 6 and 1 in the fourth match and another 14 in a single innings in the final game. But away from the Tests, Siedle continued to be a regular and reliable scorer, though there were no more centuries. He ended the tour with 1579 runs, the second highest aggregate after Bruce Mitchell, at an average of 35.88, the second highest average after Herbie Taylor. His overall performance earned praise from Wisden: "Siedle, though a failure in the three Test matches in which he took part, was very consistent otherwise and never looked an easy man of whom to dispose. He watched the ball well and had a nice variety of strokes," it wrote.

Back in South Africa in the 1929-30 season, Siedle hit the highest score of his career in making an unbeaten 265 for Natal in the Currie Cup first-class match against Orange Free State. It was at that time and still remains the second highest innings for Natal, beaten only by Dave Nourse's 304 not out in 1919-20 against Transvaal.

England Tour

In 1930-31, England toured South Africa, and the Currie Cup was suspended. Siedle made 46 and 38 in Natal's match against the touring side, and that was enough to earn him a place in the team for the first of a five-Test series. The match was won by South Africa by the narrow margin of 28 runs and Siedle, with 13 and 35, had his best Test so far. The second Test was the sixth of Siedle's career and finally he was able to make runs: opening the batting with Bruce Mitchell, he scored 141 out of a first-wicket partnership of 260 that was the highest at the time for South Africa in Tests, and set the team on its way to its then-highest Test total, 513 for eight wickets declared. Mitchell and Herbie Taylor also scored centuries in the innings and England were forced to follow on, though the match ended as a draw.

In the rain-hit third Test, Siedle made 38 in South Africa's first innings, surviving while four of his partners were out, but he was dismissed for 0 in the second innings. The fourth Test was a tight match that ended in a draw and Siedle scored 62 in the first innings and 8 in the second. And he made 57 and 30 in the final game of the series, also a draw, which left South Africa with a 1-0 series victory; in this match, with the game petering out to a draw, South Africa bowled its part-time bowlers, and Siedle took the only wicket of his entire first-class career, having the England batsman Maurice Turnbull caught and bowled. In the series as a whole, Siedle scored 384 runs at an average of 42.66; he was the second highest scorer for South Africa after Mitchell.

Hiatus

In 1931-32, South Africa toured Australia and New Zealand. Siedle was initially selected to be vice-captain to Jock Cameron on the tour. In the end, though, he did not go on the tour, and played very little domestic cricket that season in South Africa. He continued to appear fairly regularly for Natal in Currie Cup and other first-class games over the next seasons, but having missed the Australasian tour, there were no other opportunities for Test cricket until 1935, when he was selected against for the tour to England.

Return to Test Cricket

Siedle was very much the form player in the first weeks of the South African tour of England in 1935. In May, he made centuries in three consecutive first-class matches, against Surrey, Oxford University and the MCC. In the Surrey game, Siedle was somewhat overshadowed by Dudley Nourse, who hit a century in each innings, but his unbeaten 104 in the second innings and an unbroken partnership of 160 with Nourse set up the declaration from which the South Africans achieved a decisive victory. Nourse was prominent with a first-innings century in the Oxford match as well, but in the second South African innings Siedle shared an opening stand of 164 with Herby Wade and then an unbroken partnership of 205 with Eric Rowan as a high-scoring match petered out to a draw: Siedle's 164 not out was his highest score of the tour.

The match against MCC at Lord's was ruined as a contest by rain on the second and third days, but on the first day Siedle had carried his bat for 132 in the South Africans' innings of 297. Wisden reported that "chief honours" in the match went to Siedle and that his innings was "a great feat in view of the previous poor scoring at headquarters". It went on: "Siedle, who batted for nearly five hours without giving anything approaching a chance, never took the slightest risk, but some of his off-side strokes and the square and late cuts were perfectly executed." Siedle did not keep up this rate of scoring and the three centuries in May were his only centuries of the tour, but he continued to make runs through June and was the first member of the touring team to reach 1,000 runs in the season.

In the first Test at Nottingham, he top-scored in South Africa's first innings with 59, though he was quickly out for 2 when South Africa were forced to follow on; the first innings was played on a pitch made awkward by weekend rain and Wisden wrote that he played "with commendable skill and steadiness for about three hours" and "afforded emphatic proof of his strength in defence". But Siedle then had a poor match in the second game of the series, which took place at Lord's and which the South Africans won by 157 runs, their first victory in England ever and, as the only decisive result in the whole series, a series-winning victory; Siedle's contributions were 6 and 13. There were better scores of 33 and 21 in the third Test, which was drawn, but Siedle strained a knee in the match. The knee injury kept him away from cricket for three weeks and that included missing the fourth Test, but he was recovered in time for the final game of the series where he made innings of 35 and 36 in a high-scoring draw that confirmed the series win for South Africa. Injured again, he did not then play in any further first-class fixtures on the tour. His record in the Test series of 205 runs and a batting average of 25.62 put him well down the list of the South African batsmen: sixth in terms of aggregate and eighth in terms of average; on the tour as a whole, however, he made 1346 runs at an average of 39.58.

Australians

The South African cricket season immediately following the England tour included a series of five Tests against the Australians, and although the series was won rather easily by Australia and there were many changes in the South African team, Siedle maintained his place in the Test side throughout the season. In the first match, he made 31 and 59, in both innings scoring much faster than his opening partner, Bruce Mitchell, but the match was lost by nine wickets. Innings of 22 and 34 followed in the next game which was drawn, largely through a huge score of 231 by Dudley Nourse. The third Test was a very heavy defeat for the South Africans and Siedle, with scores of 1 and 59, was the top-scorer for this side in the match.

The following match was an even heavier defeat and a four-day match was over inside two days: Siedle again top-scored, making 44 in the first innings but 0 in the second. The batting overall was better in the fifth and final match of the series, though the result was still an innings defeat: Siedle scored 36 and 46 in this match; in contrast to his style earlier in the series, and in the second innings of this match, Siedle's first innings took more than two-and-a-half hours and his 36 was scored out of a total of 124. In the series as a whole, Siedle scored 332 runs at an average of 33.20 and was second only to Nourse both in aggregate and average.

Siedle played only one further season of first-class cricket for Transvaal after this and had retired by the time of the next Test series played by the South African team. In the 1936-37 season, his last, he signed off with a score of 207 in his final first-class innings for Natal in the match against Western Province. He died on 24 August 1982 in Bulwer, KZN.

Hugh Tayfield

Hugh Joseph Tayfield (30 January 1929 in Durban, South Africa - 24 February 1994 in Hillcrest, South Africa) was a cricketer. He played 37 Test matches for South Africa from 1949 to 1960 and was one of the best off spinners the game has seen. He was the fastest South African to take 100 wickets in Tests (in terms of matches played) until Dale Steyn claimed the record in March 2008. He was named as one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 1956. He was known as 'Toey Tayfield' due to his habit of stubbing his toes into the ground before every delivery. He would also kiss the badge on his cap before handing it to the umpire at the start of every over.



Biography

The Tayfields were a cricketing family and cricket was in his blood, Hugh's uncle S. H. Martin played for Worcestershire and his brothers Arthur and Cyril both played for Transvaal as did two cousins.

Tayfield made his debut for Natal as a 17-year old in 1945-46. He took a hat-trick against Transvaal aged just 18 and, when Athol Rowan was injured, he was hurried into the test team against Australia in 1949-50. He played in all five Tests and, on a sticky wicket at Durban, took seven for 23 when Australia crashed from 31 for no wicket to 75 all out. South Africa erred by not enforcing the follow on and Neil Harvey won the match for Australia.

After a quiet tour to England in 1951 when he was called up as a substitute for Rowan, he became South Africa's mainstay in Australia in 1952-53 under Jack Cheetham. He claimed 30 scalps in the series, 13 of them at Melbourne to secure South Africa's first win over Australia in 42 years. Tayfield returned to England with more success in 1955, taking 143 wickets on the tour and 26 in the series including nine in South Africa's victory at Headingley. In the defeat at the Oval, the match which decided the rubber, he took 5 for 60 in 53.3 overs.

Wheeling down eight-ball overs for South Africa v England at Durban in 1956-57, he bowled 119 balls in the first innings followed immediately by a further 18 in the second without conceding a run, a test and first class cricket record. He bowled over the wicket, close to the stumps, drifting the ball away from the bat in the air and then spinning it back through the gate. He did not spin the ball as much as England's Jim Laker but was unerringly accurate and could bowl all day. He set himself aggressive fields, in contrast to his steady bowling, with two silly mid ons for the snick prompted by a botched drive through the tempting hole he'd left at cover.

He formed a fine partnership with Trevor Goddard and, backed by South Africa's athletic fielding, took 37 wickets at 17.18 against England in 1956-57. He took 9 for 113 in the second innings of the Fourth Test at Johannesburg, bowling unchanged on the last day, and was chaired off the field by his team mates. Tayfield caught the only batsman he didn't dismiss himself - Doug Insole, the top-scorer with 68 - off Goddard.

In England in 1960 he took 123 wickets on the tour but failed in the Tests and, his career on the wane, lost his place in 1961-62. He cut a dashing figure in his 1950s heyday but, like many before and after him, struggled somewhat once the limelight was gone.

Chris Duckworth, who was a team colleague of his on the 1955 and 1960 Tours of England and the 1956/57 contest with the M.C.C. comments, "A gentleman and an outstanding team member"...

Tayfield died in a hospital in Durban on 25 February 1994, at the age of 65. Tayfield is survived by his only son, Robert, from his marriage to Barbara Metcalf. His grandchildren are Derek and Janna followed by great grandchildren, Evangeline and Curran.

Wikipedia

Trevor Goddard

Trevor Leslie Goddard (born 1 August 1931) is a former Test cricketer. An all-rounder, he played 41 Test matches for South Africa from 1955 to 1970. He captained the young South African team on its five-month tour of Australia and New Zealand in the 1963–64 season, levelling the series with Australia, and was also captain in 1964–65 against England in South Africa.

A left-handed, classically correct opening batsman, he was also a successful left-arm medium-pace bowler with 123 wickets at Test level. Among Test bowlers with 75 wickets or more, he is the most economical of all, conceding an average of only 1.64 runs per over. He enjoyed particular success at first-class level, with over 11,000 runs at 40.60 together with 534 wickets and a competitive 21.65. He played for Natal from 1952–53 to 1965–66, for North-Eastern Transvaal in 1966–67 and 1967–68, then returned to Natal for his last two seasons, 1968–69 and 1969–70.



The cricket journalist Telford Vice has described Goddard as "a man of rare grace, intelligence and spirit". Sir Donald Bradman said he was "a completely reliable and honest player who could be depended upon before any season started to put up a sterling performance over a whole series", praised his "qualities of sincerity and integrity", and said that he "enriched the game of cricket and set a fine example".

Early Life and Career

Born in Durban, South Africa, Trevor Goddard was the youngest in a family of four boys whose father was a linotype operator with the Natal Mercury. Trevor played in the first XI at Durban High School from 1946 to 1948, scoring several centuries and taking many wickets as a left-arm orthodox spinner, often bowling in tandem with Arthur Tayfield, Hugh's younger brother. Along with Arthur Tayfield, he played in the South African Schools XI in 1948–49.

Fully grown, he stood six feet two inches. He changed to pace bowling when he began playing for the Tech club in Durban, which had a spin bowler (the Natal left-armed Les Payn) and needed a medium-pace.

He also played soccer for Natal, but gave it up in 1954, partly to avoid injuries that might jeopardise his cricket career, and partly because he did not think it fair to ask his employers to give him leave to play two sports.

He made his first-class debut for Natal against Transvaal at Durban in 1952–53, opening the bowling and batting at number seven. In his third match he hit his first century, 100 not out against Eastern Province, and he finished the season with 433 runs at 43.30 and 18 wickets at 30.00. The next season he opened the batting for Natal with the captain, Jackie McGlew, and in his second match as opener he hit 174 and took 5 for 73 (also opening the bowling) against Western Province. He continued to perform consistently, helping Natal to victory in the Currie Cup in 1954–55 with 460 runs at 51.11, 10 catches, and 9 wickets at 16.00 in six matches, and was selected to tour England in 1955.

In September 1954 he married Jean, who was born in England. They eventually had two children.

Early Test Career

In 23 matches on the 1955 tour he hit 1163 runs at 30.60 and took 60 wickets at 21.90. He played in all five Tests, opening the batting and, in two Tests, the bowling as well. In a series in which bowlers dominated, he took 25 wickets at 21.12 and made 235 runs at 23.50. He played a big part in the victory in the Fourth Test at Leeds, making 9 and 74 (in an opening partnership of 176 in four and a quarter hours with McGlew after South Africa had trailed by

20 on the first innings) and taking 2 for 39 and 5 for 69. On the last day he "bowled over the wicket without relief from 11.30 a.m. until the match was won at 4.12 p.m.", finishing with figures of 62-37-69-5. Summing up the tour, Norman Preston wrote that although Goddard "was obviously a cricketer of great possibilities", he was mostly a "defensive cricketer": "When batting, survival at the crease was his main consideration, and when bowling ... he aimed persistently at or outside the leg stump to a field set suitably for those tactics".

When England toured South Africa in 1956-57, in another series dominated by the bowlers Goddard top-scored in four innings and led the South African aggregates and averages with 333 runs at 33.30, with a top score of 69. He also took 12 catches, which remains the South African record (shared with Bert Vogler and Bruce Mitchell) and 15 wickets at 24.66. Wisden's summary said he was now "one of the big personalities in world cricket", but described his leg-side bowling as "not pretty to watch".

His bowling was less effective against the Australians the following season, yielding only 7 wickets at 59.57, but he scored 284 runs at 35.50. He hit 90 in the first innings of the First Test, when he put on 176 for the first wicket with McGlew, a record against Australia. In the second innings of the Second Test he opened and carried his bat for 56 not out in a team total of 99 all out and an innings defeat. He batted at number five in the Third Test, number four in the Fourth Test, then returned to open in the Fifth.

He maintained his form in the next two domestic seasons, taking 6 for 3 (figures of 11-9-3-6) when Natal dismissed Border for 16 in 1959-60, and making his first double-century, 200 against Rhodesia, two weeks later. He also captained Natal for the first time in one match (which Natal won).

He toured England in 1960, an unsuccessful tour for South Africa that John Arlott described as "the unhappiest ever made by a party of overseas cricketers in England". The team vice-captain to McGlew, Goddard made 220 runs at 24.44 and took 17 wickets at 24.35 in the five Tests, although a new restriction of fielders on the leg side prevented his use of his more defensive bowling methods. In the Fifth Test, after England had been dismissed for 155 in the first innings, Goddard batted for six hours and 10 minutes in scoring 99 and helping South Africa to a lead of 264; but the match was drawn after a second-innings recovery by England and rain on the last day. In 24 matches on the tour he scored 1377 runs at 37.21, with four centuries, and took 73 wickets at 19.71, including career-best match figures of 10 for 79 against Lancashire. He captained the team in five matches.

He played only part of the 1960-61 season. In August 1961 he and his family went to live in England for a year. He had a job with Decca Records in London, and on weekends during the 1962 English cricket season he played as the club professional for Great Chell in the North Staffordshire League. He set a league record for runs in a season, scoring 1128 runs at 94.00, as well as taking 64 wickets at 12.15. He believed his season with Great Chell changed his attitude to playing. The clubs depend almost entirely on their professional, who must develop what Goddard called the "killer instinct".

He returned to South Africa for the 1962-63 season, scoring 723 runs at 65.72 with four centuries, and taking 19 wickets at 21.31, as "his medium-paced deliveries gave indications of new-found subtlety".

Test Captaincy

Goddard was appointed captain of South Africa on its five-month tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1963-64. His employer was unable to give him so much leave, and he was only able to tour because the cricket-loving director of a large Durban store offered him a public relations position and time off to play cricket.

He suffered from severe sinusitis during the early part of the tour and spent time in hospital in Perth and Brisbane, where an operation after the First Test relieved the condition. He scored 454 runs at 64.85 and took 11 wickets at 38.18 in the five Tests against Australia, and led his young side to a one-all result with three Tests drawn. Sir Donald Bradman said he had "little doubt the South African side should have won the series" had they, and especially

Goddard, had more confidence in their ability. Wally Grout agreed, saying, "Time and time again in the series, when a little boldness would have carried them through, they chose caution." Nevertheless, Goddard believed that, after the victory in the Fourth Test, "South Africa had at long last come out of its post-war chrysalis and had spread its wings as a Test-winning nation".

The three-Test series in New Zealand that followed finished with all matches drawn, although South Africa, despite being reduced at one stage to eleven fit men, had by far the better of all three matches. Goddard scored 233 runs at 46.60 and took 7 wickets at 20.28 (series figures of 140-81-142-7). He remarked at the end of the series that "with the weather and the playing conditions in New Zealand you can't expect to play good cricket".

He took up the post of cricket organiser of the privately financed Sport Foundation of South Africa in late 1964.

Goddard was appointed captain for the five-Test series against the visiting English side in 1964-65. However, after England won the First Test and the next two were drawn, the selectors asked him to relinquish the captaincy. They wanted him to issue a statement, "the gist of which was that he had asked to be relieved of the captaincy". He refused to do so, and they let him remain captain for the rest of the series. When he scored his only Test century, 112, in the Fourth Test, "almost the entire England team moved over to congratulate this most popular player. The crowd rose for fully a minute. It was an inspiring spectacle." Goddard finished the series with 405 runs at 40.50, and 6 wickets at 51.66.

Disappointed with the way he had been handled, he told the selectors during the Fourth Test that he would retire from Test cricket at the end of the series and would consequently be unavailable for the tour to England in 1965. They later offered him the captaincy of the touring team, but he was adamant.

Later Test Career

He played the 1965-66 season for Natal, and at the end of the season he captained South to an overwhelming victory against North in a trial match, making 102 and taking 6 for 30 in the respective first innings.

He captained a strong South African XI to an important victory against the Australian touring team early in December 1966, then made his highest score, 222 for North-Eastern Transvaal against Western Province a few days later. Under the captaincy of Peter van der Merwe (who in 1965 had named his son Trevor after Goddard) he played all five Tests against the Australians, scoring 294 runs at 32.66 and having his most successful series with the ball, taking 26 wickets at 16.23. After the Australian second innings in the First Test, when he took his best Test figures of 6 for 53 to give South Africa its first-ever Test victory over Australia in South Africa, he was carried off the field shoulder-high by the jubilant crowd. Asked why the Australians had found Goddard's deliveries so hard to play, Denis Lindsay replied, "Trevor's swinging them in circles." Eight of the South Africans who won the series 3-1 had toured in Goddard's team in 1963-64.

He continued his all-round form for North-Eastern Transvaal in 1967-68 and Natal in 1968-69. He took up the position of sports supervisor at the University of Natal in 1968, which combined administrative, coaching and mentoring duties. His protégés at the university included John Traicos and Vincent van der Bijl.

In the first match in the Currie Cup in 1969-70 he carried his bat for 85 not out for Natal against Western Province. His batting form fell away somewhat in the next few matches but his bowling was as effective as ever, and he was selected for the first three Tests against Australia. He opened the batting with Barry Richards in the first four innings of the series, and although he made only 16, 17, 17 and 6, his opening partnerships with Richards were worth 21, 52, 88 and 56. He took 9 wickets at 22.55, conceding only 203 runs from 126.3 overs, and taking the final three wickets of the Third Test to ensure South Africa's victory in the series.

Goddard had already said that it would be his last series. Immediately after the Third Test ended, while the players were celebrating in the dressing room, one of the selectors told Goddard he had been left out of the team for the final Test now that the series was won, in order that the team should consist only of players who would be touring England later that year. The decision and its timing were widely unpopular. Peter Pollock said "it was no way to say thanks to a man who had been involved almost from the start in South Africa's rise to cricketing glory". Trevor Chesterfield described it as "cruel and unnecessary; an act which took some of the sparkle out of the 4-0 whitewash". The captain, Ali Bacher, said that despite the team's success, the day was "one of the saddest since I first played Test cricket for South Africa". Goddard himself simply said, "I wouldn't be human if I did not say I was disappointed. But that's life."

He ended his first-class career a month later by leading Natal to victory against Rhodesia in Salisbury, and taking a hat-trick.

After Cricket

In *Caught in the Deep*, Goddard's memoir of his life after cricket, he wrote: "As the clouds of controversy following my exclusion from the Springbok team began to lift, it gradually began to dawn on me that as far as reality and true fulfilment was concerned I had almost certainly been on the wrong track." "I had always tried to live by certain standards which I had presumed were acceptable to God," he wrote, but he now believed he had been self-righteous in this presumption and, he wrote, "I was looking towards God and seeing Him raise His finger. In God's judgement I was undeniably out." He and his wife began to pursue a more intense kind of Christian belief.

Jean died of cancer in 1975. He resigned from his position at the University of Natal in 1977 and took up lay preaching and missionary work. He conducted many missions in secondary schools. In 1978 he married a widow, Lesley. In December 1985, while driving alone near Graaff-Reinet, he fell asleep at the wheel and his car left the road; he sustained multiple injuries and spent weeks in hospital, but eventually recovered fully.

Wikipedia

Geoff Griffin

As we sat in the shade of Blackmore House watching the DHS 1st XI open their batting account against the Kingsmead Mynahs on 12 October 2006, 'Stompie' gazed around the grounds. Stories of the incidents that occurred when he was at School 49 years earlier, albeit for only one year, poured forth.

'Stompie' (let him be called Geoff) had coached the Mynahs and had also played for them many years ago. Here he was, back at School to support the Mynahs, DHS and the great game of cricket. Geoff completed most of his schooling at Eshowe High School where his father was Head Master. While in Standard 8 (Grade 10), he and his father were included in a Zululand Invitation side to play a match at Kloof. The youngster's skills with both bat and ball did not go unnoticed by Mr Les Theobald. Mr Theobald suggested to Geoff's father that perhaps Geoff would encounter better cricket in the Durban area than in rural Eshowe.

In 1957, Geoff entered Blackmore House. The Archivist dug into the records to find out more about 'Stompie'. He proved to be an excellent athlete in all the sports he played. He made his way into the 1st XI on his arrival at DHS in January.

The Glenwood match played at Glenwood proved to be a remarkable encounter on two counts - the very low scores and Geoff's bowling figures. DHS won the toss and opted to bat. They were soon 5 for 29 runs, and they only reached a total of 75 runs all out. Glenwood were then subjected to splendid bowling by Geoff and were soon all out for 42 runs. His bowling figures will stand out in the history of cricket at DHS.

*8,5 overs 4 maidens 12 runs 9 wickets
7 batsmen were clean bowled.

*At the time there were 8 balls per over.

In the return game played at DHS he bagged 6 for 30 runs. In the eighteen matches played in 1957, he took 61 wickets with an average of 5,74 runs per wicket. He proved to be the best all-rounder in the side and the best since the Sparks brothers in the 1930s.

He played fly-half for the 1st Rugby side and scored many points with the boot. In the athletics meeting at DHS in the open age group, he won:

110 yards Hurdles; Long Jump; High Jump; Triple Jump; Pole Vault and was second in the 100 yards. What is quite astonishing is that the high, long jump and the pole vault events were held at the same time!

Geoff went on to win the following at:

	Long Jump	High Jump	Triple Jump	Pole Vault
Natal Junior Champs	1 st	1 st	1 st	1 st
SA Junior Champs	1 st	1 st	-	2 nd

Why was Geoff known to some people as 'Stompie'? Bill Payn suggested to Geoff that he was like an executive expensive Virginia tobacco cigarette that the people on the hill at Eshowe had smoked down to the filter tip. The last bit of this cigarette was picked up by DHS. Geoff achieved great heights in one year at the expense of those boys who had worked their way through the ranks from Grade 9.

Early in 1958, Geoff decided not to return to DHS to sit for his matric. He was selected for the S A Schools' side in January 1958. In the same year he was chosen to play for the Natal senior side against Free State. He went on to play for South Africa, but only two tests and they were against England in England.

At Lords in the '23-27 June 1960 Test', Geoff had Mike Smith caught behind by Waite on 99 off the last ball of an over. His next over saw him bowl Peter Walker on 52 and the ebullient Fred Truman came to the crease informing Geoff what he was going to do with his bowling. Fred was bowled first ball!

This is the only hat trick taken at Lords in a Test Match to date, and the only hat trick taken by a South African in a Test Match to date.

Sadly Geoff's test career was to end very shortly. South Africa lost that Test Match by an innings and 72 runs.

Queen Elizabeth was scheduled to visit Lord's at tea time on that fourth day of play so both sides agreed to play a 20 over-a-side exhibition game to keep the spectators at the grounds for the Queen's visit. It was during this 40 over game that Syd Buller, the England umpire, no-balled Geoff out of the game and out of Test Cricket.

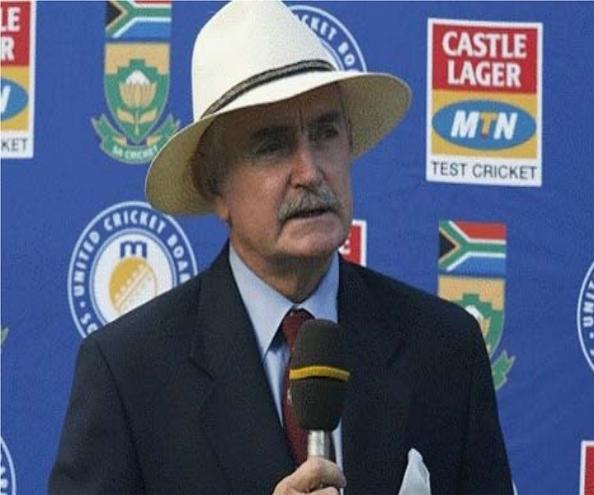
In Founders' at DHS there is a photograph of Geoff Griffin shaking hands with Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth at Lords at a pause in play during the 20 over game - perhaps Geoff is shaking hands to the end of his Test career.

Article taken from Jeremy Oddy's book 'Where the baobab grows'



Jackie McGlew, the Springbok Captain,obscured, introducing Geoff Griffin to the Queen at Lords in London 26 June 1960.

Lee Irvine



Brian Lee Irvine, born on 9 March 1944 in Durban, South Africa was a cricketer who played four Tests for South Africa in 1969-70 in the last Test series played by South Africa before official sporting links were broken over the apartheid policy.

Irvine was a hard-hitting left-handed middle-order batsman, a fine outfielder who became a regular wicketkeeper and an occasional right-arm medium pace bowler. He played one first-class match as an 18-year-old for a Western Province XI against the International Cavaliers - he turned 19 during the match. But he did not then reappear in first-class cricket until he became a regular in the Natal side in the 1965-66 season.

After two seasons of modest batting, Irvine made a big advance in the 1967-68 season, scoring 504 runs in the South African domestic season and hitting his first two centuries. He was, however, pretty much an unknown quantity when he was signed by Essex as an overseas player for the 1968 English cricket season, the first season when limited numbers of overseas players were allowed to be registered without a period of qualification or a special dispensation.

Irvine proved a success in county cricket. In his first season for Essex, he scored 1,439 runs, and though he did not score a century, he made his runs fast and hit a lot of sixes. Wisden Cricketers' Almanack for 1969 recorded that "rarely did he emerge from a match without hitting at least one six, and in fact he was responsible for more sixes than any other player in first-class cricket". He was awarded his county cap in his first season.

His record in South African domestic cricket for Natal in 1968-69 was very similar to his English record: a lot of runs but no centuries. He returned to Essex for 1969, and increased his batting average, though Wisden remarked that he was less forthright in his batting. He finally scored a century for Essex in the match against Glamorgan at the end of the season.

In South Africa in 1969-70, Irvine transferred to Transvaal. His batting immediately moved up a notch in terms of averages and aggregates and he also started to keep wicket regularly for the team. In that season, South Africa played the last of the pre-apartheid Test matches against a touring team from Australia, and Irvine was selected for all four Tests as a batsman only. He batted at No 6 in the first two matches and then, in the third match at Johannesburg, made 79 out of 117 in the first innings and a quick-fire 73 in the second innings as South Africa took a decisive 3-0 lead in the series. In the final match, batting at No 5, he made 102 in the second innings as South Africa sought, successfully, to bat Australia out of the match. With 353 runs in the four-match series, Irvine finished with a Test average of more than 50.

Irvine did not play Test cricket again and in fact never played cricket outside the domestic South African competitions after this brief taste of Test cricket. The South Africans had been due to tour England in 1970, but the tour was called off, and though other players, such as Barry Richards and Mike Procter returned to their English counties for the season, Irvine did not go back to Essex. He played regularly for Transvaal for the next seven seasons, making a lot of runs and also acting as the regular wicketkeeper for the first five years. He was Transvaal captain in 1974-75 and 1975-76. He retired after the 1976-77 season.

Barry Richards



Barry Anderson Richards (born 21 July 1945) is a former South African batsman. A right-handed "talent of such enormous stature", Richards is considered one of South Africa's most successful cricketers. He was able to play only four Test matches - all against Australia - before South Africa's exclusion from the international scene in 1970. Even in that brief career, against a competitive Australian attack, Richards scored 508 runs at the high average of 72.57. Richards' contribution in that series was instrumental in the 4–0 win that South Africa inflicted on the side, captained by Bill Lawry. His first century, 140, was scored in conjunction with Graeme Pollock's 274 in a famous 103-run partnership.

With such limited international exposure, Richards plied his trade in first class cricket between 1964 and 1983, becoming a prolific batsman with 28,358 runs. He scored 80 centuries, including a best of 356, at an overall average of 54.74. He also scored 8,506 one day runs, with 16 further centuries. Wisden Cricketer of the Year for 1969, Richards scored runs for Gloucestershire, Hampshire, Natal, South Australia, Transvaal and in World Series Cricket, and has been described as "one of the finest talents of the 20th century" further to which "the merest suggestion that he does not belong among the definitive all-time greats will spark violence in most bars in South Africa."

Early life

Richards was born in Durban, Natal Province, Union of South Africa and attended Clifton Preparatory School and the Durban High School. He played in the Natal Nuffield week side from 1961 to 1964, and for South African schools from 1962 to 1964, scoring a century against the Western Province first class team. The national selectors had their eyes on him early, and he played for a South African Colts XI against the touring MCC side in 1964-65, scoring 63, and later in the tour for an Invitation XI. When the Australians toured in 1966-67, he scored 107 in 160 minutes for a strong South African XI against them before the First Test, but despite several failures by the top-order batsmen in the Test series, he was unable to break into the national side.

County Cricket

Richards was a prolific scorer in county cricket for many years for Hampshire. He scored 2395 runs in his first season, 1968, more than anybody else in the country. From 1970, Richards established one of the most successful opening partnerships for that county, along with West Indian batsman Gordon Greenidge.

Sheffield Shield

In 1970-71, as an overseas player for South Australia, Richards scored 325 runs in a single day against Western Australia off an attack that included Dennis Lillee, Graham McKenzie, Tony Lock and Tony Mann. In that season he hit 1538 runs in 10 matches at an average of 109.86.

Currie Cup

Returning home to play for Natal in the next 4 seasons, he scored heavily in the Currie Cup, 1089 runs in (1971-72), 1064 runs in (1972-73), 898 runs in (1973-74) and 868 runs in (1975-76). Richards is the only player to have scored a 1,000 runs in a Currie Cup season, each season consisting of only 8 matches.

Among his other achievements was scoring 155 not out in a score of 215-3 off 40 overs in the John Player League v Yorkshire County Cricket Club at Hull on 7 June 1970. This achievement was put into further perspective when Yorkshire replied with 74-9 off their 40 overs.

Other International Ventures

He did have the opportunity for international cricket in World Series Cricket in the winters of 1977-78 and 1978-79 in Australia playing 5 Supertests for the World XI scoring 554 runs in 5 matches. This included two centuries including 207 scored v WSC Australia on 27 January 1978 at Gloucester Park, Perth.

In South Africa, Richards was Player of the Year in 1968. He also played for South Africa in 6 unofficial "Tests", captaining the team twice. In 1984 he came out of retirement to play against the rebel West Indian touring team in South Africa. Trevor Bisseker wrote: "Playing at Newlands, he held the stadium enthralled for an hour, as he simply carved up everything that was delivered at him. He played with all the time in the world and the decisive quality of a master craftsman at work. Alas the spell was broken. His concentration seem to snap and the inevitable end came. That innings put Richards into his right perspective. He was the closest thing to an insurance policy against defeat that anybody could take out. Certainly, if somebody had to bat for one's life, one would choose Richards ahead of the other world greats of the 1970s, and that includes his illustrious West Indian namesake and Graeme Pollock."

Later life and Career

For a number of seasons he commentated for the South African Broadcasting Corporation as well as South Africa's MNet Supersport, before parting ways after a dispute. He has also commentated in the UK for Test Match Special, Channel 4 and Five.

Richards was chosen by Dickie Bird in his autobiography as a member of his Dream team, from all players he ever saw. Richards was also chosen by Sir Don Bradman as a member of his 20th century team as an opening batsman.

Wikipedia

Lance Klusener

Lance Klusener (born 4 September 1971) is a former South African cricketer, more specifically an all-rounder. He is known for his aggressive batting and his fast-medium swing bowling. He is nicknamed "Zulu" because of his fluency in that language. Following his exploits at the 1999 World Cup for which he won the Player of the Tournament award, he topped the ICC ODI Batting rankings. His high strike rate and career ODI batting average of 41.10 places him among the ranks of South Africa's most accomplished one-day batsmen.



Career

Klusener played for KwaZulu-Natal (Nashua Dolphins) in the domestic level in South Africa between 1991 and 2004. In 2004, Northamptonshire County Cricket Club signed him on a contract running until late 2008. At Wantage Road he impressed with his fired-up seam bowling and his hard-hitting in the low middle-order. Due to family bereavements back home, it was announced that his contract with the county would not be renewed at the end of the 2008 season. In late 2007, he started playing in the Indian Cricket League Twenty20 tournament in India for the Kolkata Tigers team.

International Career

Klusener made his Test debut for South Africa against India in Calcutta during the second Test in 1996/97. Klusener, at the time playing primarily as a bowler, took some fearful hammering at the hands of Mohammad Azharuddin, who at one point hit him for five consecutive fours, in his first innings of his debut but returned career best figures of eight for 64 in the second.

Klusener will be remembered mainly for his contributions in One Day Internationals, in which he became feared as a hard hitting batsman and was voted as Man of the Tournament during the 1999 World Cup. He showed glimpses of his big-hitting in the years leading to the 1999 World Cup. His baseball-style backlift and thunderous hitting symbolised the tournament and his heroics nearly took South Africa to the final. He was also voted as a Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 2000.

He scored 1906 runs in 49 matches with a high score of 174 and 80 wickets with best of 8/64 in Test Matches. In ODI's he scored 3576 runs in 171 matches at an average of 41.1 with a highest score of 103 and took 192 wickets with a best of 6/49.

1999 World Cup

In the 1999 Cricket World Cup, South Africa had progressed to the semi-finals, and Klusener till then had an excellent tournament, taking 17 wickets and scoring 250 runs (including two half centuries) in 8 matches and building a reputation as a hard-hitting batsman in tight situations.

He won four Man of the Match awards out of the nine matches South Africa played in the tournament. The four awards were consecutive with respect to South Africa's wins (one match in between was won by Zimbabwe). The only other South African to win this award in this same tournament was Jacques Kallis.

The second semi-final was played between Australia and South Africa in Edgbaston, England. Australia, having been put to bat, set a target of 214 for South Africa to chase in 50 overs. Klusener came into bat when South Africa were 175-6 in 44.5 overs, and by virtue of his big-hitting (along with support from other batsmen), South Africa entered the final over at 205/9, needing nine runs to win in with only one wicket remaining. The two men at the crease were Klusener (on strike) and Allan Donald.

Klusener scored consecutive fours in the first two balls of the over (bowled by Damien Fleming), levelling the scores and leaving South Africa with only 1 run to win in 4 balls with Klusener on strike. The third ball was a dot, and the fourth saw Klusener mis-hit his shot to mid-wicket fielder Mark Waugh. Klusener went for the run, although chances of a run-out were high and two balls were still remaining. However, Donald at the other end, keeping his eyes on the ball, did not see Klusener sprinting down the pitch and did not hear the call to run, and Klusener was almost at the bowler's end by the time Donald (who had also dropped his bat) began running. By then, Waugh had thrown the ball to Fleming, who rolled it to Adam Gilchrist who took the bails off at the other end, meaning Donald was run-out by some distance, thus ending the match with the scores level. However, a tie meant that Australia progressed to the final since they had beaten South Africa in the group stages of the tournament. As commentator Bill Lawry put it during the final ball:

"... this will be out surely - oh it's out, it's gonna be run out ... oh, that is South Africa out - Donald did not run, I cannot believe it. Australia go into the World Cup Final - ridiculous running with two balls to go. Donald did not go, Klusener came - what a disappointing end for South Africa."

Australia went on to win the tournament, and although Klusener's heroics went in vain, he was voted the Player of the Series.

Coaching Career

Klusener severed all of his ties with the Indian Cricket League in late 2009 and then completed a Level-three coaching course provided by Cricket South Africa in Spring 2010. Klusener confirmed he was in negotiations with the Bangladesh Cricket Board about becoming the team bowling coach. Klusener confirmed that negotiations are on-going. However in early September 2010 the Bangladesh Cricket Board confirmed that they were still awaiting a response from Klusener. Klusener has finally turned down the offer to take over as Bangladesh's bowling coach, ending a prolonged period of speculation over his possible appointment. Klusener, who was in discussions to replace Sri Lanka's Champaka Ramanayake, was reportedly unable to convince his wife about a permanent move to Bangladesh.

In January 2012, he was appointed as the interim head coach (for the 2011-12 season) of the Dolphins, whom he represented in domestic cricket during his playing career. He was confirmed as Head Coach in July 2012.

Style of Play

Klusener was an all-round cricketer known for his powerful left hand batting and right hand swing bowling. His batting averages are particularly notable for the peculiar fact that his ODI average is considerably higher than his Test average. This is a fair reflection of his aggressive temperament. This is also due to the fact that in ODI's he batted higher up the batting order than in tests.

Wikipedia

Hashim Amla



Hashim Mohammad Amla was born on 31 March 1983. A right-handed top order batsman and occasional medium-pace bowler, Amla bats at number 3 for South Africa in Test matches and has opened in limited overs contests.

Amla became the first South African to score a Test match triple century when he scored 311 not out against England in 2012. In the 57th innings of his one-day international career, Amla became the fastest batsman to score 3,000 ODI runs, requiring 12 innings fewer than

Sir Vivian Richards. Also on 8 December 2013, he became the fastest batsman to score 4,000 ODI runs, requiring 8 innings fewer than Sir Vivian Richards. In his 57th match, Hashim Amla became the fastest cricketer to reach 10 centuries in ODIs. Hashim Amla in 2013 became the first batsman since Ricky Ponting to head both Test and ODI rankings at the same time in the latest ICC charts. He was named as one of the Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 2013.

Personal Life

Born to a South African Indian Muslim family, which has roots in Gujarat, Amla is a devout practising Muslim. His elder brother, Ahmed Amla, was also a professional cricketer, having made his debut two years earlier than Hashim, and went on to captain the Dolphins.

Early Years and Domestic Career

Upon graduating from Durban High School and impressing on the youth circuit, Amla made his debut for his provincial team, the KwaZulu Natal Dolphins, soon captaining South Africa at the 2002 Under-19 Cricket World Cup in New Zealand, leading his team to the final. During his formative years, former Western Province captain and coach Hylton Ackerman had been influential in Amla's development, first spotting his talent and honing his skills during his coaching career. His promise led him to being appointed captain of KwaZulu-Natal at the young age of 21.

International Career

Upon being appointed captain of the Dolphins, Amla began the 2004–2005 South African domestic season by scoring four centuries during his first eight innings. His success at the domestic level and consistent performances for the South Africa A squad led to him being chosen for the winter 2004 tour of India at the age of 21, thereby becoming the first South African of Indian descent to represent South Africa in international cricket.

Making his debut in Eden Gardens, Kolkata, on 28 November 2004, he initially made a slow start to his career, with his technique having been criticized after scoring 36 runs in the 2004 series against England. After honing his technique and working on his skills with the Dolphins, for whom he regularly top-scored in the South African domestic circuit, he proved his critics wrong in 2006 as he scored a comeback 149 against New Zealand at Newlands, Cape Town, helping guide South Africa to a match-saving draw.

He subsequently continued this success, earning a national contract and scoring 1599 runs at an average of 57.10 in his next 19 Tests, solidifying his position as South Africa's number 3 batsman. On 27 March 2008, he scored an unbeaten 159 against India in Chennai amidst searing conditions. His success throughout the 2008 year, in which he scored 1012 runs, consisted of numerous centuries and solid performances against India, England and Australia. During South Africa's 2009 tour of Australia, Amla helped South Africa win a historic Test and one day series victory

over Australia, scoring 259 runs at an average of 51.80 during the Tests and contributing crucial scores in the one day series, including a match-winning 80 in the series clincher.

In April 2009, Amla was signed by Essex as their overseas player for a portion of the 2009 English county season, as a short-term replacement for Danish Kaneria. During his stay at the club, he scored two centuries in two Championship matches, including a match-saving 181 on his debut, the highest score by an Essex debutant, as well as 111 runs off 107 in his first Pro40 match, against Sussex. Essex fans had warmed to him throughout his stay, affectionately calling him "W.G" in reference to W.G. Grace.

During England's 2009–2010 tour of South Africa, Amla was an integral member of the side throughout the series, scoring a crucial century in the first Test at Centurion and contributing important innings during the rest of the series. His performances also saw him move up the ICC Test Batting rankings.

Top Form

Amla started 2010 in February against India in a two-match test series against India in India. In the first test he scored 253 as South Africa reached 558. After this a superb bowling performance from Dale Steyn meant that India were bowled out for 233 with Steyn bagging seven wickets. India forced to follow-on were bowled out for 319 as South Africa won by an innings and six runs. In the second test match Amla made 114 before being caught by MS Dhoni. Despite Amla's century the remaining South African batting order could only manage 296. India batted and scored 643 with centuries from Virender Sehwag, Sachin Tendulkar, VVS Laxman and MS Dhoni. The South African chase collapsed poorly but Amla still managed another century scoring 123 as South Africa were bowled out for 290 and crashed to an innings defeat.

After this Amla toured the West Indies for 5 ODIs and three test matches. Amla top scored in the first ODI with 102 as South Africa coasted to a comfortable victory. He followed this up with 92 in the second ODI as South Africa again sealed a 17 run victory. In the third ODI, Amla scored 30, but in the fourth ODI he returned with a century by scoring 129 off 115 balls. He made 45 in the fifth and final ODI before he was run-out by Kieron Pollard as South Africa won narrowly by one wicket.

The three match test series was one where Amla performed consistently but didn't register any centuries, he top scored with 44. The first test was a poor one for Amla scoring 2 and 5 as South Africa still won comfortably. In the following test he scored 44 and 41 as the match was drawn, he scored 5 and 25 in the final test match as South Africa won by seven wickets.

In the three match ODI series against Zimbabwe, Amla scored 110 as South Africa gave Zimbabwe 351 to win and South Africa won the match by 64 runs. The second ODI saw Amla score 110 as South Africa cruised to an 8 wicket victory and sealed the three match series with one game to spare. Amla had a quiet final ODI scoring 24 as South Africa won by 264 runs.

Amla went into a five-match ODI series against Pakistan on the back of good form and in the first ODI managed 35 as South Africa won by 8 wickets. Amla scored a quickfire half century in the second ODI before being given leg-before to a Shahid Afridi leg-break, despite this good knock from Amla and 286 from South Africa, they couldn't win the match courtesy of a superb century by Abdul Razzaq scoring 109 of just 73 balls. In the third ODI Amla scored 119 as the rest of the South African order collapsed around him and the team only managed 228, however South Africa won the match by just two runs courtesy of some superb death bowling yorkers from Rusty Theron.

Following these excellent performances in the ODI format Amla was selected in the 12-man Twenty20 squad against India, at the Moses Mabhida Stadium. He was selected in place of opener Loots Bosman. The most significant thing about the match before it started or ended was that it was the final match of Makhaya Ntini.

2012 Tour of England

In the First Test at The Oval, he scored the highest ever test score by a South African and the country's first triple century. He scored 311 not out in a man of the match performance, as South Africa defeated England by an-innings-and-12-run victory. He then scored his 16th Test century in the 2nd innings of the 3rd Test at Lords, as South Africa beat England by 51 runs to clinch the series by 2–0, and ascend to top of the ICC test rankings. He was South Africa's man of the series, and during the ODI series that followed he scored a career-best 150 (from 124 balls) in the second match against England at Southampton.

In Australia, 2012

In the 1st Test at The Gabba, Amla scored 104, and shared a 165 run 3rd wicket partnership with Jacques Kallis. Amla and Kallis are the most prolific partnership in South Africa's test match history. In the 3rd Test at the WACA, Amla scored 196 in the 2nd innings in a match-winning, series-clinching effort.

2013

During bilateral series against New Zealand in January 2013, Amla was requested to lead the team due to suspension of regular captain AB de Villiers for 2 matches due to slow overrate. Amla declined requesting to be left to "concentrate on his batting". In August 2013 it was announced that Amla had signed for Surrey, for whom he made a limited number of appearances in domestic matches.

2014

In June 2014 Amla became South Africa's first permanent non-white Test captain (although Ashwell Prince had it temporarily), ahead of the Sri Lanka tour following Graeme Smith's retirement. Amla captained his side to a historic victory against Sri Lanka in his first test series as captain. He also continued to make domestic appearances for Surrey when other commitments allowed.

2015

In January 2015 he was named Player of the Series in a bi-lateral series against the West Indies.

Achievements and Milestones

Fastest man to reach 2000 runs in ODIs (40 Innings)

Fastest man to reach 3000 runs in ODIs (59 Innings)

Fastest man to reach 4000 runs in ODIs (81 Innings)

Fastest man to reach 5000 runs in ODIs (101 Innings)

First South African to score Triple century in Test Matches

First South African Captain to score a Test Century against Sri Lanka in Sri Lanka

Only man in history to score a 1000 runs in both Tests and ODIs in the same calendar year (2010)

Hashim Amla & AB De Villiers hold the highest partnership for South Africa (238 runs) which is also the highest 3rd wicket stand in One day International Cricket.

Hashim Amla and AB De Villiers' partnership of 308 runs against the West Indies is the record 4th wicket partnership for South Africa in a test match, 17-20 December 2014.

Fastest cricketer to reach 10 centuries in ODI's, requiring 23 matches less than Indian batsman Virat Kohli.

Fastest to achieve 15 ODI Centuries (89 matches).

Wikipedia March 2015