

STRATHALLAN SCHOOL

CRICKET INTERNATIONALISTS



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Strathallan and Cricket

Cricket has been the premier summer 'game' since Strathallan began in Bridge of Allan in 1913. Beginning in rudimentary conditions in the Strathallan Games Field in Bridge of Allan, the early history of Strathallan cricket is strong, with unbeaten years in 1915 and 1916, playing a variety of school and club sides. However, the real growth periods were the 1920s and 1930s when the cricket was first under the control of former Scotland batsman Joe Anderson and then by a professional from the Yorkshire Leagues, A. Vickerstaff, who was to remain in charge of the cricket and the pitches until his retirement in 1939.

Thereafter, in the 1940s and 1950s the cricket was mostly in the hands of enthusiastic amateurs, though G. W. Leburn and later Wilf Hoare both commented that it seemed as if the boys had had no coaching at all ! Wilf Hoare himself had been no mean cricketer for Grange and stories are told of him enthusing about the need for batsmen to have a high front elbow, or of having prospective parents acting as fielders in the nets as he tested their son's batting prowess. According to one Strathallian, G. T. Hudson, Hoare told him that cricket was a combination of cricket and ballet. Certainly, he regarded cricket as an essential part of Strathallan's education for the boys. Thus by the 1960s the Perthshire professional Tom Lodge was appointed, coinciding with a number of strong years early in the decade, under the leadership of Colin Addison and David Williams, both of them good cricketers in their own right. Cricket went through somewhat of a slump in the 1970 with a huge number of draws, and competition from both athletics and proliferating examinations, until growing stronger in the 1980s, when the XI was under the guidance of Robert J. W. Proctor. Since the 1990s, former Scottish batsman Iain Philip has been the School pro, and in the 2000s we have produced one full Scottish international and one Scotland A player, both whilst still at School.

Thus far (2013), Strathallan has only had three full international cricketers from amongst its pupils; T. M. Hart, M. J. de G. Allingham and F. R. J. Coleman, with seventy-seven years separating Hart and Coleman. However, Strathallan has had a number of players who have played first-class cricket over and above these; Ashley J. Harvey-Walker plied his trade at country 2nd XI level with Warwickshire and Derbyshire until making his first-class debut for the latter in 1971. He played seven years at Derby before being released in 1978 subsequently emigrating to South Africa where he tragically met an early death in 1997. Christopher D. Hartley from Brisbane, came to Strathallan in 1998 as an exchange pupil from Brisbane Boys College. He had already made his debut for Australia U19 and been sent for a brief spell to the Academy in Adelaide before he spent a term at Strathallan. He scored two centuries and kept wicket brilliantly at Strathallan before returning to Australia where he soon became Queensland's number one 'keeper, subsequently appearing for Australia A and being a part of the 2009 Ashes touring side, albeit for one game against England Lions at Canterbury. He was voted Sheffield Shield Player of the year in the 2009-10 season, and there is little he has not won in Queensland colours, captaining the Brisbane Heat to the 2013 Big Bash title.

Two former pupils of the mid-1990s have also played international cricket; Dougal Fergusson [Simpson 1995] has played for Argentina in ICC qualifiers, and Peter J. Watson [Freeland 1995] has turned out for Portugal in 1995 against an England XI sporting several Test stars. Watson also turned out twice for Chile against Peru in 1995.

Thomas Mure Hart



Born in Glasgow in 1909, **Thomas Mure Hart** (1st March 1909-16th January 2001) was educated at Strathallan School, Glasgow University and Brasenose College, Oxford. At Strathallan he was the first major cricket star, taking seven wickets for no runs against Hillhead High School, and six for no runs against Auchterarder in 1926, and scoring the first century on the School's Lawn ground in 1927 (an unbeaten 112 against Pitlochry). In his final year at School he scored 531 runs at 35.33 and took 64 wickets at 6.5 runs each.

He played his club cricket with Clydesdale Cricket Club and from 1927 until 1933 he scored in the Western District Cricket Union 1,158 runs and took 62 wickets. His best bowling was against Drumpellier in 1933 when he took 7 for 16. Whilst attending Oxford University, he played for the university cricket team, playing ten first-class matches in 1931 and 1932, gaining his blue in both years. He made his debut for Scotland in 1933, playing against Ireland. He played a second match against Australia the following year. Both matches were first-class.

Hart entered the Colonial Service in 1933 and joined the Malayan Civil Service in 1936. Between 1937 and 1939, he played three matches for the Federated Malay States against the Straits Settlements. During the Second World War he was captured in Malaya and served as a civilian detainee. In 1953 he was appointed Director of Commerce and Industry in Singapore and in 1954 he was appointed the Financial Secretary to Singapore. He was appointed a Companion of St Michael and St George, 1957. Subsequently he returned to Scotland to become Bursar at Loretto School from 1959-69. He died at Winchester on 16th January 2001.

Michael James de Grey Allingham



Michael James de Grey Allingham (born 6th January 1965, Inverness) was educated at Strathallan School and Moray House (Edinburgh). A good all-round sportsman, he represented the North & Midlands and Edinburgh at rugby, going on to play scrum-half for Scotland B. His misfortune was to play in an era of several outstanding Scottish half-backs such as Roy Laidlaw, Gary Armstrong and Andy Nicol. But for a serious knee injury he may have played for the full Scotland XV. He was to win 49 caps for Scotland at cricket as a genuine all-rounder, though here too injury led to him being in and out of the side.

Whilst at Strathallan he was in the 1st XI for four years, being captain for 1982 and 1983, and latterly was a prolific batsman and devastating bowler, scoring six centuries and bowling at times with genuine pace. A right handed batsman and bowler, his finest year was probably 1982 when he scored 721 runs at 103 and took 46 wickets at 10.73. He followed up this performance in 1983 with 551 runs at 91 and 28 wickets. He was Captain of School in his final year and was a member of the unbeaten rugby and hockey sides of 1982-83.

For most of his career Mike played his cricket out of the George Heriot's Former Pupils Cricket Club, alongside such former internationalists as Hamish More, George Goddard and Euan McIntyre. He made an auspicious start to his Scotland career with a half century in his debut match against the English Amateur XI in the home nations' Triple Crown competition in 1991. In the World Cup of 1999, he took one of the catches of the tournament at Worcester where Scotland put in a capable performance against the eventual winners, Australia.

Never a regular member of the side on account of his teaching career and injuries, he played five first-class matches and 3 ODIs, together with thirteen other caps in List A matches, though in total he was capped 49 times. His highest score was 66 not out, averaging a healthy 45.50 in first-class cricket. He now teaches and coaches at The Edinburgh Academy after a stint at Fettes College, also in Edinburgh.

Freddie Robert John Coleman



It is unusual for a schoolboy to achieve full international status whilst still at school but **Frederick Robert John Coleman** (born 15th December 1991) did just that when picked for the Scottish Saltires against Nottinghamshire in May 2010. His full cap was just reward for a series of impressive performances; he had scored centuries against a number of National League Premiership sides for the Scotland U19s and had made his debut in the new regional series for Caledonia in 2010.

The selection came off the back of a number of honours for Freddie who had long been a member of Scottish age-groups sides. He had tasted success for the U15 national squad, scoring a century on their memorable trip to South Africa in 2007; he had also been a key member of the U17 and U19 sides that had won the European Championships, *en route* to the 2011 World Cup in Australia. He had also played for the Scottish Lions and for the Warwickshire Academy in 2009 and 2010.

At Strathallan Freddie's overall success will probably not be beaten: in 2008 he scored 679 at 97.00 to be in the top five Wisden Schoolboy averages that year, then in 2010 he averaged 139.20 aggregating 696 runs in total with four centuries. He scored a record 1966 runs at 65.53 in his school career, with five centuries and a top score of 142 not out in a winning cause against the MCC. Only J. G. S. Forrest with six centuries in 1936 and M. J. de G. Allingham with six in 1981-82 have beaten Freddie's total.

Since leaving Strathallan, he has represented Scotland in First-Class, ODIs and International T20 cricket. He made his full debut for Warwickshire in 2013 in T20 cricket, and he has represented the Oxford MCCU side for whom he scored a first-class century against Worcestershire in 2012. His innings of 141 against Durham MCCU won him the Walter Lawrence Trophy for the highest innings by a member of the MCCU sides in 2012.

Ashley John Harvey-Walker



Ashley John Harvey-Walker (21 July 1944 – 28 April 1997) was born at East Ham, London and educated at Strathallan School in Perthshire, where he was in the First XI for five years. Upon leaving Strathallan, he joined Warwickshire and played for the second XI team moving to Derbyshire in 1967 where he also played in the second XI. In the 1971 season he made his first team debut. He became the first Derbyshire cricketer to score a century on his debut scoring an unbeaten 110 against Oxford University at Burton-on-Trent.

Harvey-Walker struggled to hold down a regular place in a weak batting side. His best season was 1974 when he scored 727 runs at 25.96, and also scored over 400 List 'A' runs. During the 1975 season a match at Buxton in June took place after a highly unseasonal snowstorm. Harvey-Walker came out to bat and surprised square leg umpire Dickie Bird by asking him to look after his false teeth, wrapped in a handkerchief, because he wouldn't be in for long.

Not regarded as a regular bowler much beforehand, he was regularly employed when selected in the 1978 season, taking 10–82, including 7–35 in the second innings against Surrey on the notoriously uncertain wicket at Ilkeston. Despite playing in the Benson and Hedges Cup Final he was not re-engaged at the end of the season in a general clearout by the County.

Harvey-Walker was a right-handed batsman and a right-arm off-break and medium-pace bowler. Early in his career he played purely as a top order batsman.

On 28 April 1997, at the age of 52, Harvey-Walker was murdered. While he was at a bar in Johannesburg, a gunman walked in, called out Harvey-Walker's name, and shot him when he responded

Christopher Desmond Hartley



Christopher Desmond Hartley (born 24 May 1982 in Nambour, Queensland) is an Australian cricketer who plays for the Queensland Bulls in Australian domestic cricket. He has been their first choice wicketkeeper batsman since the 2003-04 season. Chris Hartley was the College Captain of Brisbane Boys' College in 1999, and came to Strathallan on exchange in the summer term of 1998. Whilst at Strathallan he scored two centuries, against Dulwich College and a Festival composite side. Both hundreds were undefeated and, in the first against Dulwich College, he scored 17 off the last over to tie the match.

Hartley is a hard-hitting left-hand batsman and became the first from his state, since Matthew Hayden, to score a debut century with 103 against South Australia in 2003–04. On 21 September 2005, he took part in Australia A's tour of Pakistan, and in 2009 he appeared for Australia in a warm-up match in the Ashes Tour. He was part of Queensland's Pura Cup winning side for 2005–06, taking 7 catches in the final to finish with a tally for the season of 53 dismissals. Hartley was acclaimed the Sheffield Shield player of the 2009-10 season on 15 March 2010 in the week preceding the Shield Final.

To date he has played 93 first-class matches for Queensland with 423 victims behind the stumps, and 4176 runs at an average of 31.16, with 7 centuries. In 78 one day matches for Queensland, he has captured 112 victims, and scored 1399 runs with a highest score of 87. He is often the scorer of difficult and gutsy runs in either form of the game. In the 2012-13 season he captained the Brisbane Heat to the Big Bash 20/20 title.

Dougal G. O. Fergusson



Dougal G. O. Fergusson was at Strathallan from 1991 to 1995, being in the 1st XI for four years and Captain in his final season, 1995. He played for Scotland U19 as an opening batsman, and for Kent 2nd XI (Club and Ground, alongside Robert Key and Ed. Smith). At Loughborough University, where he read English Literature, he played for the 1st XI on a handful of occasions.

Following university, he spent a season at Grange Cricket Club in 2000, before moving to England with his career. After a period of four years away from the game he returned for HSBC in the Kent League, scoring a T20 century, the first in the new Premier League.

In 2006 he moved to Argentina where he played club cricket for the Hurlingham Hawks in Buenos Aires. He won the treble with the club in 2007 and 2008, during which time he played twice for Argentina. Unfortunately, as he had not yet qualified by residency, he is uncapped and both matches remain unofficial.

He has now moved to Peru and retired from the game.

Peter J. Watson



Peter J. Watson was at Strathallan from 1991-1995, being in the 1st XI for the last two years of his career. A flamboyant right handed batsman, he was also one of the spearheads of the bowling attack in his final year.

After leaving Strathallan his cricketing career blossomed. Whilst in Portugal in the summer of 1995 he played for Portugal against an England XI that was part of a Graham Gooch testimonial trip. The England XI contained Gooch himself, John Stephenson, Mike Gatting, Mike Garnham, Derek Pringle, and Keith Fletcher. The match, a 40 over a side game, was a friendly match though several Portuguese players took part, making it arguably the full Portuguese team. Watson took 1-50 and scored an unbeaten 21.

In 1996, whilst on a year abroad in Chile, Watson also turned out for the Chilean national side against Peru at Lima, in what had been planned as a tri-series with Brazil. Unfortunately, Brazil did not turn up, but Chile and Peru had one win apiece.

Since those heady days, he has played for St Cross Symondians CC in the Hampshire League and Aldborough CC. He has taught Languages at Greshams and was Master i/c Cricket there for five years. Subsequently he has qualified as an ECB Level 3 coach, and is now head of Spanish at Malvern College. Here, he helps with the school development squad, and county age-group players.