

The official magazine of Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club

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WINTER 2015
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Welcome

Although the cooler weather is starting to sweep across the country, I'm sure the involvement of our players in England's winter tours will keep cricket very much at the front of our minds.

Producing England players is a big part of our strategy and, as well as four players – Stuart Broad, James Taylor, Alex Hales, and Samit Patel – all featuring for the senior team, it's also encouraging to see Jake Ball, Luke Wood, Matthew Carter, Tom Moores and Tom Keast making steps into the ECB's international programme at Lions, performance squad and age group levels.

This is also my first opportunity to say well done to our squad and coaching staff for their strong performances during the second half of last season; the results sent us all into the winter months with renewed optimism.

Off the field, it has been a busy time for the Club with both Royal London One-Day Internationals selling well and the task beginning in earnest of backing up the record Membership of 2015. My thanks go to you all for your tremendous support in achieving this milestone.

Such strong passion for our sport sends a clear message that Trent Bridge is an integral stop on the Test Match circuit,

a status we are determined to preserve when we enter the next round of major match bidding, for 2020 to 2022, during the forthcoming year.

With that in mind, as you read this month's Covered, we hope to be finalising planning permission to expand the broadcast facilities at the Radcliffe Road end of Trent Bridge in what will be the first phase of our next ground development plan.

Trent Bridge has been developed over a 25-year period and over the last 18 months we have undertaken a comprehensive review of our facilities to identify the areas for improvement. Having consulted with our governing body and considered recent developments at other venues, we realise our broadcast facilities are no longer fit for purpose. It is, therefore, essential that we prioritise this area if we are to preserve the future of international cricket at Trent Bridge.

Should planning permission be obtained, an additional floor would be added to the building with new hospitality space also created to generate incremental revenue that could help fund future ground development projects.

We hope the formal plans will have progressed by the time of our Annual

Report & Accounts mailing in the New Year and I shall of course share them with you in greater detail over the coming months.

Elsewhere in Covered, our homegrown fast bowler Jake Ball talks about how much representing his home county means and Steven Mullaney explains how Nottinghamshire has become his adopted home having joined from Lancashire in 2009. Brett Hutton looks back on his rise to becoming a first team regular in 2015 - and an update is provided on the sterling work of our charity, the Trent Bridge Community Trust.

May I pass on my best wishes to you all for a happy and relaxing festive season.

Lisa Pursehouse
Chief Executive

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TRENT BRIDGE
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The passing of the torch. Stuart Broad becomes Nottinghamshire's number eight following the retirement of Paul Franks.



Club legend Franks announces first class retirement

Nottinghamshire stalwart Paul Franks has retired from the first class game, having taken 792 wickets for his home county over a career spanning 19 years.



The 36-year-old is a two-time winner of the LV= County Championship with the Club having lifted the trophy in both 2005 and 2010, as well as being part of the promotion winning campaigns of 2004 and 2007.

Franks, who was born in Mansfield, made his Nottinghamshire debut in 1996, was capped by the county in 1999, represented England in 2000 and was bestowed a benefit year in 2007.

He will continue to captain the Club's Second XI having led them to the Championship title last summer, for the first time since 1985.

"It's about closing a chapter and moving into a new one," said Franks.

"Playing for Nottinghamshire in first class cricket has meant an enormous amount to me. The shirt and the cap really matter.

"Now the work we're doing with the young players in the Academy team and Second

XI is going from strength-to-strength and will continue to do so.

"My responsibility is to make them aware of what it takes to be the next Luke Wood, Brett Hutton or Jake Ball."

Franks retires having taken 524 first class wickets, in 215 matches, at an average of 33, with 11 five-wicket hauls and career-best figures of 7-56 against Middlesex at Lord's in 2000.

In his first full season in 1997 he took the first Nottinghamshire hat-trick for a decade, becoming the youngest bowler in the Club's history to achieve the feat by dismissing Trevor Penney, Dougie Brown and Graeme Welch against Warwickshire at Trent Bridge.

With the bat, he has scored 7,185 first class runs at an average of 28 with four hundreds and 41 fifties, including a resourceful stint opening the batting during the run-in to the 2010 Championship success.

Nottinghamshire Director of Cricket Mick Newell paid tribute to Franks' impact, both on and off the field.

"He's made a huge contribution over the time he's been here," said Newell.

"For many years he's been a stalwart of the first team and has made a terrific contribution with ball and bat.

"He's played a major role in some of our best team performances and some of our best seasons as well.

"He was our leading bowler from a very young age and that's a terrific indictment of the quality of bowler he was."

Franks has retired the number eight squad number and passed it to Stuart Broad.

Congratulations to Paul from everybody at Trent Bridge on an outstanding career in the first class game.

Read, Hutton & Keast honoured at End of Season Awards Dinner

Following a stunning summer both with bat and behind the stumps, Chris Read was named Nottinghamshire's Player of the Season at the annual End of Season Awards Dinner.



Nottinghamshire's Club Captain became only the 25th wicketkeeper to reach 1,000 first class dismissals – Durham captain Paul Collingwood becoming his prize scalp in their meeting at Trent Bridge in September.

Not content with the one landmark, Read also scored his 15,000th first class run while averaging 51.35 with the bat in the LV= County Championship, an 873-run haul which included three centuries.

Brett Hutton was named Young Player of the Season in recognition of a breakthrough summer that saw the all-rounder collect 37 championship wickets at an average of 24.60, including a match-winning haul of 10-96 in the 52-run victory over Durham.

Tom Keast, the 18-year-old wicketkeeper, won the Charles Vernon Price Memorial Plate for the Academy's Most Improved Player following a campaign that saw him emerge as a leading player from the ECB's Super 4s competition, which showcases the best of the talent across the country in the under 17s age group.

A successful 2015 season that has also included winning the championship with Nottinghamshire's Second XI, ended with selection for the England Development Programme this winter.

In Read, the young gloveman has quite a mentor.

Nottinghamshire's Club Captain became only the 25th wicketkeeper to reach 1,000 first class dismissals.

Siddle seals Nottinghamshire return

Nottinghamshire have secured the services of Australian international Peter Siddle as their overseas player for 2016/17, after the Victorian bowler signed a two-year deal with the Club.



Siddle, returning for a second spell at Trent Bridge after playing 11 LV= County Championship matches in 2014, will play both four day and 50-over cricket for the county.

He claimed 37 wickets for Nottinghamshire, before a brief spell with Lancashire in 2015 ahead of the Investec Ashes saw him collect an impressive 18 further scalps in four matches.

"I really enjoyed my time at Trent Bridge in 2014 and I can't wait to come back," said Siddle.

"Notts have had a strong batting line-up for a long time and - with some young bowlers also coming through - I'm excited by the way the squad is shaping up ahead of the new season."

A first class debutant for Victoria during the 2005/06 season, Siddle has since taken 144 wickets at an average of 23.01 for his home state.

He made his Test debut in 2008, took an Ashes hat-trick in 2010 and has claimed four five-wicket hauls against England, including 5-50 at Trent Bridge in 2013.

"He's very much suited to English conditions and we're certainly hoping to get the best out of him for the next couple of seasons."

Mick Newell

Nottinghamshire Director of Cricket Mick Newell believes Siddle, who claimed match figures of 6-67 in the final Investec Ashes Test at the Kia Oval, will be ideal for conditions in the UK, as well as benefiting the Club's young bowlers with his vast experience.

"Peter brings high quality quick bowling and is a good fellow who fits in well with the team," said Newell. "He will provide leadership to our young bowling attack.

"If you look at the Ashes, he had some success at the Oval and Australia might regret not playing him in some of the earlier matches.

"He's very much suited to English conditions and we're certainly hoping to

get the best out of him for the next couple of seasons."

Siddle missed out on selection for the opening two Tests of Australia's recent three-match home series against New Zealand; instead captaining Victoria for the first time as they dominated a drawn game against Western Australia.

The retirement of Mitchell Johnson paved the way for Siddle to return to the side for the final match of the series.

The Nottinghamshire-bound paceman did not disappoint, becoming the 15th Australian bowler in history to 200 Test wickets and striking the winning runs in a tense finale to secure a three-wicket victory.

Nottinghamshire's breakthrough boys commit to the Club long-term



"Jake, in the last 18 months has developed into a seamer with genuine pace and good skills."

Mick Newell

The year 2015 has seen a quartet of homegrown Nottinghamshire bowlers enjoy breakthrough seasons - and they have all signed new contracts with the Club.



The pace trio of Jake Ball, Luke Wood and Brett Hutton - who shared over 100 first class wickets during the campaign - have each committed their futures to the Outlaws.

Ball, whose 2015 saw him claim 67 wickets in all competitions, clock a delivery at 93.9 miles-per-hour and earn selection for the England Lions, signed a three-year contract.

Wood, 20, who posted a remarkable maiden century against Sussex and took 30 first class wickets, is also now committed to Nottinghamshire until the conclusion of the 2018 season.

Hutton, whose 37 first class wickets at 24.64 included a match-winning ten

wicket haul against Durham at Trent Bridge, signed a two-year contract.

"Early in the season we only picked one or two of our young fast bowlers, but at the halfway point we started to select all of them and just said 'go for it,'" said Mick Newell.

"Jake, in the last 18 months - starting in white ball cricket and now with the red ball as well - has developed into a seamer with genuine pace and good skills.

"Luke also has good skills and the way he swings the ball from left-arm over is challenging for batsmen. There are little things he can improve upon when it doesn't swing but, at such a young age, he's a hugely exciting prospect.

"Brett surpassed expectations as well and he puts 100% effort in every time he plays. His ten-for against Durham was a fantastic performance for which he deserves huge credit."

Matthew Carter, the 19-year-old off-spinner who took ten wickets on first class debut against Somerset - along with Coaching Consultant Peter Moores - has also committed to the Club for a two-year period.

From Welbeck's wilderness, to the leader of the pack

STORY
David Straw
PHOTOGRAPHY
Karl Bratby

When describing an athlete's development, the words 'breakthrough', 'landmark' and 'monumental' get thrown around as casually as a red ball back to the bowler in April.



“I owe Welbeck a lot. It’s where I grew up playing cricket and learned my game; a lot of this is down to them too.”

This time though, it was Jake Ball receiving said red ball; at Lord’s in April for Nottinghamshire’s LV= County Championship curtain-raiser. Again, it was Ball who received the cherry in September during their final match of the season against Hampshire.

He’d taken 67 wickets, signed a three-year contract extension and earned an England Lions callup in the months between those matches.

All of a sudden, it’s hard not to use the aforementioned superlatives to describe Ball’s remarkable 2015.

In the whirlwind of it all, after being informed of his Lions place by Mick Newell over breakfast before heading to Edgbaston for the third day of Notts’ match against Warwickshire, it was a phone call back to Mansfield during which the extent of his progress felt real.

“I rang my mum and dad on my way to the ground that morning and they were



almost in tears. That was when it really started to sink in,” he said.

“I suppose that going back to my home club, then it really started to feel real. I went back to watch my brother play the following Saturday and everyone came up to shake my hand and say well done, it’s a great achievement, things like that.

“It can put my home club on the map as well. I owe Welbeck a lot. It’s where I grew up playing cricket and learned my game; a lot of this is down to them too.”

Welbeck isn’t only the Club that shaped Ball’s development, a closely familial environment which still remains today – his brother Jonathan still turns out for the Club.

No, Welbeck also provided one of the highlights of his summer, and one of the proudest, when Notts Outlaws hosted a weekend of Royal London One-Day Cup matches in the north of the county.

There, in familiar surroundings, Ian Bell made a rare appearance for Warwickshire at the height of summer, but found himself unsettled by the pace and skill of a certain hometown hero.

“That was the point at which I look and think my season really kicked on. The spell I bowled against Bell, I felt like I was bowling well, bowling quickly, and people were coming up to me in the field and telling me that I was making an international cricketer look uncomfortable,” said Ball.

“That’s when I realised I had put on a yard of pace and knowing that I was keeping an international player in trouble, what else could I go on and do? I had a good one-day cup tournament and kicked on with the red ball, but that weekend in Welbeck was a real catalyst.

“In the early days I watched my Uncle

Bruce (French), who used to keep for Notts and England, then when I thought that playing cricket was what I wanted to do, we had Charlie Shreck playing for Welbeck. I got on really well with him, he used to invite me down to watch him bowl in the nets at Welbeck and I’d just listen to him talk about county cricket.

“It really got my juices flowing and made me get my head down and try to push my way into the side.”

And push his way into the side he did. While for a bowler it’s wickets that matter – he took 39 County Championship scalps – there were signs of improvement to his game across the board.

Jeetan Patel was one such victim, the veteran spinner being landed in the stands around Trent Bridge, courtesy of a little magic from the Welbeck Wizard. For Ball himself, that newly instilled faith in his ability had come from feeding off Nottinghamshire’s emerging young seam attack, the likes of Luke Wood and Brett Hutton, who had established themselves in the side alongside him.

“That was a lot of fun. I feel like I’ve contributed more with the bat than I thought I would have done all season, but my personal highlight was hitting Chris Jordan for six over extra cover,” he said.

“We played on the far side of the square and worked out it was just over 100 metres over extra cover.

“If you ask most of the lads, they’d say it was the shot of the season...probably.

“Toward the end of the summer there was just an air of confidence around the Club, fuelled by the youngsters we had in the team.

“It was a bit of naivety maybe, but we weren’t going into games looking at our opponents and thinking they were good



“I’m 24, Luke’s 20 and Brett is 22, that we’re all breaking through together can only be good news for the Club moving forward.”

players, we were going in thinking ‘we have a game for our county, lets go out and show what we can do.’”

The bowling pack who formed the backbone of Nottinghamshire’s resurgence during the second half of this summer was vastly different to how it started, let alone how it ended in 2014. Ball had broken through alongside Wood and Hutton, and the homegrown trio shared over 100 Championship wickets. All of a sudden, the wolves had usurped Nottinghamshire’s more senior players from the side, and their hunger had reaped rewards.

“I’m 24, Luke’s 20 and Brett is 22, that we’re all breaking through together can only be good news for the Club moving forward,” he said.

“Brett is a character, Luke is lively, he’s always on – sometimes too much – it’s been a breath of fresh air for the team and that’s filtered through everyone, from the senior players to the coaches down in the second team.

“Everyone has enjoyed their success and got something from it, now hopefully there are young players thinking ‘if I have a good season I can get to where they are’ and it has made a big difference, a lift around the Club.

“We’re a close unit, we all enjoy each other’s success and we all feed off one another in that respect. That’s going to be really good moving forward.

“It’s a long slog to get through the summer, especially when we’re a team

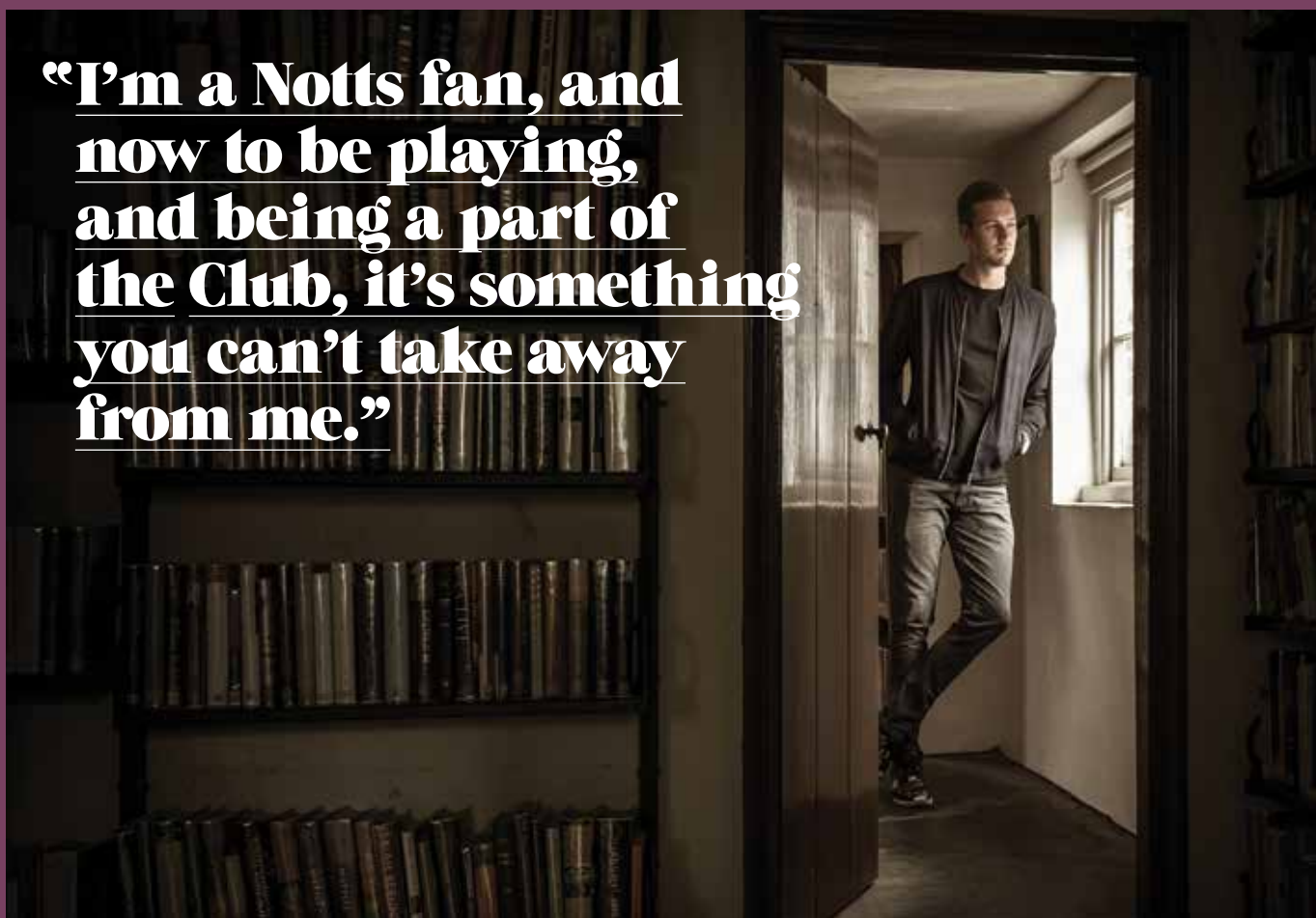
that will always look to be in competitions all the way to the end, there’s going to be periods where players need a rest.

“To bring people into the side who are all good friends as well as fellow players helps and even with changes, the side feels the same, and that’s important.”

For Ball, playing for Nottinghamshire carries more weight than most. From his formative years watching the fortunes of the Club from the stands, to playing alongside the likes of Paul Franks and Chris Read, those he’d admired from a distance, there’s a feeling that Notts really runs in his veins. For Ball, that strong affinity for the Club has had a marked influence on his career in whites.



“I’m a Notts fan, and now to be playing, and being a part of the Club, it’s something you can’t take away from me.”



“Mental strength is something I’ve never really thought about, but it’s something I’ve developed without knowing.”

“I’ve grown up in Nottinghamshire and this is the team I watched as a youngster, I used to come to Trent Bridge to watch Chris Read and Paul Franks,” he said.

“I’m a Notts fan, and now to be playing, and being a part of the Club, it’s something you can’t take away from me. I love every minute of it. To have secured three more years here is mindblowing.

“I have a photo framed at my mum and dad’s house from when I was at primary school. I used to play in Wrigley’s Kwik Cricket competition and we got to a final at Trent Bridge, and Chris Read was giving the prizes out.

“We ended up winning the tournament and there’s a photo of us all with Ready, and there’s a seven-year-old me, stood at the end with a right face on.

“I showed it to him, it’s a belter. When you get to meet players like that at such a young age it makes you really want to push to get in that team.

“When you get away from the whirlwind of the season and get away from cricket for a couple of weeks, you sit back and think ‘this is my job, this is what I do for a living and I love every second of it. I love everything about it, I love everybody at the ground, and everyone who comes to watch us.’”

While his skills with the white ball saw him bubble under the radar, Ball’s newfound prominence has come hand in hand with an extra yard of pace and the ability to trouble those batsmen he’d previously been bested by.

However, hearing he spent his formative years batting at four, before being casually tossed the ball aged 15 for his first competitive bowl is worthy of a (justified) double take.

“At 15 I was a batsman,” he said. Yes, he really did just say that.

“I batted number four for Paul Johnson’s under 15s team and I didn’t bowl until the last game of that season.

“We came up against a player who had got something like 170 against us earlier in the year. No one could get him out and they randomly chucked me the ball and said go on, have a bowl.

“I got him out second ball and thought, ‘maybe this is something I can pursue’. I bowled a spell and came off the field and Johnno collared me, then a few of the coaches told me I should see how far I could take it. I did, and here we are.

“On reflection, I was a very dodgy number four.”

Of course, it’s easy to paint Jake’s breakthrough as a pure success story, a young player knuckling down, working hard and reaping the rewards. It’s important too, not to gloss over a much tougher previous 18 months.

Rewind to September 2013, and Ball had just run roughshod over Somerset in the semi-finals of the Yorkshire Bank 40 at Trent Bridge. After a matchwinning 4-25, he was ruled out of the final with a back spasm. In 2014, a broken foot – again sustained against Somerset – took the steam out of his season. Now, a year on, it’s clear that the change tastes all the sweeter.

“That was probably one of my toughest moments in cricket,” he admitted.

“To have been such a part of a campaign and to get to what people talked about as one of the best moments of their career, playing in a Lord’s final, and to not be involved and be able to influence it hit me harder than I thought.

“I like to think of myself as quite a relaxed, calm character but that really got to me. It has now made me more determined to push the team to play in another one, to play in a Lord’s final.

“When you miss cricket, when you’re on the sidelines for chunks of seasons, it pushes you hard to really get fit and bring your game on.

“You can’t really do a lot about a broken foot but in terms of getting strong and

getting through seasons, the only way you can push for higher honours is being in the team consistently and working harder, putting in better performances and testing yourself at the very best level, for as long as you can.

“It’s about being strong, and of course skill, but also about being able to execute your skills for longer and that means fitness and gym work, putting the hard yards in and it pays off.”

As well as a superior cricketer, there’s an added steel to Ball in 2015. In part it’s down to his physical development and advancement of his game, but equally he’s a more mature cricketer. It does, however, seem that his ability to perform under pressure has come naturally, rather than developed consciously.

“Mental strength is something I’ve never really thought about, but it’s something I’ve developed without knowing, he said.

“I’m a level-headed character and that helps me in big games and pressure situations. I don’t overthink things, sometimes a player can wind themselves too tight and that’s something I’ve never put much thought into, and that’s probably why I feel quite relaxed and enjoy big games.

“The one that sticks out in my mind is the derby game at Trent Bridge this summer, playing in front of 13,500 people, we had two overs to bowl and they needed 19 to win.

“It just happened. I wasn’t thinking about the crowd, I wasn’t thinking about the game situation, it was just me doing what I’d done my whole life.

“I bowled, went for six, got a wicket and we went on to win the match. It’s not until after the game when you’re huddled out in the middle – celebrating as we were – you look around the ground and think ‘my God, there’s a lot of people here’, and that’s just the way I am. I get lost in games, don’t overthink and just play cricket.” ©



“It sounds a bit cheesy, but I owe Mick Newell my whole career because he took a punt on me.”

Whether intended as a tactical cricket line about the importance of a batsman who can bowl, or something far more profound and meaningful, it’s a fascinating comment.

A resident of Leigh in Greater Manchester from birth, Steven Mullaney retains many a hallmark of his northern roots.

Rugby league, a north west-acquired taste if ever there was one, provides the 29-year-old with his non-cricket sporting love.

He also supports Manchester City and retains his close childhood friendship with former Red Rose teammate Karl Brown, for whom he was recently best man.

In character, Mullaney remains every bit the stereotypically chirpy Lancastrian. His northern accent; probably stronger than when he arrived.

But, when it comes to cricket, this Lancastrian’s loyalties are firmly in the camp of Nottinghamshire.

Versatile, resourceful and competitive; naturally aggressive yet shrouded with humility, he’s become an embodiment of all that’s good about Mick Newell’s Nottinghamshire when they’re on a roll.

He’s been a Trent Bridgian now since 2010. It’s reached a point where seeing him in another county’s shirt seems borderline unthinkable.

On the field, he’s a go-to man with bat and ball - often propelled into positions of greater responsibility when Nottinghamshire’s England contingent are absent with the national team.

Off it, he’s a banker for a balanced yet positive comment about the game, the most enthusiastic of the post-match

EVERY TEAM'S GOT A MULL

In the word of Wayne Noon,
Nottinghamshire Assistant Manager,
“every team’s got a Mullaney.”

autograph signers and - of course, in the Cricket Has Landed era - an occasional film star.

In the Autumn surroundings of Nottingham Castle’s grounds, reimagining Mull as a northern, rugged James Bond might not be too much of a stretch.

He could even make a fairly authentic Robin Hood.

Steven Mullaney is Nottinghamshire through and through.

“Nottinghamshire is home,” he said. “I love every minute of being here.”

So content is Mullaney in his current surroundings, he can’t even remember how many years are left on his contract. It’s irrelevant. Trent Bridge is the only place for him.

“I’ve got some time left on my contract,

two or three years - I can’t remember. I don’t want to play anywhere else,” he said.

As with so much of Mick Newell’s recruitment, the Nottinghamshire Director of Cricket didn’t sign the finished article when he swooped for Mullaney.

The Outlaws boss used his eye for talent before backing himself - and his coaching team - to ensure that the all-rounder’s potential was realised.

Since then, the former Lancashire man has played 78 first class matches for the county and 146 games with the white ball.

His record with the bat, in all three competitions, is decent. His performances with the ball in 50-over and Twenty20 cricket, exemplary.

Mullaney has repaid Newell’s faith in

spades - or, more literally, in runs, wickets and enviable economy rates - however, a humble debt of gratitude still remains.

“It sounds a bit cheesy, but I owe Mick my whole career because he took a punt on me,” said Mullaney.

“I played a Twenty20 against Nottinghamshire for Lancashire in 2009, got 1-21 off three overs and fielded okay.

“My agent rang me afterwards and said Mick was interested and wanted to chat to me.

“I met up with him at a hotel on the M6, he sold the Club to me and it was a no-brainer for me to join.

“I’ve heard a lot of people call him the Alex Ferguson of cricket,” Mullaney added with an air of mischief, knowing that Newell is a lifelong Liverpool fan.



“Lancashire had offered a contract, but it had nothing to do with money. Notts gave me a chance to play cricket.”

and five, as well as opening the batting in each of the first nine matches of the season.

But having scored 19 or more in 20 of his 27 innings - with four half-centuries, two scores in the forties, two in the thirties and eight in the twenties - it could actually have been so much better had he been able to cash-in on those consistent starts.

In limited-overs cricket, meanwhile, it's been a tale of cameos with the bat and consistent quality with the ball - the NatWest T20 Blast bringing 12 wickets at 24, and seven consecutive overs across two matches without conceding a boundary.

Mullaney, meanwhile, has also been playing a key role mentoring the Club's youngsters.

“I would say it's been a decent white ball season; and okay with the red ball, but I could have done better,” he said.

“I got a lot of starts in championship cricket. It would have been nice to kick on a bit more and get hundreds.

“My consistency was better at the end of the year. If it had been like that from the start, I'd have been averaging closer to 40 than to 30.

“I've played over 70 games now in each of the three competitions, so I feel like one of the senior players,” he continued.

“I try to help the youngsters, I get on well with them and I do anything I can to help, as well as focusing on my own game.

“It's an enjoyable aspect of being part of the team and I would like to coach eventually.

“He's signed a lot of players for Notts in his time and - more often than not - he's been fabulous for their careers.

“It feels like five minutes ago since I signed. It was the end of the 2009 season, I was only 23 and it was a big thing for me because home had always been Manchester.

“It's daunting moving to a new place and having to prove yourself - and I knew Notts was a big Club with names like Chris Read, Graeme Swann, Stuart Broad, Ryan Sidebottom and Darren Pattinson. The overseas players that year were Hashim Amla and David Hussey.

“I've not regretted it one bit. It has worked out brilliantly for me.

“Lancashire had offered a contract, but it had nothing to do with money. Notts gave me a chance to play cricket.

“I'd played a couple of first team games and done okay; nothing special, a couple of wickets and a few runs.

“Then I spoke to Mick, who said Nottinghamshire were revamping their one-day cricket and that he wanted me to be a big part of it.”

Newell has been true to his word ever since, never more so than in 2015; a campaign which was, in many ways, a microcosm of Mullaney's entire Nottinghamshire career, albeit one that hints at an upward trajectory in performance.

A season's first class average of 35, including two centuries, is much to admire from a cricketer who has turned himself into a top-order batsman through sheer tenacity, for the good of the team.

He scored runs from numbers three, four

“I love helping the young lads and it’s so pleasing when they take things you’ve spoken about onto the field.

“Jake Ball, Brett Hutton and Luke Wood this year; it’s been so good to see them go into pressure situations on the big stage and deliver.

“They’ve had three-quarters of a season in the first team now, which stands them in good stead for the future.

“They know what it takes to succeed and - if we keep this bowling unit for a decent period of time - we’ll be close to success, as the second half of last season showed.

“I know none of them will rest on their laurels. They want to kick on now, go one better next year and finish higher up the table.

“I’d like to win a few more trophies and I don’t think we’re too far away if we keep playing like we did for the last two or three months of 2015.”

Trophies are one way to measure success as a county cricketer - and Mullaney so far has two medals having won the LV= County Championship in 2010, then the Yorkshire Bank 40 at Lord’s three years later.

The other widespread aspiration throughout the county game is to play international cricket. But, having been overlooked for the England Lions’

Twenty20 tour this winter, Mullaney admits it’s not something about which he is too concerned.

He believes he could do a job at that level for sure but, should it never happen, there are NatWest T20 Blast Friday nights at Trent Bridge to provide his fix of the big time.

“I didn’t expect to get picked and I’m not disappointed,” he said.

“But I do genuinely believe I’d do a decent job. I’d back myself against anyone. You’re not going to succeed if you don’t back yourself.

“You never know. I’ll just keep playing well for Notts. If it’s good enough, it’s good enough.

“I’ve never played international cricket, but playing in front of big crowds at Trent Bridge is the closest thing to it.

“I love playing on the big stage - all the lads love it - and we’re really grateful to the members and fans for turning out and backing us, especially this year when we didn’t have a great time on the field in the first couple of months.”

Mullaney had a key role to play in attracting those big crowds to Trent Bridge in 2015, which included a Notts Outlaws record of 13,582 against Derbyshire.

He starred in the Cricket Has Landed 2 promotional video and was only too happy to assist the off field team.

“I did get a couple of calls from Hollywood, but Mick wouldn’t let me go,” he laughed.

“One thing I will say is the lads from Affixius Films are great. It’s late nights, sometimes until one o’clock in the morning, but they make it fun and - when you see the end product - it’s well worth it.

“The first year I thought ‘you can’t get any better than this.’ But then the second year I thought ‘jeez, this is unbelievable’ and it helps us get bums on seats for Twenty20 cricket.”

“I’d like to win a few more trophies and I don’t think we’re too far away if we keep playing like we did for the last two or three months of 2015.”





"I love playing on the big stage - all the lads love it - and we're really grateful to the members and fans for turning out and backing us."

The Cricket Has Landed trilogy will conclude in 2016 and - as well as hoping to cling onto his role on the cast and play consistent cricket - Mullaney is also an expectant father for the second time.

Having permanently relocated to East Leake during the summer, he's now looking forward to raising his young family in the East Midlands.

"I'm going to become a Dad for the second time, so I've got that to look forward to in January," he said.

"My first one, Scarlett, is three-and-a-half and as long as they are both healthy - and they grow up well mannered - I will be happy.

"The lads will probably tell you I haven't changed at all. I probably stay in a lot more but, on and off the field, I try to be consistently the same person and if people say I'm a decent lad, that's good enough for me.

"I'm settled in East Leake now and really enjoying it, although I get a bit of ribbing for it being a Leicestershire postcode. Hopefully I'll be here for a long time.

"My family and my wife's family are still in Manchester so, when we get a few days off, we go back.

"But it's a lot easier now the family is here with me. I can go home every night and see my wife and daughter."

So, whether he's batting at the top or middle of the order, bowling his medium pace, starring in a movie or performing domestic duties at home, every team needs a Mullaney.

And in the words of his teammate Harry Gurney, "we wouldn't swap ours for anybody." ©



THE NEXT IN LINE



Five-wicket hauls, crucial lower order runs, part of history with Chris Read and a safe pair of hands in the slip cordon, Brett Hutton has become an integral part of a Nottinghamshire side which is packed with international cricketers.

Sat looking over Trent Bridge on a chilly November afternoon, Hutton has the perfect chance to reminisce over a whirlwind 2015.

At the beginning of the summer, the 22-year-old was coming into the last year of his contract. Fast-forward six months and the all-rounder, who has been involved in the Nottinghamshire set up since the Under-13s, will be calling Trent Bridge home for at least another couple of years.

“It was one of those years where everything just went for me,” stated Hutton modestly.

“I was in a tricky situation heading into the season, in the last year of my contract having not played in the first team very often. It was a case of do or die really.

“My reaction was to train the hardest I ever have in the nets over the winter and pre-season before translating that into performances at the start of the season.

"I stopped thinking about contracts and just focused on putting in performances and enjoying playing cricket."



"I stopped thinking about contracts and just focused on putting in performances and enjoying playing cricket. The fact that a two-year deal came at the end of it is great, but I can't stop there, my next aim is to cement myself as a first class cricketer."

Not one to shirk away from pressure situations at a time of change in the Nottinghamshire first team, having lost experienced heads such as Andre Adams and Paul Franks in recent times, Hutton has now become something of a go-to man.

Tasked with taking wickets and stemming the flow of runs, often with an older ball, as well as contributing lower order runs at crucial points - and backing up his fellow bowlers with safe hands in the slips - Hutton has taken on a role vacated by Franks, his long-time mentor.

The pair formed a close relationship from their time in club cricket at Farnsfield and - although they are big boots to fill - Hutton believes recent improvements in his game have begun to make him worthy of the responsibility.

"The ball will only ever stay new for 15-20 overs so the ability to take wickets with an older version is what can set one team apart from the other," said Hutton.

"I have worked hard on methods of bowling with the old ball with Picky (Bowling Coach Andy Pick), from finding a way to get it to move off the seam or just forcing the batsman to play as often as possible.

"As for batting, there were a number of times over the season where I joined Ready at the crease with him unbeaten on 50.

"Adding 30 or 40 run partnerships in that situation frustrates the opposition and can take the score up to 350 and secure more bonus points.

"With the way we operate as a team, more often than not going into the game with four seamers, batting is a key part of my role at number eight in the order.

"Fielding in the slips is always going to be nerve-racking as you don't want to drop one, especially for a fellow bowler, but it is a lot better than grazing down at fine leg and only being needed every now and then.

"I feel like a completely different cricketer from 12 months ago. I have got more skills that I did this time last year.

"I have found a bit of extra pace, I am bowling from taller at the crease and generating more bounce, whilst my technique with the bat has tightened up a lot. I look more like a proper batsman rather than someone who can hit a few boundaries early on before getting out for 20 off ten balls."

Hutton enjoyed a number of fruitful partnerships with bat and ball throughout his breakthrough season, most notably with his fellow young bowlers Jake Ball and Luke Wood, with the homegrown trio garnering over 100 first class wickets between them.

However, it was his combination with Read that produced one of the most memorable moments of the season against Durham, a show that was stolen by the wicketkeeper-captain but also marked a major breakthrough for the all-rounder.

"It was unreal to be involved in Ready's 1,000th dismissal," said Hutton on finding the edge of Paul Collingwood's bat.

"For him to reach that landmark is a monumental effort. To be part of just a handful of those catches is a brilliant memory.

"The whole match against Durham was a bit of a blur, it ended up being a dream fixture for the stage I was at in my career. Getting a five-wicket haul isn't something that comes round easily and I wasn't expecting it to happen in my first proper season.

"Backing up my maiden five-for in the first innings with a second, career-best, haul in the next innings was brilliant. Not just that, being able to contribute to winning a game we had no right to win was a special moment.

"The whole season has been better than I could have ever expected. I don't think I could have done much more with the ball, to come away with the amount of wickets I did in the games I played (he took 37 in nine matches) was pleasantly surprising."

The 2015 season has been a year in which Hutton's cricketing education has advanced at a rapid rate.

The all-rounder was, for instance, able to pick the brains of a number of overseas players; Australian internationals Ben Hilfenhaus and Dan Christian, West Indian superstar all-rounder Darren Sammy and South African world rankings high-flyer Vernon Philander. It's an opportunity that will arise again in 2016 after the recapture of Peter Siddle.

The youngster's partnership with Hilfenhaus in particular looked to be flourishing, as the duo shared a monumental workload after injuries to Luke Fletcher and Andy Carter in the against-the-odds victory over Worcestershire.

The experienced Aussie, however, saw the after-effects of his herculean efforts rule him out for the rest of the season, but not before leaving his mark on a grateful Hutton, who will be picking the brains of Siddle for the next two county campaigns.

"Sidds has a lot of experience at international and domestic level and he will be a calming influence to the side," said Hutton.

"He will work well with Ready because of how long they have both been in the game.

"Throughout 2015 we had a number of overseas players staying for a short period that helped me with my game.

"Sometimes I could be running up and just focusing on myself rather than taking into account the big picture and bowling to a plan, a skill the guys coming in have mastered and have been able to pass their expertise on to me.


"That experience is crucial for us younger lads. It is brilliant to have come through the system with Bally and Woody; we are all similar ages and know each other quite well from our time in the second team.

"It provides a great example to others in the seconds that if you put in consistently good performances, like us three bowlers and Jake Libby have done, there is an opportunity for progression into the firsts."

The winter of 2016 will follow a similar pattern to that of last year for Hutton, working hard with the Nottinghamshire coaching staff as he aims to become an ever-present in all three formats for years to come.

"I will be focusing on improving my own game with the likes of Ross (Herridge, Strength & Conditioning Coach), Noony and Picky over the coming winter," he said.

"Obviously everyone has aspirations to go on England tours and move on to higher honours, but first I have to get to the level of consistency required to be considered a regular Nottinghamshire first teamer.

"I want to be one of those players teams expect to be in the side week in week out and are shocked if that is not the case." 

"It is brilliant to have come through the system with Bally and Woody; we are all similar ages and know each other quite well from our time in the second team."

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Nottinghamshire's 2016 schedule revealed

The domestic fixtures for 2016 have been announced, with Nottinghamshire's featuring a number of standout encounters throughout the summer.



The season will see four day cricket at the height of summer, five Friday nights in the NatWest T20 Blast culminating with local rivals Leicestershire Foxes at Trent Bridge, and a welcome return of 50-over cricket to Welbeck Cricket Club.

Notts Outlaws will play five of their seven home NatWest T20 Blast matches on Friday nights, and the other two on Saturday afternoons, beginning with the visit of the Birmingham Bears on Friday 20 May.

The Outlaws will also host Derbyshire Falcons, Durham Jets, Yorkshire Vikings and Leicestershire Foxes on Friday evenings through to the middle of July.

Summer Saturday afternoons against Lancashire Lightning and Worcestershire Rapids, meanwhile, will provide perfect opportunities for a family outing to Trent Bridge.

Last summer, Notts Outlaws' home matches in the NatWest T20 Blast regularly attracted crowds in excess of 10,000 to Trent Bridge, and fans were treated to some spectacular showings by James Taylor's side.

Beginning their County Championship campaign against newly-promoted Surrey at Trent Bridge on Sunday 10 April, Nottinghamshire's breakthrough bowling pack, bolstered by the arrival of Australian international Peter Siddle, will be handed a stern test to start the season.

Nottinghamshire CCC 2016 fixtures



DATE	DAY	HOME TEAM	OPPOSITION	VENUE	COMP
APRIL					
5/6/7	T/W/T	Cambridge MCCU	Nottinghamshire	Fenner's	UNI
10/11/12/13	S/M/T/W	Nottinghamshire	Surrey	Trent Bridge	CC 1
17/18/19/20	S/M/T/W	Lancashire	Nottinghamshire	Emirates Old Trafford	CC 1
MAY					
1/2/3/4	S/M/T/W	Nottinghamshire	Yorkshire	Trent Bridge	CC 1
8/9/10/11	S/M/T/W	Middlesex	Nottinghamshire	Lord's	CC 1
15/16/17/18	S/M/T/W	Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire	Trent Bridge	CC 1
20	Friday	Nottinghamshire	Birmingham Bears	Trent Bridge	T20
22/23/24/25	S/M/T/W	Hampshire	Nottinghamshire	Ageas Bowl	CC 1
28/29/30/31	S/S/M/T	Nottinghamshire	Durham	Trent Bridge	CC 1
JUNE					
1	Wednesday	Durham	Nottinghamshire	Emirates Durham ICG	T20
4	Saturday	Nottinghamshire	Lancashire	Trent Bridge	T20
6	Monday	Nottinghamshire	Northamptonshire	Trent Bridge	50L
8	Wednesday	Nottinghamshire	Warwickshire	Trent Bridge	50L
10	Friday	Nottinghamshire	Derbyshire	Trent Bridge	T20
12	Sunday	Lancashire	Nottinghamshire	Blackpool	50L
15	Wednesday	Durham	Nottinghamshire	Emirates Durham ICG	50L
17	Friday	Yorkshire	Nottinghamshire	Headingley	T20
18	Saturday	Worcestershire	Nottinghamshire	New Road	T20
19	S/M/T/W	Surrey	Nottinghamshire	Kia Oval	CC 1
21	Tuesday	England	Sri Lanka	Trent Bridge	ODI
24	Friday	Derbyshire	Nottinghamshire	The 3aaa County Ground	T20
26/27/28/29	S/M/T/W	Warwickshire	Nottinghamshire	Edgbaston	CC 1
JULY					
1	Friday	Nottinghamshire	Durham	Trent Bridge	T20
3/4/5/6	S/M/T/W	Nottinghamshire	Lancashire	Trent Bridge	CC 1
8	Friday	Northamptonshire	Nottinghamshire	Wantage Road	T20
9	Saturday	Nottinghamshire	Worcestershire	Trent Bridge	T20
12	Tuesday	Leicestershire	Nottinghamshire	Grace Road	T20
15	Friday	Nottinghamshire	Yorkshire	Trent Bridge	T20
17/18/19/20	S/M/T/W	Nottinghamshire	Somerset	Trent Bridge	CC 1
22	Friday	Birmingham Bears	Nottinghamshire	Edgbaston	T20
24	Sunday	Nottinghamshire	Derbyshire	Welbeck Colliery	50L
27	Wednesday	Yorkshire	Nottinghamshire	Headingley	50L
29	Friday	Nottinghamshire	Leicestershire	Trent Bridge	T20
31	Sunday	Leicestershire	Nottinghamshire	Grace Road	50L
AUGUST					
1	Monday	Nottinghamshire	Worcestershire	Trent Bridge	50L
8/9/10/11	M/T/W/T	TBC	TBC	TBC	T20 QF
13/14/15/16	S/S/M/T	Nottinghamshire	Hampshire	Trent Bridge	CC 1
17/18	W/T	TBC	TBC	TBC	50L QF
20	Saturday	TBC	TBC	Edgbaston	T20 Finals
23/24/25/26	T/W/T/F	Yorkshire	Nottinghamshire	Scarborough	CC 1
28/29	S/M	TBC	TBC	TBC	50L SF
30	Tuesday	England	Pakistan	Trent Bridge	ODI
31/1/2/3	W/T/F/S	Durham	Nottinghamshire	Emirates Durham ICG	CC 1
SEPTEMBER					
6/7/8/9	T/W/T/F	Nottinghamshire	Middlesex	Trent Bridge	CC 1
17	Saturday	TBC	TBC	Lord's	50L Final
20/21/22/23	T/W/T/F	Somerset	Nottinghamshire	Taunton	CC 1

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Positive Futures: Making a difference

Running projects in areas where young people struggle to fit into their surroundings is where the Trent Bridge Community Trust thrives, with Positive Futures in Rushcliffe and Newark helping numerous children over the years.



Launched back in 2008, the project has gone from strength-to-strength, supporting young people with their anger, behaviour in school and their ability to interact with others.

From trips to Lea Green Residential Centre in Derbyshire, to helping out in the community, the young people involved have enjoyed worthwhile experiences over the years, as well as improving their social skills.



Staying out of trouble

Jackson Marshall

The police referred me to Positive Futures because I was involved in anti-social behaviour in the community, one of the things I did was smash a window.

My mum was threatened with losing the house if my behaviour continued and I was close to getting a criminal record. After being involved with Positive Futures my behaviour has improved and I haven't been in trouble since.

I have really enjoyed the BMX trip especially the KMX carting, it was fun, exciting and felt quite dangerous.

If I wasn't involved in Positive Futures I would be getting in more trouble with the police.



Gaining confidence

Aaron Gosling

I am the youngest member of Positive Futures, I was eight years old when I joined.

I joined Positive Futures because school thought it would help me develop my confidence in the community and help me make new friends.

I have enjoyed lots of activities including food tasting and healthy cooking, football, basketball, tennis and going to Lea Green on the residential, especially eating eight profiteroles!

Positive Futures has helped me get better at not being shy, I play out with my friends and go to community activities. It makes me feel confident and happy.

If I didn't have Positive Futures I would just be lazy and play on my Xbox. I wouldn't go out of my house most of the time.



Improving behaviour at school

Jessie Scott

I joined Positive Futures because my behaviour at school and home wasn't very good.

I have enjoyed lots of activities with Positive Futures including the Girls Group, creative arts and games. On top of that there has been the Future Fridays Youth Club where I helped with the tuck shop and the sleepover at Lea Green, where we did the stream walk and star ambush.

Positive Futures has helped me not be out on the streets as much and with my behaviour at school and home.

If I didn't have Positive Futures I would be bored at home, doing nothing.



Getting out of the house

Orlando Jones

I joined Positive Futures because of my behaviour inside and outside of school, also to get me to do more activities after school in the community.

I enjoyed Lea Green, especially the stream walk and the star ambush. I have enjoyed working with Graeme (community sports coach), playing cricket and smoothie making at the community centre.

Positive Futures has helped me get better at writing neater and in better sentences, also my behaviour has gotten better after some talks with Graeme and Mandy.

If I didn't have Positive Futures I would not have any activities to do and would be at home not doing anything.

Learning when to stay calm

Finlay Barrow

I joined Positive Futures because I was getting into trouble at school and getting angry at other pupils and staff.

My favourite experience was joining Positive Futures on the residential to Lea Green. During this time I enjoyed the den building and stream walking.

Positive Futures has helped me learn how to calm my anger, to know when to walk away and also that you can't always win.

If I didn't have Positive Futures I probably wouldn't be in school and therefore wouldn't get an education.



The experiences highlighted above are delivered through the dedicated work of our Positive Futures teams in both Rushcliffe and Newark. If you want to help by donating to the Trust so this work can continue, head over to www.justgiving.com/TBCST



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26-30
DECEMBER



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SAT - WED
2-6
JANUARY



South Africa v England
2nd Sunfoil Test Match
Cape Town

AUSTRALIAN T20 BIG BASH LEAGUE

Selected dates involving Notts players:

Michael Lumb - Sydney 6ers
Peter Siddle - Melbourne Renegades



SATURDAY
2
JANUARY



Perth Scorchers v 6ers
T20 Big Bash League

SUNDAY
3
JANUARY



Happy Birthday
Alex Hales & Jake Libby

SUNDAY
10
JANUARY



6ers v Brisbane Heat
T20 Big Bash League

THU - MON
14-18
JANUARY



South Africa v England
3rd Sunfoil Test Match
Johannesburg

SATURDAY
16
JANUARY



6ers v Sydney Thunder
T20 Big Bash League

FRI - TUE
22-26
JANUARY



South Africa v England
4th Sunfoil Test Match
Centurion

SUNDAY
24
JANUARY



T20 Big Bash League
Final

WEDNESDAY
3
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
1st Momentum ODI
Bloemfontein

WEDNESDAY
3
FEBRUARY

Happy Birthday
Paul Franks



THURSDAY
4
FEBRUARY



TRENT BRIDGE
LUNCH

SATURDAY
6
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
2nd Momentum ODI
Port Elizabeth

TUESDAY
9
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
3rd Momentum ODI
Centurion

FRIDAY
12
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
4th Momentum ODI
Johannesburg

SUNDAY
14
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
5th Momentum ODI
Cape Town

FRIDAY
19
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
1st KFC T20
Cape Town

SUNDAY
21
FEBRUARY



South Africa v England
2nd KFC T20
Johannesburg



Peter Siddle in numbers



6-54

His best Test bowling figures, against England in 2010 at Brisbane, a series that the visitors would go on to win despite Siddle's best efforts (14 wickets at 34.57, second leading wicket taker for Australia in that series)



103*

HIS BEST FIRST CLASS SCORE, COMING AGAINST SCOTLAND IN 2013 IN THE WARM UP TO THE ASHES IN ENGLAND

200

TEST WICKETS, FROM

58

TESTS AND AT AN AVERAGE OF

30.02

14

The age at which Siddle took up cricket, after already forging a promising career as a competitive woodchopper



2008

TEST DEBUT AGAINST INDIA IN MOHALI

8

Amount of five wicket hauls Siddle has in Tests

Four against England, two against India, and one each against South Africa and Sri Lanka

37

Amount of wickets he took during his first spell with Nottinghamshire in 2014, at an average of just over 30

28.11.10

THE DATE ON WHICH HE TOOK A HAT-TRICK AGAINST ENGLAND, REMOVING ALASTAIR COOK (67), MATT PRIOR AND STUART BROAD

63.5

Amount of overs Siddle sent down in the 2012 Adelaide Test against South Africa, the most by an Australia bowler this century after James Pattinson had gone off injured



23.01

His average in Sheffield Shield since making his first class debut for Victoria during the 2005/06 season, taking 144 wickets in the process

11-47

The figures he took in a state under-17 match, breaking the long-standing record of the late Victoria Coach, John Scholes

21.16

Siddle's average at Trent Bridge having taken 37 wickets (eight in Tests and 29 in first class cricket)





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