



“for being a great ambassador for a great game on the field and off it, and for committing to improving lives through cricket by raising funds and contributing to and championing the cause of children in need.”

## SURREY'S RADIANT SUN

In the pantheon of wicket-keeper batsmen, Alec Stewart is one of the greats of all time. Carrying the legacy of Michael James Stewart was always a tough task. This pressure of expectation coupled with his talent made him one of England's leading wicket-keeper batsmen in both the Test and One-day formats of the game. With more than 300 international appearances for the national team, over 13,000 runs – he has been a great source of inspiration and icon for all those budding wicket-keeper batsmen all around the cricket playing nations. He is England's most capped Test cricketer of all time – and after retiring from cricket in 2003, Stewart served as a Director of Arundel Promotions, catering to player management before joining Surrey as a part consultant. A legend of Surrey County Cricket Club and now most astutely handling the responsibilities of the club's Director of Cricket;

As it is famously said, when Stewart was in full flow, there were few who could live with him. Relying on touch, he was in his element



against the quicks, cover-driving with a neat flourish and pulling with panache – most memorably when he thundered two centuries during England's storming of fortress Bridgetown in 1993-94. Stewart's strength as an opening batsman was compromised by the selectors' desire for balance: he and Jack Russell swapped the wicketkeeping gloves regularly throughout the 1990s, but

Stewart, better standing back than standing up, eventually became the regular No. 1. He took over the England captaincy from Mike Atherton in 1998 and promptly led the side to its first major series win for 12 years, against South Africa.

Against India at Lord's in 2002, he crowned his achievements by becoming England's most-capped Test cricketer, overtaking Graham

Gooch's record of 118 matches. Despite calls for a younger wicket-keeper to take his place, Stewart continued to give his all for England until he called it a day from all forms of the game after England's drawn series with South Africa in 2003. Fittingly, his final game was at The Oval in which he scored 38, but more importantly to a man like Stewart, England won. His love of the football manager-style sound bite has earned him the nickname Gaffer.

Other than cricket administration Alec gives considerable time and energy to The Professional Cricketers' Association (PCA) as an ambassador. Few careers carry so much uncertainty as that of a professional cricketer but thanks to the PCA Benevolent Fund, past and present players have a vital support network which helps them to prepare for and readjust in the world beyond cricket.

The Benevolent Fund, which is generously supported by Royal London, helps former and current cricketers and their immediate family members in times of hardship and upheaval by providing vital funding for mental health support, operations, helping those who are having difficulty adjusting to life after cricket find an alternative career and helping current players with professional support and expert advice.