

John Edward Morris

John Morris, a stylish, stocky middle-order batsman played most of his first-class cricket for Derbyshire.

Ten consecutive years of 1000 First Class runs from 1986 demonstrate what a consistent player he was. Despite playing a key role in Derbyshire's victorious 1990 Sunday League and 1993 B &H campaigns he was unhappy with his role at Derby where he was vice captain to Kim Barnett, so he moved on.. It was a surprise when he moved north to join Durham, who were struggling in their first few years in the Championship. After an undistinguished time with Durham he joined Notts. for his final seasons in County cricket.

His final First Class appearance was for Notts. against Derby at Trent Bridge. Earlier in the season he had scored an undefeated 136 against his former County at Derby.

After impressing on the county scene, he made his Test debut in 1990 against India at Lord's. England won handsomely, but Morris, apart from taking 3 catches, played little part in a match which will always be remembered for Graham Gooch's 333. In another high-scoring affair in the second Test, at Old Trafford, Morris was forced to retire hurt in the second innings. Although he made a reasonable 32 in the third Test at The Oval, he had failed to make an impression in the series.

However, he made the squad for England's 1990-91 Ashes tour, and managed to grab some of the limelight - but for the wrong reasons. During a warm-up match against Queensland in Carrara, Morris (after scoring a century) and David Gower, flew a Tiger Moth plane over the ground. The England management failed to see the funny side and Morris was not selected for any of the Tests, and indeed no more after that. Both players were fined £1000, the maximum under the terms of their contracts. He did, however, have more success in the one-day leg of the tour, playing in all eight games.

In his First Class career John scored 21500 runs at an average of 37 with 52 centuries and 104 fifties. His highest score was 229 against Gloucestershire at the College Ground, Cheltenham. Opening the bowling against him was Courtney Walsh!!

With right arm medium pace he took 8 wickets at over 119!!!
For England he scored 71 runs with a top score of 32.

Despite many people feeling Morris could have left a bigger mark on the game, he will always have a part in cricketing history – it was off his occasional bowling that Brian Lara hit the boundary which took him to 501*.

After a long career at Derbyshire, Durham and Nottinghamshire, he retired in 2001. John is currently employed as Head of Cricket at Derbyshire and also does occasional commentary for Sky Sports.

