

MALCOM SCOTT

Malcolm Scott was one of the fortunate few who, in the days when it was possible to do so, played County Cricket in the summer and First Division football in the winter. He did not reach the very top of either sport, and his name is not one, which many will recognise.

Scott was born in South Shields, an industrial town on the mouth of the River Tyne, in 1936. His was an unremarkable, but happy wartime childhood in which he demonstrated no great ability as a scholar but showed considerable sporting potential. Malcolm's cricket tutor in his teens was the Huddersfield-born Yorkshire and England cricketer Alex Coxon.

After leaving school Scott underwent a full five year apprenticeship at the local shipyard before then carrying out his national service, those two factors combining to mean it was the late 1950's, and his early 20's, before he could make sport his occupation.

In his early days he represented Durham, Minor Counties, the RAF and Combined Services before he played for Northamptonshire. He was primarily an orthodox slow left arm bowler, but also a useful lower order batsman. During his time with Northants he enjoyed considerable success famously coming within just four points of winning the County Championship in 1965. In his twelve seasons with the county 1964 was the one year that Scott managed over 100 wickets, but he made a considerable contribution to the success of the following season and, over his career, he took his 461 wickets at the thoroughly respectable cost of 24 runs each. He retired at the end of the 1969 season.

In his career he played in 185 First Class matches scoring 2445 runs at 12.86 with a highest score of 62. With his slow left arm bowling he took 461 wickets at 24.72 with a best of 7 for 32. He also managed 92 catches.

As a footballer Malcolm played first for the local giants, Newcastle United. He played 30 games for Newcastle United's first team but it was while playing for the reserves against Huddersfield reserves in 1961 that he was an Achilles tendon injury that finished his first team career. He then moved down the Divisions to neighbours Darlington, and then York City, before dropping out of the Football League and into non-league football by the time he was 28. He was clearly considered, by the press at least, to be an outstanding prospect, perhaps he may have lacked that streak of ruthlessness necessary to get to the highest levels in sport - certainly he does not appear to have lacked the talent.

On the transfer list in 1962 he was approached by the then Huddersfield Town manager, Eddie Boot, to discuss joining the Town team. When Eddie found out Malcolm was going to continue to play professional cricket, he told him: 'You can't play two games at the same time'!!!

At our meeting Malcolm will be interviewed by Stephen Chalke. In an article in Wisden Cricketers' Almanack, he is identified as "an author, publisher and captain of the Winsley Third XI". He has written and published several highly acclaimed biographical and historical cricket books. *At the Heart of English Cricket* won the 2002 Cricket Society Book of the Year Award, and he has twice won the Wisden Book of the Year award: in 2004 with *No Coward Soul* and in 2008 with *Tom Cartwright - The Flame Still Burns*. In 2009 he won the National Sporting Club's Cricket Book of the Year with 'The Way It Was - Glimpses of English Cricket's Past', a collection of more than 100 articles written for The Wisden Cricketer, Wisden Cricket Monthly and The Times.

Stephen was a guest speaker at Stourbridge in 2001.