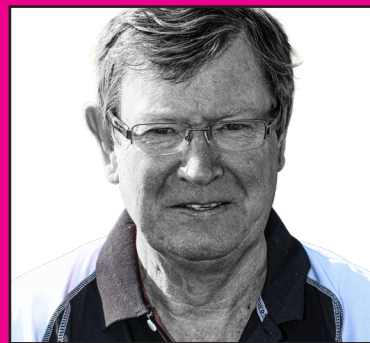




RICHARD WALSH



BRIAN ROSE





BRIAN ROSE

Brian Rose has had a lifelong association with Somerset and whenever he has been at the helm the Club has enjoyed success.

As far as Somerset is concerned, Brian Rose has got the Midas Touch.

Brian is the most successful captain that Somerset has ever had, and between 1979 and 1983, a period known as the 'Glory Years,' he led the team to five one-day trophies in as many seasons.

As Director of Cricket, Brian oversaw the team's Twenty20 Cup victory in 2005 and two years later the return to Division One in the County Championship.

Brian was President of Somerset when they lifted the Royal London One-Day Cup in 2019.

Somerset has continually been a part of my life. It's obviously been a huge pleasure to be involved, although of course, as we have discovered, to be successful you have to go through some tough times as well.

We had to think about what we were doing, alter the way we trained and the ways that we practiced, but we had so much talent in that side which came together at a young age. By the time we were in our mid-twenties there was success in the Test match arena as well, with Viv Richards, Joel Garner and 'Beefy' Botham.

We also had several people who were on the fringes of England including myself, so it was a time that was virtually unrepeatable. It is still with me even after all these years and it will never go away, even now I still get that buzz every time I drive into the ground.

My father was stationed at RAF Locking between 1948-58 and I was born in 1950, so by the time I was six I was going to the RAF Primary School on site at Locking. Being an

RAF school, it was always quite strict even when you played games, which was very useful at the time because they taught you technique. We played cricket in the summer and football in the winter.

At the camp they had their own nets and their sports facilities were fantastic. They had a cricket ground, indoor cricket nets and tennis facilities, so if you wanted to, you could be playing sport every day of the week.

The discipline they taught me helped enormously when I became captain at school and when I captained at Borough Road College and later with the County.

We were then posted to Singapore between 1958 and 1961 which was again a hugely successful time for me in terms of the sport we played. I learned to swim properly - my mum was a fantastic athlete, and used to swim miles and miles with me sitting watching.

The facilities for playing cricket, football and basketball were good. It was also very competitive because the Australians and New Zealanders were there and I got used to that from an early age. I knew how difficult it was going to be when I faced them later in my life.

When I came back to Weston, luckily I'd passed the equivalent of the 'Murray House' which is what they called the '11 Plus' in Singapore - and went to Weston Grammar School.

We came back to Weston in November and I started the new school in the January and went on from there. That's where I first met Bill Andrews, who was heavily involved with the Somerset Under 15s and 19s.

Bill lived just around the corner from where we moved to in Thornbury Road at Uphill and his sports shop was close by as well.

Bill used to wander into Weston Grammar School and take throw downs on the outside tennis courts so I got to know him pretty early in my life. Then he used to see me at Weston Cricket Club practicing.

Bill passed my name on to Reg Pitman who was in charge of the Under 15s and that's where I first met Pete Denning when we played together in that team when we were 13.

We then played for the Under 19s when we were 15 or 16 and Bill was in charge of that.

Bill Andrews was fantastic and I spent so much time with him travelling that

he became like a second father to me. He always used to pick me up - I had to have a bag over my head when he was at the wheel because he used to smoke his pipe and light it up when he was driving!

FROM THE ARCHIVES...



Brian is third from the right - back row



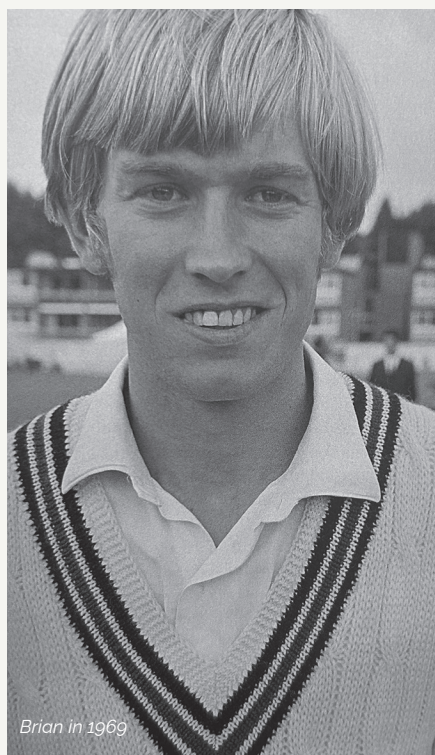
Brian Rose third from the right back row along with Peter 'Dasher' Denning front row second from left in the mid 1960s in a Somerset youth team that was organised and run by the legendary Bill Andrews - Back row far right



SCCC 1969 - Back row L to R: Brian Rose, Tom Cartwright, Roy Palmer, Allan Jones, Graham Burgess, Maurice Hill, Derek Taylor and Peter Robinson. Front row L to R: Tony Clarkson, Mervin Kitchen, Brian Langford and Roy Virgin



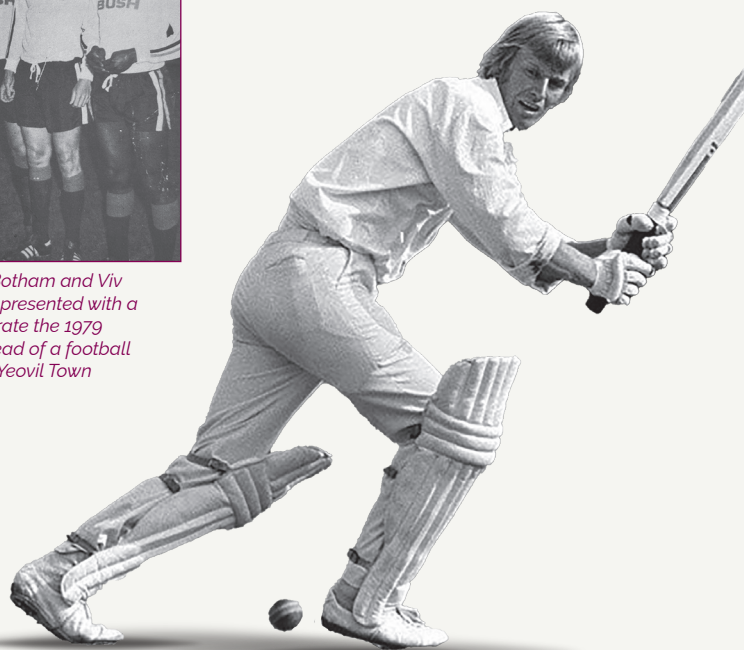
SCCC 1981 - Back row L to R: Jeremy Lloyds, Dennis Breakwell, Peter Roebuck, Colin Dredge, Nigel Poppelwell, Vic Marks and Pete Denning. Front row L to R: Derek Taylor, Ian Botham, Brian Rose, Viv Richards and Hallam Moseley



Brian in 1969



Brian with Ian Botham and Viv Richards being presented with a trophy to celebrate the 1979 cup double ahead of a football match against Yeovil Town



In 1968 Jack Meyer, who was the founder of Millfield School, phoned up my father and asked him to take me along to Millfield to play against the England Schools Cricket Association (ESCA). I ended up opening the batting for the Millfield Invitation XI and got 73 not out. At the end of the match, someone came up and said well played and discovered that I was at Weston Grammar School.

A day later I got a phone call asking if I could get the train from Weston to Newcastle to play for ESCA against Scotland. I was successful there and I played against Holland and then Public Schools XI at Lord's, which was my first ever time playing there.

Colin Atkinson came into the dressing room afterwards and congratulated me and said he would get me a contract with Somerset, and that was the start of things for me.

My first contract was in 1969 when I left school, but I wasn't very successful and went off to Borough Road College for three years to train to be a teacher. As soon as I went off to college I was back in the Somerset team in the holidays and I got my first century at Glastonbury. I finished the three years at Borough Road and I only taught once, and that was in the winter, back at Broadoak School which was my old grammar school, which I did because the geography master broke his leg skiing.

After that I reverted back into Somerset cricket and I started full time with the county in 1974.

When I left college at the end of June I went back and played one game at Bath for Somerset Seconds where I scored 83 against Wiltshire who had a fantastic off spinner.

When I was at Borough Road I learned a lot from Jack Robertson the former Middlesex opening bat and off spinner. He taught me how to play spin properly with soft hands, guiding it rather than trying to hit it, and playing leg side shots, which helped me a great deal.

It was just amazing when I got back to Somerset because Viv had signed to play for Lansdown that year. I was at college and came back to play for Weston First XI at the end of April against Lansdown and Viv was playing for them. I thought he was something special and then he signed for Somerset.

Brian Close was now captain and because of his manner nobody wanted to change next to him in the dressing room, so when I arrived he told me I was changing there, which I then did for the last few years of his captaincy.

The others always took the 'Michael' out of me when I became captain and said I only got the job because I'd changed next to 'Closey.'

What was it that made Brian Close so good for the group of young players he led?

I think it was just iron professionalism and his hardness which rubbed off on me because I was pretty soft natured. He taught me how to think and how to

instruct the side without dithering and without too many consultations - he rarely consulted if at all. He told me when I became captain 'you do it your way' which I did and very rarely did you see me talking to many people on the field.

However, the one person who I always talked to was wicket-keeper Derek Taylor who was right behind the bowlers arm catching the ball. He was such a good professional and he told me at the end of the over in a quiet whisper what was going on, which was a great help.

I scored a century against the Australians at Bath in 1977 which was a stepping stone for me to get into the England Test team. It was a great game for Closey as captain.

After I got my century Closey declared and I wondered what the hell he had done and was in a huge temper when I got back to the dressing room and asked him why he'd done that. He told me that the secretary had told him to declare to ensure that the game went into the third day!

When we started to bowl against Australia it was Joel Garner's debut. I watched the first ball he bowled, which I think was to Rick McCosker, from cover point and I saw the ball pitch short of a length and it went up straight as an arrow and Derek Taylor took it smack into his gloves at head level.

I looked at Dasher, and he looked at me, and I thought that this was what the Club really needed as we already had Viv and Beefy and one or two others. Derek was keeping wicket and I said to him - this is it and it was!

We were so lucky because the structure we started to develop over the previous two or three years had helped us develop people like Peter Roebuck, Vic Marks and later on Nigel Popplewell. We had a combination of world-class Test and county players who became very prominent and good at what they could do. The other thing we were good at was fielding, which we transformed and that was reflected in our one-day results.

There were so many occasions when Joel was bowling and we were fielding that the opposition couldn't score. As a captain all I had to do was set the field to suit the style of the bowler.

I can't put into words what I think of Viv as probably one of the greatest batters of all time. To have him playing at Somerset and the way that he performed and reacted to his team mates was completely the opposite to what you thought a superstar would be doing. He was fantastic for the team.

Brian Rose took over as captain in 1978 and inherited the team that Close had nurtured and developed during his time in charge.

I always say that 1978 set us up for 1979. It was a great learning curve. The disappointment of losing two trophies in as many days, but then the winning of two in two the following year overcame anything that had happened before.

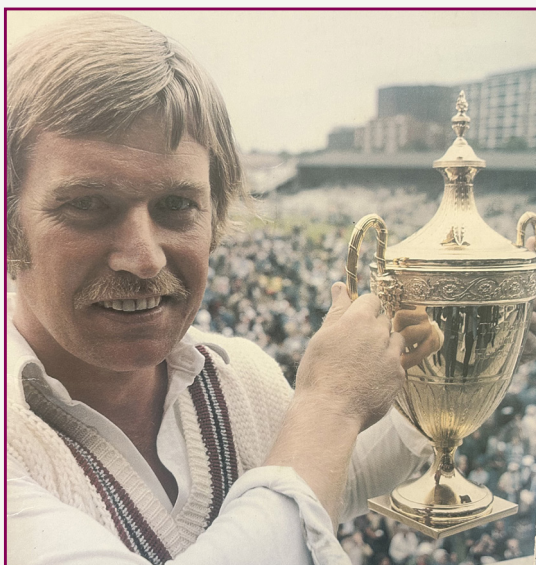
To get into four finals in the first two years I was captain was just fantastic.

The experiences of 1978 made me more ruthless, which was probably one of the reasons for the controversial declaration in the Benson and Hedges Cup game at Worcestershire. The rest of the side also became more ruthless because we were a team and it was a team decision - I just pulled the trigger.

When we were ejected from the competition we said that was it and it was.



B&H Cup Winners. L to R: Derek Taylor, Peter Roebuck, Brian Rose, Jeremy Lloyds, Vic Marks, Joel Garner and Ian Botham



Brian with the B&H Cup 1981



Viv Richards



Gillette Cup Winners 1979 - L to R: Viv Richards, Dennis Breakwell, Brian Rose, Ian Botham & Peter McCombe

How did Brian feel when he lifted Somerset's first trophy ever?

I have still got all of the photographs of me holding up the first trophy at Lord's and people will always remember that. Nobody can describe in words how I felt then and still do now.

In those days people could go onto the field, so underneath us there were so many thousands of people celebrating.

We captured the imagination of not just Somerset, but also the opposition clubs because in those years when we were playing in one-day games they had to shut the gates before the start because everywhere we went we played to sell out crowds.

The County Ground was always a sell out and even when we went to places like the Oval it was full which was quite amazing.

Nowhere else is quite like the County Ground and having played so many games elsewhere the only place I want to play is at Taunton - or Clarence Park.

One of my personal privileges was getting my highest score at Clarence Park in my home town - 205 and that memory will live with me forever.

After I stopped playing I went off to work for St Regis Paper at Watchet. Firstly they sent me up to Aberdeen University Robert Gordon College to do a specialist paper technology course which I did for four months and was flying up and coming home at weekends.

Then halfway through that course I got a phone call from the MD saying that I was now the Commercial Manager at the mill.

At the end of the course I went straight into the new role which was fantastic. I worked very closely with the Sales Director John Leahy and it was then that we started sponsoring Somerset at Taunton. We used to take one of the boxes at the County Ground and we also sponsored a tent at Clarence Park.

I then became Sales Director when John retired and did that for several years, but I was still involved with Somerset as Chairman of Cricket.

It was a terrific job because for much of the week I was travelling either in the UK and Ireland, but then also to places like Singapore and Hong Kong as well as mainland Europe.

I got to make many friends and to know so many people in South Africa where we did a lot of business. I revisited people like Jimmy Cook who helped me enormously when I became Chairman of Cricket. They also helped me to sign people like Charl

Willoughby and Alfonso Thomas when I became Director of Cricket.

All those factors helped me to the next stage of my life, and got me thinking about management at Somerset. It was at that time that I wrote two or three reports for the County about the cricket management structure which is what we have in place today.

That's why the Somerset Cricket Foundation is so good because gives all boys and girls a chance to play and enjoy the facilities we have now and might develop in the future.

The structure I devised prompted the ECB to ask me to write the Schofield Report. I worked very closely with Micky Stewart and Hugh Morris and that is why the ECB has a very similar structure to the one we have at Somerset.

During my years as Director of Cricket, Justin Langer was one of my best signings ever. One of the biggest disappointments of my life was when we didn't beat Durham but finished on the same number of points as Nottinghamshire, but lost the Championship because they'd won one more game than us.

Being appointed President of Somerset was a real accolade for me and I wish I had gone on after I'd done my three years. However, at the same time my family were growing up and it became rather difficult as I was needing to spend more time with grand children, so I stepped down.

I am still very very involved with Somerset even though now I don't have an official role at the Club, but they know that they only have to pick the phone up and I'll be here.

I have been so lucky to have been married to Stevie who has always been here by my side. Stevie never knew she was going to be married to a professional cricketer, which isn't easy especially when you've got a young family, but she has always coped so well.

Nowhere else that I have been to in the world has got the same affinity between the players and the crowds that Somerset County Cricket Club has.

I only have to walk around the ground and people come up to me and chat about Somerset cricket. It's just so fantastic to have been involved with this great club for so long - it's been my life!



Charl Willoughby



Alfonso Thomas

