

ASHLEY GILES MBE

Ashley Fraser Giles was born on 19 March 1973 at Chertsey, Surrey. After the family moved home to Ripley, he went to the George Abbott School in Guildford and became heavily involved at Ripley Cricket Club. Giles' promise was spotted and he came through the Surrey age groups as a left-arm seam bowler before an injury meant he tried to bowl orthodox left arm spin. The rest, as they say, is history.

Ashley made his debut for the Surrey 2nd XI in 1990 and was their Young Cricketer of the Year in 1991. However, with them unable to offer him a professional contract, he went for a trial at Warwickshire and accepted a one year deal. Giles went on to stay at Edgbaston until 2006, making his first class debut against Kent in 1993. It was a period of sustained success for the club with three County Championships and six one day trophies, Warwickshire winning each of the Nat West Trophy, the Benson and Hedges Cup and the Sunday League on two occasions.

Giles' international career spanned nine years from 1997-2006, and he was a central figure in the 2005 Ashes series, a year in which he was also named as one of Wisden's Cricketers of the Year. At Trent Bridge, he hit the winning runs and at the Oval made his highest test score (59*) to secure the draw and the series alongside Kevin Pietersen. In 54 tests, "Gilo" took 143 wickets with a best analysis of 5-57, his Warwickshire team mate Brian Lara being his 100th scalp. Three other half centuries showed he could contribute usefully with the bat.

In first class cricket Ashley made over 5000 runs (including three centuries and 22 fifties) and took more than 500 wickets, with 26 five wicket hauls. On three occasions he took 10 wickets in a match.

A recurring hip injury forced 34 year old Giles to retire prematurely in August 2007, but within weeks Warwickshire had moved swiftly to appoint him as their Director of Cricket, the first of a series of roles in cricket management.

Warwickshire won Division 2 of the County Championship in his first season, the Pro 40 Division 2 in 2009 and the CB40 one day competition in 2010 before being crowned County Champions in 2012. He had already been on England's four man selection panel for three years when he was appointed as England's limited overs head coach in November 2012, a role he held for 18 months before returning to county cricket, first with Lancashire and then Warwickshire for a second stint, where he became Sporting Director.

Giles' most recent appointment came in December 2018, when he returned to the international sphere as Managing Director of England Men's cricket. He held the post until February 2022, stepping down following the review of a poor 21-22 Ashes series which also saw the departure of head coach Chris Silverwood and batting coach Graham Thorpe.

Ken Burney