

DARYL MITCHELL

Daryl Keith Henry Mitchell was born on 25th November 1983 at Badsey, near Evesham – within 20 miles of New Road, where he was to become an icon in Worcestershire's history.

Educated at Prince Henry's, Evesham and University College Worcester “Mitch” played with distinction for Worcestershire between 2005 and 2021 as a right handed batter and useful medium pace bowler, especially in white ball cricket. A tally of nearly 300 catches in first class cricket also showed he had a good pair of hands.

Daryl was appointed as Worcestershire captain at the end of the 2010 season, the first man born in the county to lead the team since 1925. He remained as skipper until 2016, leading the side to promotion from Division 2 of the Championship in 2014. Across his career, Daryl won promotion five times, the last occasion being in 2017 when Worcestershire were Division 2 champions. He was also proud to be part of the T20 winning squad in 2018, although it was a year when Worcestershire again bounced back down into Division 2.

Mitchell's loyalty to Worcestershire saw him play 225 first class matches for club, chiefly as an opening batter and scoring 13,920 runs at 38.34 with 39 centuries. Only five Worcestershire players have made more hundreds, and his innings of 298 against Somerset at Taunton in 2009 is the fifth highest in the county's history. His first class aggregate of runs puts him in the top 20 for the club, and in Worcestershire's 2010 promotion season a purple patch saw him make three centuries in successive innings, including two against Gloucestershire at the Cheltenham Festival. It was a performance that inspired an unlikely victory having had a first innings deficit of 202!

Off the field, Daryl was elected as Worcestershire's representative on the Professional Cricketers' Association committee in 2009. Eight years later, in February 2017, he became PCA Chairman and after being re-elected for a second term in 2019 he was a central figure in steering the organisation through the problems created by the pandemic. Following his retirement as a player at the end of the 2021 season, he was appointed as the PCA's Director of Cricket Operations.

In April 2022, “Once a Pear: My Cricket Journey” was released by Pitch Publishing, a collaboration between Mitchell and Frank Watson, a cricket coach and broadcaster who covers Worcestershire for the BBC.

A familiar sight as a player on the county circuit in recent memory, it will be a pleasure to welcome Daryl to the society.

Ken Burney