

MARK RAMPRAKASH MBE

Mark Ravin Ramprakash MBE was born on 05 September 1969 in Bushey, Hertfordshire. He went to Gayton High School and Harrow Weald 6th Form College. He shone for Middlesex as a teenager and, aged just 17, he captained England Under-19. One of his cricketing nicknames was "Bloodaxe".

More commonly known as "Ramps", Mark was a right hand bat of huge talent and with a classical technique, as well as being a terrific fielder, especially at cover or bat-pad. He played for Middlesex from 1987-2000, making his England debut aged 21 in 1991 alongside Graeme Hick before a switch to Surrey that lasted from 2001-2012.

Ramprakash's reputation as one of the top batters on the county circuit over the past 30 years or so was built on a huge volume of runs. In 461 first class matches he amassed 35,659 runs at 53.14 with 114 hundreds, and he is currently the last of 25 batters to score 100 centuries. Once set, Mark was difficult to dismiss, scoring 63* on debut as a 17 year old against Yorkshire and in 2006 making a career best 301* for Surrey against Northamptonshire.

In between, he became the first player to score a hundred against all 18 counties, and along with Tom Graveney holds the distinction of having scored 10,000 runs for two separate counties in his career. In both 2006 and 2007, Mark scored over 2,000 runs and averaged over 100 in first-class cricket for Surrey, while spending part of the intervening winter as a competitor on the BBC's "Strictly Come Dancing."

Internationally, Ramprakash's 52 Tests for England spanned an 11 year period. He made 12 fifties and two centuries but many felt he was in and out of the side too often despite his talent. Mark's hundreds were 154 against the West Indies in Barbados in 1998, and 133 versus Australia – against whom he averaged 42 - at the Oval in 2001.

After retiring from playing Mark went into coaching as a batting specialist at both county and international level, and we welcome him at a time when he is back at his old county, Middlesex, in that capacity. Given his present role, he can give us an insight into the current county scene from first-hand experience.

Ken Burney