

David Larter

BOWLING FAST : THE HIGHS AND LOWS

The biography.

At six feet seven and a half inches and a fast bowler David Larter immediately attracted attention as a newcomer to championship cricket with Northants in 1960. Within 2 years he was picked for England, taking 9 wickets in a startling debut against Pakistan.

At 22 he was picked for the Ashes tour, where he played 3 Tests on the New Zealand leg. He played 3 more against India away in 1963/4 but was not capped again until June 1965, after taking 24 wickets in consecutive championship matches against Somerset and Yorkshire. Ray Illingworth, dismissed by him in both innings, described him as “almost unplayable”. He took wickets in three Tests against New Zealand and South Africa, and was regarded as England’s great hope when picked for his second Ashes tour at the end of that season. But ill fortune struck early in the tour when he suffered a severe deep-seated left ankle injury which was to force his retirement at the age of 25.

David ended with 666 first-class wickets in effectively six years, at 19 apiece. Of those English fast bowlers who took more than 650 wickets in the 1960s decade he was fifth best in terms of his average and third best in strike rate behind only Trueman and Statham.

The decade was a period of significant change in the game, and contained some enthralling cricket. Dexter, Sobers, Hall and Griffith, Pollock, Benaud – they are all there.

The story is told through the observations of David and of those who knew him, 24 of them being cricketers who played with or against him, including five England captains. Beautifully designed by well-known graphic designer Chris Keeble, the book is enhanced by numerous photographs, including colour. 280 pages.

Published in June, the book is priced at £20 including postage.

To reserve a copy signed by David please email author Richard Sayer at Sayer@suffolkskies15.co.uk

