

AUDREY COLLINS



Born: 14th April 1915

- 1915 : Born – India : Educated University of London – BSc Hons Chemistry Degree
- 1927 : Played in her first Cricket Week at age of 12! (we think!)
- 1933-37 : Represented Middlesex and South – Played for England
- 1938-39 : Lancashire, Cheshire and North
- 1939 : Member of ill-fated team which never sailed to Australia
Hertfordshire and Captain East
- 1961 : Started Vagabonds WCC
- 1963 : Chief organiser for the Australian tour to England
- 1964-70 : Chairman of the Women’s Cricket Association
- 1983-94 : President of the WCA – the longest serving President
- 1988 : Awarded OBE for services to women’s cricket

Audrey played against Australia in 1937 in the very first women’s cricket Test series in England. “Our team came back from Australia in 1935 with glowing reports of the tremendous welcome they had received everywhere”, said Audrey. “We could hardly wait to receive them back in England in 1937.” “To me it was a season of great excitement and fun, culminating in the honour of playing for England at The Oval in the final Test Match.”

It is little known, however, that but for a quirk of fate, Audrey could have been travelling to England with the Australian party. Audrey’s opera-singing mother was born in Australia and, in a brave move in those days, was brought to Europe to study, meeting Audrey’s father on her way back home. Audrey’s father was killed in the First World War and, in 1920, her mother decided to settle in England on leaving India with her three children. Had it been the other way round, Audrey may have gone on to serve women’s cricket “down under” with the same distinction she achieved with the Women’s Cricket Association.

During the third Test at The Oval in 1937, Audrey was sent in to bat with Betty Archdale under instructions to ‘get on with the job’! The pair put on 54 in just half an hour!

After the War in 1945, Audrey came to St. Albans, played for the East and became Secretary and then Chairman .

In later years, Audrey is best known for her services to various chocolate firms in her unstinting efforts to raise funds for – and in continued support of - women’s cricket!



Audrey being introduced to the Duchess of Gloucester at The Oval in 1937

Audrey was an inspiration to all young ‘would be cricketers’ and led by example throughout her playing years. She was also a selector and encouraged us all to aspire to higher levels.

I cannot think of a time when Audrey was not either playing, selecting, looking after the youngsters, fund raising (does Nestlé’s ring any bells!) and sitting on various committees from club to national level. She never stopped in her efforts to build up women’s cricket and was certainly one of the few that steered the WCA through the lean times. Women’s cricket has changed beyond all recognition from the 1950s and much of this is thanks to Audrey through her dedication to the sport and unending enthusiasm which has rubbed off on so many.