



(2) Jackie McGlew

Derrick John ('Jackie') McGlew (1929–98)

One of South Africa's great cricketers, and especially as captain of the Springbok team during the fifties and early sixties, he was always affectionately known to his friends and team mates as Jackie. Born in Pietermaritzburg, and educated at Merchiston and Maritzburg College, he played his first game for Natal in 1947 at

the age of 18, and in time he became the province's leading run-scorer and most successful captain.

He made his debut for South Africa on the tour to England in 1951, when he and team mates Roy McLean and Cuan McCarthy were known as the 'three Macs'. All three began their careers in Pietermaritzburg. On this first tour Jackie was selected as an opening batsman, and although he only appeared in the first two tests he was still able to accumulate 1 002 first-class runs on the tour.

He was chosen as vice-captain to Jack Cheetham on the famous tour to Australia and New Zealand in 1952-3, and it was during this tour that Jackie really confirmed his early promise as an international cricketer. He approached every task in life with a tigerish quality, and never more so than on this tour, when he set the example with some thrilling fielding and catching that was to be followed by every future Springbok cricket team.

During that momentous tour Jackie scored 255 not out in the first test against New Zealand, which still stands today as the highest score by a South African batsman in test matches outside the country. In the five tests against New Zealand in South Africa in 1953-4 he was the leading run scorer with 351, at an average of 43.87. During the domestic seasons in South Africa he led Natal to numerous Currie cup victories and established himself as a most knowledgeable captain.

The tour to England in 1955 must always rank as his finest performance, when he not only established himself as one of the finest opening batsmen in the world, but proved his ability as captain by leading South Africa to victory in the 3rd and 4th tests when Jack Cheetham was injured and unable to play. In the first test he showed his courageous and fighting qualities when all about him were being demolished by the England fast bowlers. He stayed at the wicket for 306 minutes in the first innings, scoring 68 runs; and then scored another stubborn 51 runs in 249 minutes during the second innings.

Leading by example during the 3rd test despite being severely struck on the body by the fast bowling of Frank Tyson, he scored 104 at Old Trafford. He followed this with 133 at Headingley in the 4th test, which carried the side to victory on both occasions. Once again he was the leading South African run scorer in the test series, and totalled 1 871 first-class runs on the tour. It was during this period that the opening partnership of McGlew and Goddard grew to become one of the most successful in international cricket.

Jackie finally achieved his ambition when he was chosen to captain South Africa against Peter May's England team in the 1956-7 series, but injury before the first test caused him to appear only in the second test, which was a great disappointment not only to him, but also to the team. Although he played with much success in all five tests against the Australians the following season, he had to wait until the 1960 tour of England to be reappointed as Springbok captain.

The 1960 tour was probably the most difficult for any captain to handle, as it was the one to be disrupted by anti-apartheid demonstrators during the entire five-month period. Politics invaded the sports arena, and as captain Jackie had to handle press conferences which were always loaded with political questions. There was also the no-balling of Geoff Griffin for throwing during the Lords test, but through all

this he was able to handle every situation with great diplomacy and leadership. Despite all these difficulties, and the loss of the series, he was still able to score well over 1 000 runs for the third time on a tour of England.

Jackie McGlew retired from international cricket after the 1961–2 series against New Zealand, with a test match record of 34 matches, 2 440 runs, a highest score of 255 and an average of 42.06.

In later years he became a national selector and managed many South African Schools' teams which included up-and-coming stars such as Barry Richards, Graeme Pollock and Mike Procter.

Some of my lasting memories of Jackie are the sight of him diving in the covers to prevent any chance of a boundary being scored; and batting without a cap, head and chin down in dour defence of his wicket. Those who played under him will always admire his knowledge of the history of cricket, and value the advice and friendship of a true sportsman.

Rest in peace, Skipper.

NEIL ADCOCK