

*Doctor David English C.B.E., M.B.E., O.S.C.A.,*

*Hon. Doc. (Univ.) Middlesex*

*Freeman of the City of London*

### **CHILDHOOD:**

Born and educated in London. David left school in 1963 with the ambition to play cricket for England.

### **EARLY CAREER:**

In 1963, David joined the Lord's ground staff for one year.

He spent seven years with Associated Newspapers, firstly selling advertising space on the Daily Sketch and then working as a Senior Sales Executive on the London Evening News looking after the showbiz category.

In 1971 David became Press Officer for the Decca Record Company, handling all the publicity for such names as Tom Jones, the Rolling Stones, the Moody Blues and Gilbert O'Sullivan.

### **LATER CAREER:**

In 1973 David became the first President of RSO Records (Robert Stigwood's record company) where he was responsible for world-wide recordings of, amongst others, Eric Clapton and the Bee Gees. He made RSO into the world's number one independent record

company, achieving a still standing world record of five singles in the US Top Ten ("Night Fever", "Stayin' Alive", "How Deep is Your Love", and "More Than a Woman" – the Bee Gees and "Lay Down Sally" – Eric Clapton).

David's acting career began with his film debut in 1976 in Ken Russell's "Lisztomania" which was followed by an appearance in "The Lady Vanishes" with Elliot Gould. David also starred in Sir Richard Attenborough's "A Bridge Too Far" in 1977. His television credits include "Emmerdale" (YTV), "Bergerac" (BBC), "Secret Army" (BBC), "Ripping Yarns" with Michael Palin (BBC) and "Casualty" (BBC).

In 1983 David co-produced the motion picture "Hawks" with Barry Gibb and Steve Lanning, starring Timothy Dalton and Anthony Edwards, which was released world-wide.

As well as being President of Finchley Cricket Club, David has played for the Middlesex County Cricket Club and M.C.C. He is the first President of Berkshire Youth Cricket, a Lords Taverner and Captain of the charity 'Bunbury' cricket team, which he founded in 1986. The team, which fields such legendary cricketers as Bill Wyman, Gary Lineker, Ian Botham, Rory Bremner, Eric Clapton, Viv Richards, Shane Warne, Audley Harrison, Lawrence Dallaglio, Ian Wright, Phil Collins, Sam Fox and Barry Gibb, has raised over £14 million for different charities since 1986.

He is the former Chairman of Childline's Entertainment Committee and a patron of the Make-A-Wish Foundation – the charity which gives children with life-threatening illnesses their dearest wish. He is also a trustee of the E.C.B's Cricket Foundation, the National Charity

supporting grass roots cricket including schools, clubs and the disabled.

David has produced, written and narrated twelve cartoons, "The Bunbury Tails", which was shown on Channel 4 on 26<sup>th</sup> August 1992. He has also written "The Bunbury Tails" children's books and has co-written songs with Barry Gibb, Eric Clapton, Elton John, George Harrison and the Bee Gees for the Bunbury LP, which was released by Polydor Records in October 1992. A video of the series was released by Polygram on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1992.

David presented a new word association quiz programme, "Spoken English", for Yorkshire Television which was transmitted at the end of July 1992. He also presented "The King and I" road show – a Question and Answer Evening with Ian Botham and Viv Richards, which took place in 142 theatres throughout the world. He has just completed a similar tour with Ian Botham and Allan Lamb.

As a Vice-President of the English Schools Cricket Association (E.S.C.A), each year he presents the Bunbury E.S.C.A. Festival, which is the biggest and most important cricket week for under fifteen cricketers in the country. Ninety-five per cent of England's Test cricketers, including M. Atherton, G. Gooch, D. Gower, M. Gatting, M. Ramprakash, I. Botham, A. Stewart, N. Hussain, G. Thorpe, M. Trescothick, I. Bell, M. Vaughan, A. Flintoff, G. Swann, P. Collingwood and Steven Finn, were discovered in this festival.

In 1992 he brought over the South African under-15 side to play in the first ever schoolboy Tests between the two countries. In 1996, once again in conjunction with the E.S.C.A., he staged the first ever Junior World Cup, the "Lombard World Challenge", run on exactly

the same lines as the Senior World Cup, involving the same ten countries. The unique competition had its Final played at Lords with the semi-finals held at Trent Bridge. Being the first ever Junior World Cup, the "Lombard World Challenge" received massive attention on TV, radio and in the press throughout the world. The "Lombard World Challenge" won the award for the best new sports sponsorship in 1996 by the Institute of Sports Sponsorship, presented by the Duke of Edinburgh.

On September 29<sup>th</sup> 1999 he was presented with the Burke Ford Special Merit Award for his outstanding contribution to cricket by the Professional Cricketer's Association at their "Awards Dinner of the Century" at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

David staged his second Junior World Cup, "The Costcutter under 15 World Challenge", in August 2000. The Final won by the West Indies was played at Lords on August 10<sup>th</sup>, thus underlying his dedication to bring children of the world together to forge lifelong friendships and the chance to compete at the highest level of sport – to give them "The Roots to Grow and the Wings to Fly".

On October 1<sup>st</sup> 2003 he set up the "David English Bunbury Cup" for 12-13 year olds. This competition involves every school in Great Britain, giving under 12's and 13's the chance to excel and contest their skills against each other. It is the natural pre-runner to the Bunbury under-15 Festival with its Final played each year at Headingley. David now covers the full spectrum of 12-15 year olds, fulfilling his ambition to give boys and girls the best start to the great cricketing adventure and "up the yellow brick road" to a full England cap.

David English's autobiography "Mad Dogs and the Englishman – Confessions of a Loon" was released on Virgin Books in August 2002. Within four weeks of its publication it had become a best-seller.

In July 2003 David was made a Freeman of the City of London.

He was awarded an M.B.E. in the Queens Birthday Honours List in 2003, for Services to Charity. In 2004 he was appointed an Honorary Doctor of the University of Middlesex for Services to Charity, Humanity and the Performing Arts.

On October 4<sup>th</sup> 2004 David was presented with the Lifetime O.S.C.A. (Outstanding Services to Cricket Award) by the England and Wales Cricket Board at Lords Cricket Ground.

As a little girl David's daughter – Amy Rose – used to phone him from Zimbabwe, where she lived at the time, to ask him "How many sleeps before I see you Daddy?" She would measure how long she hadn't seen him by the nights she had slept. David thought this was a lovely idea for a song, so he went to see his best pal, Barry Gibb, in Miami. Together they wrote the song and invited Cliff Richard over to record it.

"How Many Sleeps" written by David English and Barry Gibb was recorded by Cliff Richard at the Middle Ear Studios, Miami Beach. Released on October 5<sup>th</sup> 2005, it became an instant hit.

On December 8<sup>th</sup> 2005, David was presented with the Ashwell Team of the Year Award for the Bunburys by Chairman Paul J Thwaites at King's College Cambridge, especially in recognition for Services to the Sargent Cancer Care for Children at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

David's second autobiography, "Confessions of a Dedicated Englishman", was published by Pan Macmillan on May 10<sup>th</sup> 2006.

On August 23<sup>rd</sup> 2006, "The Bunbury Board of Fame, Roll Call of Honour" was unveiled at the E.C.B. Cricket Academy, Loughborough University. On it were the names of 52 Bunbury boys who have gone on to play for England since the Bunbury E.S.C.A Festival started 25 years ago. During this time, 276 Bunbury's have played First Class cricket.

On September 25<sup>th</sup> 2006, David was presented with the E.C.B Special Merit Lifetime Achievement Award for Services to Cricket at the Professional Cricketers Awards Dinner, Royal Albert Hall, London.

June 2010 David was awarded the C.B.E in the Queens Birthday Honours for Services to charity and cricket.

On November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 David was presented with the Daily Telegraph/Aviva Award for Contribution to School Sport.

On November 12<sup>th</sup> 2010, David was awarded with the Cricket Society Ian Jackson Trophy for Services to Cricket.

David is also Vice President of the Sussex Young Cricketers and President of the Berkshire School's Cricket Association