

Arthur Milton (1928 – 2007) former Henleaze resident, was the last man of twelve to play cricket AND football for England at international level.

(The other 11 were Lyttelton, Gunn, Gay, Foster, Fry, Sharp, Makepeace, Hardinge, Ducat, Arnold and Watson.)

Arthur also excelled at table tennis and snooker, and in later years played golf at Long Ashton. He loved to watch greyhound racing at the Eastville track, now replaced by Ikea. Interestingly he did not play hockey.

In the summer of 2014 I made contact with Joan Milton, the widow of Arthur Milton, who still lives in Henleaze. I explained that since 2008, after speaking to cricketer, Tom Graveney I had wanted to include her husband, Arthur Milton in my Famous Henleaze Folk. She was subsequently kind enough to grant me access to many photographs of Arthur and also his biography by his good friend Mike Vockins “Arthur Milton: Last of the Double Internationals.”

Tom Graveney also lived in Henleaze for several years on his marriage to local girl Jackie Brookman in 1952. They lived at 132 Henleaze Road, the home Jackie’s parents – one the former lodges of Henley Grove Mansion.

When I contacted Tom in 2008 to enquire about the time that he spent in Henleaze and also my wish to include him in a presentation at Henleaze Library that April as one of the Famous Henleaze Folk he said that Arthur was more worthy of a place than he was! However both of them are now included! Unbeknown to me Joan had actually attended the April presentation at the Library.

Among Arthur’s other many friends were Tom and Ken Graveney, Denis Compton (like Arthur he was also a Brylcreem Boy), Joe Mercer, Tony Brown, Andy Wilson, Don Oakes, Jimmy Logie, Barrie Meyer, Peter Richardson, Paul Fisher, David Shepherd, David Green, John Claughton, Denis Scanlan, Dougie Tucker (his dog racing friend) and of course Mike Vockins the biographer of *Arthur Milton: Last of the Double Internationals* published in 2011 by Sports Books Ltd.

During the time Arthur played cricket for Gloucestershire he scored 32,000 runs which included 56 centuries and made 760 catches.

Only seven other cricketers had bettered up to 2010.

(Frank Woolley, W G Grace, Tony Lock, Wally Hammond, Brian Close, John Langridge and Wilfred Rose.)

He was described as a right hand batsman and a medium- pace bowler. In football he played outside right.

1939 Arthur won a scholarship to Cotham Grammar School

1941 Arthur played for the school’s rugby, cricket and football teams by the time he was 13½years old.

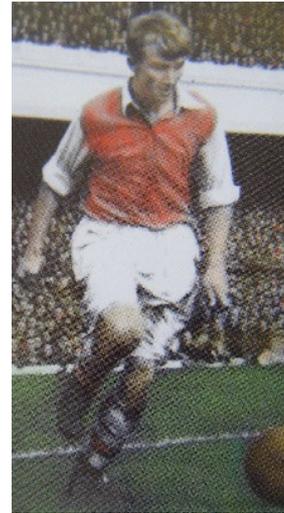
(He eventually captained all three teams.)

1944 Arsenal had a scout in the Bristol area, Ted Davis, who ran the Colston Sports/Downs League.

He arranged for Arthur to play a couple of friendly games for them.

1945

At the age of 17 Arthur played his first game for Arsenal at Maidenhead on 12 May.



Arthur moved from Soundwell CC to Stapleton where attention was drawn to his cricketing skills which resulted in an invitation to join Glos 2nd X1.

When his National Service was completed he became a professional cricketer for Glos. During his first season he was paid £200 plus £2 expenses for each evening on county duty outside Gloucester plus the rail fare home and away outside Bristol.

During his National Service he returned from Nottingham, duties permitting, to play cricket for Stapleton.

1946 Arthur finished his schooling with a Higher Certificate in Maths, Physics and Chemistry

Football League matches restarted after WW11 and Arthur was invited to join Arsenal. Arthur started playing cricket for Glos in the summer and football for Arsenal in the winter.

1948
1974



With Glos CC 1948 (June County debut) – 1974 (against Yorkshire) 26 years as a professional before retiring

- 1949
- 585 first class matches during this time (more than Hammond=405, Grace=360 & Dipper=478)
 - 1,017 innings (more than any other Glos player H=664. G=612, D= 860)
 - Batting average 33.65 (H=57.05. G=40.51, D=35.28)
 - 52 centuries (H=113, G=50, D=53) and 152 half-centuries.

1949 was the end of Clothes rationing and Arthur played for the third team at Arsenal.

1951 10 March (Arthur's birthday) he made his Arsenal debut.

A remarkable achievement - after just 12 games for Arsenal he played for England v Austria at Wembley. Tom Finney was unavailable and Arthur was preferred to Stanley

Matthews.

Scored his maiden first-class century (125) v Somerset at Bristol

1955 Transferred to Bristol City in Third Division South on 16 February for £4,000.
Played 14 unbeaten games for them.

The transfer included a rider that if he did not play beyond the 54-55 season Bristol City could claim a 50% rebate from Arsenal which they duly did!

Arthur retired from football at the age of 27 to concentrate on cricket.

(He was occasionally tempted back for charity games)

1953 Arthur was called up as England's 12th man.

22 August married Joan Gore.

Arsenal had previously found Arthur digs in Muswell Hill with Joan's parents.

Arthur and Joan had a home for four years in Brookmans Park, Herts.

1957 Joan later found them a house in Henleaze, Bristol and they moved in on their wedding anniversary on 22 August. They had three sons Robert, David and Richard.

1958 First Test cap v New Zealand at Headingley in his 10th season as a professional.

A debut century earned him a place on the ashes tour.

He became the first Gloucestershire player to score a century in his first test since W G Grace in 1880.

1965 His highest score (170) v Sussex at Cheltenham

1967 His best summer – more than 2,000 runs and 39 catches.

1968 Appointed as County Captain.

Under Arthur's leadership they reached the Gillette Cup quarter-final at Trent bridge.

Never progressed beyond the third round in previous years.

Arthur gave up captaincy after this one season as he did not enjoy it.

1972 Scored his final 52nd century(117) v Worcester

1974

Arthur's playing Career ended against Yorkshire at Harrogate.

He then met, by chance, in Westbury a cricket fan, Cyril Wood who told him there was a vacancy in the Post Office.

Arthur decided that this new career would keep him active and soon he was delivering letters for the Sneyd Park round.



1975- He was mentor and coach to the University of Oxford's cricketers.

1978

1978- Arthur bumped into Cyril Wood, a local cricketer and a postmaster who looked after the local sorting office He told him that there was vacancy. Arthur subsequently served as a postman in the Sneyd Park/Stoke Bishop area. It was ten years he really enjoyed and the bonus was meeting a lot of people during that time. "It got me out of myself." 1988 The Post Office arranged a retirement party from him and gave him two excellent prints of local scenes by Frank Shipsides.

He was able to see his boys during this time whilst they were still at home.

1988 Their first granddaughter, Stephanie was born on Arthur's 60th birthday.

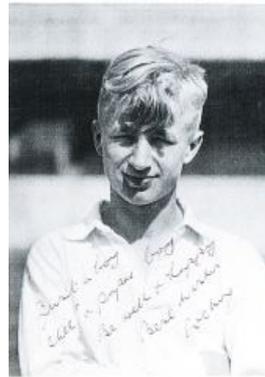
This was the year he retired as a postman.

After that he took on a newspaper round in the Rockleaze and Stoke Bishop areas and later even continued to manage it himself after the local store decided stop providing the service,

I was fortunate during the final years of my working life to be employed by the University of Bristol and made many friends there. One of them whom I see still on a fairly regular basis still lives in Stoke Bishop. I was talking to her about my visit to Joan Milton and she said that Arthur had been their paper boy! Furthermore Arthur had kindly given my friend Jane and her husband John a copy of these two photos when he retired from his paper round. What a small world it is at times!



2002 - when Arthur received his honorary MA from the University of Bristol



The photograph of Arthur as a boy was signed by him for Jane and John who were on his Stoke Bishop paper round. It reads:

*“Just a boy
Still a paper boy
Be well and happy,
Best wishes
Arthur”*

- 2001 Through his paper round Arthur also met Donald Shell, the warden of Wills Hall. In due course Donald was amazed to learn that Arthur had been such a sporting star. He invited him to be Guest of Honour at a Sports Formal. The newly appointed Vice-Chancellor, Eric Thomas attended. He was very impressed with Arthur on this first visit. Donald recalled that it was one of the best moments as warden of the hall. “Around a hundred of the most privileged students were hearing a piece of wisdom delivered by someone possessed o immense natural authority.” The students were enthralled. Thereafter Arthur and Joan became regular guests and welcome visitors to the Hall.
- Retirement He was now able to spend more time at home with Joan, when not at Eastville or Long Ashton. They went to the Proms at the Albert Hall, supported the Bristol Old Vic and Bristol Hippodrome and attended concerts at the Colston Hall. Arthur joined a team of Observers for the TCCB – the Test & County Cricket Board, a far-sighted idea by Ted Dexter and stayed for about three years.
- 2002 University of Bristol gave Arthur an honorary MA. He had previously delivered the newspapers to the Common Room beforehand!
- 2006 Arthur phoned Mike Vockins about a possible biography. He had received offers over the years, but decided to he could only pursue with Mike’s help. Arthur continued to enjoy golf until the last eight or nine months of his life when he had a mini stroke. Mike’s book is a true inspiration to all budding sportsman and sportswomen. It is so refreshing to learn about many interesting and famous participants and their achievements in the days before money became so important in football and cricket
- 2007 Arthur died on 25 April.