

Graham Cowdrey (1964 – 2020)



It is a well-known fact that Wellesley produces fine cricketers, and the Cowdrey family must rank amongst the finest. Graham and his older brothers, Chris (who captained Kent and England) and Jeremy (who spoke at Speech Day in 2018) went to Wellesley before going on to Tonbridge School. In 1997, Graham was awarded a benefit year and it was with great pride that Wellesley were able to host a fund raising event in his honour which was attended by well over 200 people. It was a fantastic evening, and although not a great cricketer himself, the author of this article remembers it extremely well, since he was given a Cowdrey Benefit Year commemorative tie for running the bar! Those of a certain age will be interested to know that Graham was universally known as Van by his friends, owing to his love of all things Van Morrison.

A right-handed batsman, Graham scored over 14,000 first-class runs while playing for Kent and was a regular of the county side during the 1980s and 1990s. His top score of 147 came against Gloucestershire in the 1992 County Championships. He also held the Kent record for any first class batting partnership for 22 years with Aaravinda de Silva against Derbyshire, until it was broken by Sean Dickson and Joe Denly in 2017. Whilst at Wellesley, Graham excelled at all sports and was a well-liked and popular boy and it will come as no surprise to learn that among his many achievements he was Captain of Cricket! You may be aware that the trees between the squash courts and the cricket pavilion were planted by the Cowdrey family. We would like to express our deepest sympathies to his family and friends and especially to his brothers Chris and Jeremy who we also remember with great affection.

Jonathan Mount, OW secretary