

Friday 18th January, 2013.

Andrew E Weekes, The Cricket Umpire.



Andrew Emanuel Weekes was born at Fahie's Estate on June 25th 1940.

He spent his Primary School days at St Pauls, before completing his formal education at the Sandy Point Senior School.

After graduating in 1957, he began his teaching career at the age of seventeen (17) at the Old Road Government School, and then the Verchild's All-Age School.

Andrew was then transferred to the St. Paul's All-Age School, before going to teach Mathematics at the Convent High School (now the Immaculate Conception Catholic School [ICCS]) in 1969, where he stayed until he retired in 1997.

He humorously recalled his first day as a teacher, dressed in short pants with knee-high socks.

He served as a Scouts Master for the Sandy Point and Old Road Catholic Scouts Troupe for more than five (5) years.

Andrew served on the Committee for both the Sandy Point Hard Courts and the Old Sandy Point Recreation Ground.

He also served as a Presiding Officer for general elections for many many years.

You didn't win too many arguments with him if he shared a different point of view.

He was a philosopher, a role model, a mentor, a historian.

He was always a very quiet and unassuming individual. He would be around and you would never really know.

Andrew loved:

1. Playing dominoes
2. Reading, in particular western, classics and mysteries
3. listening to Calypso, Religious and Country & Western Music
4. Watching movies
5. Umpiring and refereeing cricket, football and dominoes
6. Teaching and
7. Helping other.

He started playing cricket as an all-rounder for Crab Hill in the 1950's, then later for St. Anne in the 50's & 60's, and Sandy Point from the late 50's to late 60's.

He was awarded a camera for taking a hat-trick with his off breaks against Old Road in the 60's.

He played football as an inside-right for Eagles in the 1950's, Carlisle in the 50's & 60's, and Sandy Point in the 50's & 60's.

He was a football referee from the 1960's until 1978.

He started umpiring in the local league in Sandy Point in the 50's.

While a teacher at the Convent High School, with the help of Mr. Calvin Wilkin, he was invited to sit the West Indies Cricket Umpires Association's (WICUA) Final Written Exam in July 1978.

He received the invitation the day before the exam, thus he only had less than twenty four (24) hours to prepare for it.

He sat it at the SL Horsfords & Company Limited Board/Conference Room, and was successful.

With this success, four (4) months later in November '78, with the assistance of the same Mr. Wilkins, he travelled to Antigua where he successfully sat the WICUA Oral & Practical Exam.

He may very well be:

1. the only umpire to be fully qualified (sitting & passing both exams), in one year (four [4] months actually), and
2. the last as well.

Having passed the WICUA Oral & Practical exam, he was then the first (1st) qualified cricket umpire from St. Kitts and was thus eligible to umpire Regional First Class matches, (Shell-Shield matches then), One Day Internationals (ODI), Test Matches & World Cup Cricket.

He started umpiring LI tournament matches in 1979.

He umpired in his first 1st Class (Shell Shield) match in 1980 and three (3) years later in 1983, he made his debut in the ODI arena in Trinidad.

He officiated in three (3) ODI:

1. March 9th, 1983, Port of Spain, Trinidad, ODI #187, West Indies vs. India - 1st ODI at 42 years with David Narine
2. March 20th, 1985, St. Johns, Antigua, ODI #320, West Indies vs New Zealand - 1st ODI at 44 years with Pat Whyte
3. March 18th, 1989, St. Johns, Antigua, ODI #562, West Indies vs India - 4th ODI at 48 years with Steve Bucknor.

He umpired his inaugural test match in 1983 in Antigua, West Indies vs India with the late David Archer of Barbados.

Regrettably, his career as a test umpire was restricted to only four (4) test matches, the last one being in 1990.

His appointments as a test umpire are:

1. April 28th - May 3rd, 1983, St. Johns, Antigua, Test #956, West Indies vs India - 5th Test at 42 years with the late David Archer

2. April 7th - 11th, 1984, St. Johns, Antigua, Test #987, West Indies vs Australia, 4th Test at 43 years with the late David Archer
3. April 15th - 20th, 1989, Port of Spain, Trinidad, Test #1119, West Indies vs India, 3rd Test at 48 years with Clyde Cumberbatch and
4. April 12th - 16th 1990, St. Johns, Antigua, Test #1144, West Indies vs England, 5th Test at 49 years with the late David Archer

He had the privilege of umpiring in every Caribbean country except Guyana.

He had the distinction of officiating with umpires who were making their debut at the First (1st) Class Level on at least four (4) occasions in Barbados, Jamaica and Dominica.

After restructuring the St. Kitts Cricket Umpires Association (SKCUA), he was President in 1979, when the SKCUA became more vibrant.

He started a recruitment & training programme here in St. Kitts, and his efforts yielded dividends when he saw Ian Merchant & Warrington Chapman becoming fully qualified in 1981, St. Clair Warner in '82 and Troy Bif Mills in '87.

He received the St. Kitts-Nevis Independence Award for Sports at the 1985 Independence Award Ceremonies.

He retired from umpiring in 2001.

He was instrumental in organizing the St. Thomas Cricket Umpires Association and was one (1) of its training officers for many years.

He considered his:

1. Best Match:

While the West Indies were batting vs England in the 5th Test in 1990, he gave Gordon Greenidge run out for 140+ in Antigua, after sharing a partnership of 298 with Desmond Haynes.

When everyone including commentators thought he had made a very big mistake, the TV replay proved he was correct.

Greenidge congratulated him afterwards on such an outstanding decision.

2. Second (2nd) Best Match:

In 1984 in the 4th Test West Indies vs Australia, in Antigua, in the West Indies' 1st and only innings, he gave Vivian Richards out caught behind for 178.

Once again commentators, spectators and the West Indies team thought he had erred.

He was either very brave, or had very good eye-sight and hearing, or both, to give Viv out, caught behind, in Antigua, while he was on 178.

This showed the character of the man.

He was vindicated by the TV replays, and at a cocktail after the test match, Richards approached him & congratulated him on such an excellent decision.

Viv also asked him how he was able to see such a very fine edge.

3. Not Best Match

In St Lucia, in a match the West Indies President's 11 vs New Zealand. For a very sharp single, before he could have positioned himself correctly, there was an appeal for a run out against Carlisle Best.

Being unsuspected he gave him Not Out, when in fact the TV showed that he was out from a Direct Hit.

Being the forthright man and umpire that he was, in his match report, he indicated that he had erred.

4. Most Memorable:

His:

- First (1st) Shell Shield match
- First (1st) ODI &
- First (1st) Test Match.

He was the first (1st) umpire to introduce off-field assistance for the umpires in the middle, long before its time.

This is now referred to as the third (3rd) or TV umpire or referral system.

This was in the LI match Antigua vs St. Kitts, played in Antigua in 1982.

Antigua & Barbuda's last pair was at the wicket, and Andy Roberts was facing in a very close match.

With Antigua & Barbuda needing five (5) more runs to win, Roberts hit the ball that was caught in the deep.

Umpire Weekes, from his position behind the stumps, could not see if it was six (6) runs, or Roberts was out caught.

He then left his position, proceeded towards the boundary & called the Stand-By umpire the late Percy Henry of Antigua & Barbuda, and asked him if it was a catch.

Mr. Henry informed him that it was, so when Mr. Weekes returned to his position behind the stumps, he then gave Roberts out.

Albeit he employed this method to assist him in making a correct decision, Andrew was however not totally in favor of the technology used to determine if a batsman is out or not.

He felt that commentators and the use of the TV or 3rd umpire, introduce added pressure on the umpires out in the middle, as well as taking away their authority as umpires on the field of play.

Andrew said he enjoyed his umpiring days immensely, and up to the time of his passing, still followed all levels of local, regional and International cricket & umpiring.

He was forever indebted to Mr. Calvin Wilkin, who was instrumental in providing the opportunity for him to become a qualified cricket umpire.

He was always very grateful to Ms Eileen Grey, Principal at the Convent High School, for always giving him time-off to umpire at any level, at any time, especially at very very short notice.

He called "Over" for the last time, on his last day's play on Thursday 17th January, 2013.

He called "Time", one last time at 8:40 p.m., before he left the field of life.

After spending almost his entire life making judgement on the field of play, the ultimate judge made the final decision and called him home to rest.

May his soul rest in eternal peace, and we believe it will.

