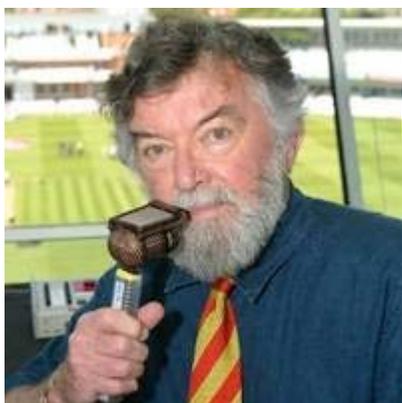


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Wednesday, 15th July 2009

Cricket facts legend Frindall dies of Legionnaire's disease



Bill Frindall



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The cricketing world was mourning the loss of legendary statistician and broadcaster Bill Frindall last night after his death from Legionnaire's disease.

It is believed he contracted the disease in Dubai, where he had been on a tour with the Lord's Taverners. He returned to the UK on January 20.

Celebrities and former players including Rory Bremner and Mike Gatting were also on the tour.

In a statement, the Lord's Taverners said: "All members of the touring party have been advised of the situation. We are not aware of any other member showing symptoms of Legionnaires' disease."

Political satirist Bremner, who was a good friend of Frindall's, said: "Cricket has lost its living archive...Bill loved the game and his wry and mischievous humour belied his legendary meticulousness."

The party stayed at the same hotel, the five-star Westin Dubai Mina Seyahi Beach Resort and Marina, for the trip.

It is not known where Frindall contracted the disease, although the hotel has launched an investigation.

It said three guests had contracted the bacteria but that tests had so far failed to find evidence of it on the premises.

Frindall was the Test Match Special scorer from 1966 and was christened "the Bearded Wonder" by late commentator Brian Johnston for his encyclopaedic knowledge of cricket facts.

The 69-year-old's death will come as a sad loss to countless cricket fans around the world.

His ability to recall the most obscure and arcane snippets of cricket trivia was as much a part of the Test Match Special experience as the runs, wickets and discussions about cake.

The BBC cricket correspondent Jonathan Agnew, Frindall's colleague in the commentary box, said he brought scoring alive for many listeners.

"The weird world of cricket scoring to many people is incredibly dull but Bill made it interesting, he made it lively."

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