



The former international umpire Nigel Plews, died from cancer at the age of 74 on 19 October 2008.

The funeral service for Nigel was held on Monday 3 November at St Jude's Church, Nottingham and afterwards at the Trent Bridge Cricket Ground. The Service itself was outstanding with over 150 people attending, including Chris Kelly and David Collier from ECB and former umpiring colleagues Peter Willey and Don Oslear and Harold Rhodes (ex Derbyshire). Sheila Hill and Stan Bennett who served with Nigel on the MCC Sub-committee which produced the 2000 Code of the Laws of Cricket also attended.

A particularly memorable part of the Service came during the Minister's eulogy for Nigel from the pulpit. At Nigel's and the family's request, he made a point of mentioning Nigel's support for IICUS and of how proud Nigel had been to be its first founding Honorary Fellow. He then went on to read out the Institute's Citation to Nigel written so eloquently by Tony Bastable, just before he died in May 2007, which accompanied the framed Certificate. A message from Darrell Hair in Australia was read to everyone at Trent Bridge.

Nigel was one of the foremost experts on the Laws of Cricket sitting on MCC's Laws sub-committee from 1992 to 2006 and he played an integral part in rewriting the Laws to produce the new code in 2000. An Honorary Life Member of MCC, Nigel was renowned the world over for his cricket knowledge. Keith Bradshaw, MCC Secretary & Chief Executive said: *"MCC will mourn Nigel Plews both as a fountain of knowledge on the game's Laws but, more importantly as a sincere friend. Serving 14 years on the Laws sub-committee, he showed deep understanding of the game and gave constant help and support, which was appreciated by the Club. We will miss him greatly and we send our deepest condolences to his family."*

A giant of a man, he was 6'6" and a former fraud squad detective with Nottingham City police. He had played and officiated in club cricket in Nottingham when he was elevated to the first-class panel standing in a First-Class fixture in April 1981, taking charge of Cambridge University v Essex at Fenner's. He was a rare breed of Test umpire who had never played first-class cricket and he was only the fourth Englishman to stand in a post-war Test who had no first-class experience. He officiated in 11 Test Matches, making his international debut at Old Trafford on 30 June 1988 when England played the West Indies. His last Test Match was Pakistan versus Sri Lanka at Faisalabad between 15 and 19 September 1995. He was the 3rd umpire on one occasion.

He also umpired 16 One Day Internationals starting with England versus New Zealand at Old Trafford on 18 July 1986. His last ODI was also at Old Trafford when England played Pakistan on 29 August 1996. He was the 3rd umpire on 5 occasions.

As well as his international matches, he stood in three Benson and Hedges Cup finals and three NatWest Trophy finals.

ECB Chief Executive, David Collier said, *"Nigel was an umpire of exceptional calibre, and conducted fixtures with professionalism, accuracy and wisdom. Not only were his own standards set very high, he also took a great deal of time to assist young umpires with their careers and has acted as mentor to many of our existing First-Class officials. Nigel will be remembered as a true gentleman who commanded and showed great respect. Cricket is very fortunate that Nigel chose to play such a major role in our sport. He was a great friend who will be very sadly missed by the cricket family throughout the world"*.

"Nigel made an enormous contribution to cricket through his deep knowledge and appreciation for the game, its laws and the way it should be played," said David Morgan, the ICC president, in. *"He was an advisor to the MCC and the ICC on matters relating to laws and playing regulations and made many important contributions while sitting on various committees and working groups that have had a lasting and positive impact on the game."*

"Nigel was a true gentleman and a great friend to umpires and others involved in the game. At 6ft 6ins he was certainly a big man, but through the contribution he made to the world of cricket he can truly be described as a giant."

MCC's Head of Cricket John Stephenson, who played while Plews was umpiring, said: *"Nigel was truly a giant of the game. The fact he was 6'6" and a former policeman meant he had total authority, and his comprehensive knowledge of cricket earned him great respect. He will be missed by all those who had the good fortune to work with him or play under him."*

Nigel had been a great supporter of IICUS since its inception and in May 2008 he issued this supportive statement

"I applaud the International Institute of Cricket Umpiring & Scoring for its initiative in developing Umpiring Courses that, for the first time, achieve a much-needed worldwide consistency in both umpire training and on-field performance standards. What has impressed me particularly is the Institute's continuing determination to remain independent. IICUS is committed to on-going creative development and research programs. This is an important safeguard against the appalling prospect of a Zimbabwe-like situation arising in cricket officiating where individuals are ostracised and discriminated against simply for exercising their right to a freedom of choice."