

dartmouth
films

Presents

DEATH OF A GENTLEMAN

In UK cinemas 7 August



Directed by

Sam Collins, Jarrod Kimber, Johnny Blank

Deathofgentlemanfilm.com

@doagfilm | Cert: 12A

www.facebook.com/deathofgentlemanfilm

#changeccricket

EMPIRE ★★★★★

“Rousing, Powerful, Persuasive and Gripping” **BFI**

“World cricket furore rivals FIFA scandal” **The Cricket Paper**

“Not even into cricket, but Sampson Collins and Jarrod Kimber’s Death of a Gentleman film is astonishing

#sheffdocfest #changeccricket” **Matt Wiggins**

“A sweeping, impassioned and polemical chronicle of how the game’s governance has been taken out of the hands of the International Cricket Council and placed in the hands of the ‘Big Three’” **The Telegraph**

For all press queries, screenings & interviews please contact:

alex.rowley@ar-pr.co.uk



SYNOPSIS:

What would you do if something you loved was dying? What if the sport that created your heroes and the back-story to your life, was in danger of disappearing?

Test cricket is a game that has no right to exist in the 21st century. The five-day game is the purest form of the second most popular sport on earth, representative of tradition, history and identity. Yet as the short attention spans of a new generation dictate immediacy, and cricket's administrators chase the money from the sports rights boom, the Test game is in danger of being swamped by its shorter, sexier, more financially viable cousin 'Twenty20'. Money corrupts the best of intentions, and as the men in charge rub their hands with glee, the Gentleman's game is now a product left at the back of the shelf.

Two cricket fans who became journalists, Sam Collins and Jarrod Kimber, from opposite ends of the social and geographic scale but united by their love of Test cricket, join forces to try to help save it.

They embark on an idealistic journey across the cricketing empire to find the answer to the question 'Is Test cricket dying?'

Yet as their investigation gets under way they realise they have stumbled across a sporting scandal far bigger than they could ever have imagined, and it is cricket itself that is under threat.

The next three years see them travel the world trying to gather hard evidence, befriend whistle-blowers and stay under-the-radar long enough to get the film out into the public domain.

They talk to the players, ex-players, broadcasters, journalists, administrators and fans. They venture, often uninvited, into boardrooms, offices, hotel rooms and even the home of cricket itself, Lord's, looking for answers as to who is responsible, and trying to find a way to save the game they love.

Along the way they befriend journeyman cricketer Eddie Cowan as he prepares to make his Test debut for Australia in front of 70,000 people at the Melbourne Cricket Ground. Eddie is the guy doing what they always dreamed of. His infectious love for Test cricket helps convince them that Test cricket is still relevant, that it is worth saving.

As a story of deceit, incompetence and greed unfolds; one man is living his dream, while two others are trying to keep theirs from dying; and as Eddie's future teeters in the balance, so too does the future of cricket itself.

Death of a Gentleman is not a nostalgic look back at a sport that professionals played against amateurs while stopping for tea. It's a modern morality tale about a future where sport and money collide, India as a super-power, the curse of the professional administrator and set in a world where fans are better connected to (but more disconnected from) their heroes than ever before.

More than that, it is a final call; not just to cricket fans and administrators, but everyone in a rapidly changing world. If you care about something that's in danger, then don't pass the buck, do something about it.

Before it's too late.

CAST

N Srinivasan
Giles Clarke
Lalit Modi
Michael Holding
Chris Gayle
Jonathan Agnew
Kevin Pietersen
David Warner
Haroon Lorgat
Ehsan Mani
David Becker
Ian Chappell
Mark Nicholas
Ravi Shastri
Rahul Dravid
Harsha Bhogle
Gideon Haigh
David Lloyd
Sam Collins
Jarrod Kimber
Ed Cowan

CREW

Co-directors – Sam Collins, Jarrod Kimber, Johnny Blank
Producer – Sam Collins
Written by – Sam Collins, Jon Hotten, Jarrod Kimber
Edited by – David Fairhead, Graham Taylor, Mike Rolt
Executive Producer – Christopher Hird, Kami Naghdi
Co-producer – Tom Wood
Original Score by Chris Roe

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Genre: Documentary
Language: English
Length: 97 minutes
Format: 16:9

What is wrong with Cricket

Cricket is the second-biggest sport in the world, yet rather than looking to consolidate and grow that position; the world game is actively contracting. In Twenty20, cricket has been given the gift of a format to grow the game and provide the money that all top-level sport needs to survive. Yet due to the short-termism and self-interest of cricket's administration, the last decade has seen international cricket, and particularly Test cricket, the pinnacle of the game, increasingly cannibalised by the pursuit of television money. This money has helped cricket develop a multi-billion dollar economy that serves three nations, while its seven smaller Test playing nations teeter on the edge of bankruptcy, and the 95 associate

and affiliate nations have found their funding cut, the pathway to Test cricket blocked and opportunities to compete at International Cricket Council (ICC) events reduced. Cricket has also turned down opportunities to be involved in the Olympic games, an initiative that would bring government funding to many countries in severe need of development funds.

These decisions can be traced back to administrative corruption at the ICC level, where an organisation that is tasked with administering, promoting, developing and regulating cricket worldwide is instead run as a private members club serving solely the interests of cricket's three richest nations – India, England and Australia – without basic governance principles. A culture of threat and intimidation has become embedded within cricket so that many within the game feel unable to speak out about the way the sport is being run. This situation was entrenched by the ICC restructure of 2014 which effectively handed the running of world cricket to the boards of India, England and Australia.

ABOUT THE GAME

Death of a Gentleman is a film about what we are terming as potentially the 'biggest scandal in sport' – the fact that due to the greed, self-interest and moral corruption in its administration cricket is actively contracting towards the Indian market. FIFA – for all the scandals we have seen unearthed in recent times – at least presides over a sport that is growing. It is impossible for cricket to deal with the many problems afflicting the game, including the sidelining of Test cricket in favour of Twenty20, without proper standards of governance.

Over the four year period we have been filming Death of a Gentleman cricket has undergone a fundamental administrative restructuring at the International Cricket Council level.

In his report on the governance of the International Cricket Council in February 2012, the former Lord Chief Justice Lord Woolf observed, "Cricket is a great game, it deserves to have governance including management and ethics worthy of the sport. This is not the position at the present time. The ICC reacts as though it is primarily a Members club, its interest in enhancing the global development of the game is secondary."

In January 2014 it emerged that contrary to this, the ICC would be restructured to hand extra power to India, England and Australia by awarding them the three permanent places on the Council's new Executive Committee. As part of the restructure, cricket's three richest countries would also be allocated over 50% of global ICC revenues, in accordance with their financial 'contribution' to the Council. These revenues would be taken from the money previously allocated to smaller countries and to developing the game.

These restructures were the result of a clandestine year-long collaboration between the three boards, conducted without the knowledge of the International Cricket Council executive or other member boards.

The Chairman of the Board of Control of Cricket in India, N Srinivasan, was appointed as the first Chairman of the new look ICC in June 2014, despite at the time being suspended from running his own board by the Indian Supreme Court as they investigated corruption allegations in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 tournament. Srinivasan's company India Cements Ltd owned a franchise in the Indian Premier League, giving Srinivasan a direct conflict of interest in decisions made about the future of not-for-profit international cricket, and the for-profit IPL. In 2014 Srinivasan's son-in-law, the official team owner of that

franchise – The Chennai Super Kings – was found guilty of passing information to bookmakers and illegally betting on the franchise.

The ICC Executive Committee currently make hugely valuable decisions with minimal transparency and accountability. All major male ICC events up to 2023 are scheduled to be held in England, India or Australia.

KEY FACTS ABOUT WORLD CRICKET IN 2015

- 105 countries play international cricket, only 10 are allowed to play Test match cricket. Seven of those teeter on the edge of bankruptcy
- In 2014 World Cricket was taken over by the boards of India, England and Australia who awarded themselves more power in the shape of total control of the International Cricket Council and a larger share of the money previously allocated to cricket's smaller Test nations and the development nations.
- As of 2015 52% of the revenues of the International Cricket Council is divided between cricket's three richest nations. The amount allocated to the growth of the game has decreased from 25% to 9%.
- In 2019 the ICC Cricket World Cup will contract from 14 to 10 teams. By contrast FIFA, and World Rugby are both in the process of expanding their World events.
- The current Chairman of the ICC – N Srinivasan – was suspended from running cricket in India due to a Supreme Court investigation into match fixing.

INDUSTRY REACTION TO THE CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP OF THE ICC

'This is the worst thing that has ever happened to our sport.'

Scyld Berry (former Editor of Wisden), The Telegraph, June 2014.

'This is a really alarming position for the future of cricket. It seems to be motivated entirely by money'.

Lord Woolf, Author of the Woolf Report into the governance of cricket

'It is an entirely retrograde step.'

Ehsan Mani, ICC President 2003-2006

THE CAMPAIGN TO CHANGE CRICKET

We want this film to help change the way that cricket is run. At the end of the film we ask the audience to join us in our campaign to 'Change Cricket', in three ways:

- 1) Join the debate.
- 2) Join the campaign,
- 3) Sign the petition.

The petition will demand that the UK, Australian and Indian governments put pressure on their national boards, and as a result the ICC, to adopt the basic staples of good governance, as recommended in the Woolf Report.

Every cricket fan can join the debate by using the #changecriкет, signing the petition and showing this film in their local club. Members of the county clubs can pass resolutions instructing their representatives on the ECB to support the petition.

The campaign will be backed by major figures within the game – players, commentators, administrators, politicians, celebrities and fans outside the game.

Changecriкет.com is in place with a holding page ahead of an official launch later in July, while the hashtag #changecriкет has already gained serious traction on social media.

#CHANGECRICKET takes its inspiration from other sporting movements including CHANGEFIFA, which has been instrumental in putting pressure on Football's governing body and generating the increased media coverage we have witnessed in recent years.

BIOGRAPHIES

Sam Collins – *Co-director, Producer*

Sam is a freelance producer, journalist and author. *Death of a Gentleman* is his first film, which he has conceived and driven for three years while seeking to cover a developing story.

Jarrold Kimber – *Co-director*

Jarrold is a journalist with ESPNcricinfo, and author of several books including *Australian Autopsy* and *When Freddie Became Jesus*. *Death of a Gentleman* is his first film.

Matt Hird – *Distribution and Outreach*

Matt works across all Dartmouth Films releases with a focus on distribution and outreach. He recently devised and produced a crowd fund campaign for the film maker John Pilger which raised £70,000 in under a month. Last year he coordinated the UK theatrical release of *Still The Enemy Within*, the 16th highest grossing documentary of 2014, playing in approximately 150 sites.

Christopher Hird – *Executive Producer*

Christo's company Dartmouth Films produce documentaries that aim to make a difference, and have the BAFTA-nominated *McCullin* (2012) and the acclaimed film about sustainable fishing *The End of the Line* (2009) notable among their many successes.

Kami Nagdhi – *Executive Producer, Lawyer*

Kami is an experienced film lawyer and Producer in his own right, with credits including *Match Point* (2005) and his own production *Boogie Woogie* (2009).

David Fairhead – *Editor*

David has edited *In the Shadow of the Moon* (Sundance award winner 2007, Oscar long-listed), and *McCullin* (BAFTA-nominated) among other successful feature documentaries in a 30-year career.