

Telephone Nos.	
Pavilion Switchboard	020-7616 8500
Ticket Office	020-7432 1000
Catering & Hospitality	020-7616 8598
Cricket Office	020-7616 8605
Membership Office	020-7616 8660
General Enquiries	reception@mcc.org.uk

Assistant Secretaries:	
Commercial	A.N. Muggleton
Cricket	J.P. Stephenson
Estates	R.J. Ebdon
Finance	A.D. Cameron
Legal	Mrs. H.A-M. Roper-Curzon
Membership & Operations	J.A.S. Clifford



Marylebone Cricket Club,
Lord's Ground,

London, NW8 8QN

Chief Executive & Secretary:
G.W. LAVENDER

www.lords.org

9 April 2021

Sir Edward Young, KCVO, PC
The Private Secretary to Her Majesty The Queen
Buckingham Palace
London, SW1A 1AA

Dear Sir Edward,

On behalf of Marylebone Cricket Club, I write to express our most sincere condolences on the death of HRH Prince Philip, The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Duke of Edinburgh's association with MCC was both historic and distinguished, being one of only three individuals to have served two separate terms as President. His first presidency began in October 1949, whilst he was a serving naval officer and, at only 28 years old, he was the youngest President of our Club since Viscount Downe in 1872. He was also the first MCC President to be born in the twentieth century.

In nominating Prince Philip to succeed him, Lord Gowrie gave as his reasons: The Duke's great interest in cricket and in all team sports, as well as in the development of sport for young people. The Duke had excelled on the cricket field as an off-spinner and hard-hitting batsman during his schooldays, culminating in his captaincy of the XI at Gordonstoun. He continued to play the game as an adult, appearing in charity matches in the 1940s and 50s, with the purity of his bowling action captured in a photograph which appeared in the 1950 edition of *Wisden*.

The Duke's presidency in 1949/50 was notable for the Club's first real intention to open out the game, championing youth cricket with no boundaries. The 1949/50 initiative, and its lasting legacy, owes a great deal to the determination of Prince Philip as President of our Club, which he tied in with his presidency of the National Playing Fields Association, and his passion to make sport accessible to all.

His second term as MCC President began in October 1974. The Club had changed significantly since his earlier period in office, with much greater emphasis placed on the President's additional national and international roles as Chairman of the Cricket Council and the International Cricket Council, making it all the more apt that the consort of the Head of the Commonwealth should be the head of world cricket, at the time predominantly a Commonwealth sport. This international focus was best exemplified by the playing, during Prince Philip's second presidency, of the first Men's World Cup. The final was contested at Lord's between West Indies and Australia and a momentous day for cricket came to its historic conclusion when the Duke presented the trophy to West Indies' captain, Clive Lloyd.

We were immensely privileged that HRH The Duke of Edinburgh twice accepted the invitation to serve as President of MCC. We take pride in the many occasions on which we had the honour of welcoming him to Lord's, in a private as well as a public capacity, and we are grateful for his willingness to support our Club by agreeing to open, officially, a number of facilities at the Ground including, most recently, the Warner Stand in 2017. We remember too, with particular fondness, the luncheon we hosted in the Long Room in 2011 to celebrate the Duke's many sporting patronages. His wider support for sport and wellbeing is well-documented but we were particularly fortunate to benefit from his lifelong involvement in cricket and with our Club.



On behalf of the MCC Committee, our Members and staff, past and present, I ask you to convey to our Patron Her Majesty The Queen and other members of the Royal Family our deepest sympathy at this sad time.

Yours very sincerely,

G. Lavender

Guy Lavender
Chief Executive & Secretary, MCC