

SPORT

Matthew's Millfield captaincy

Cricket

A STREET End player is this year's captain of Millfield, the Somerset school that produces so many first-class cricketers.

Matthew Hopper, whose father Kevin is Street End chairman, takes over from Kent opener, Daniel Bell-Drummond.

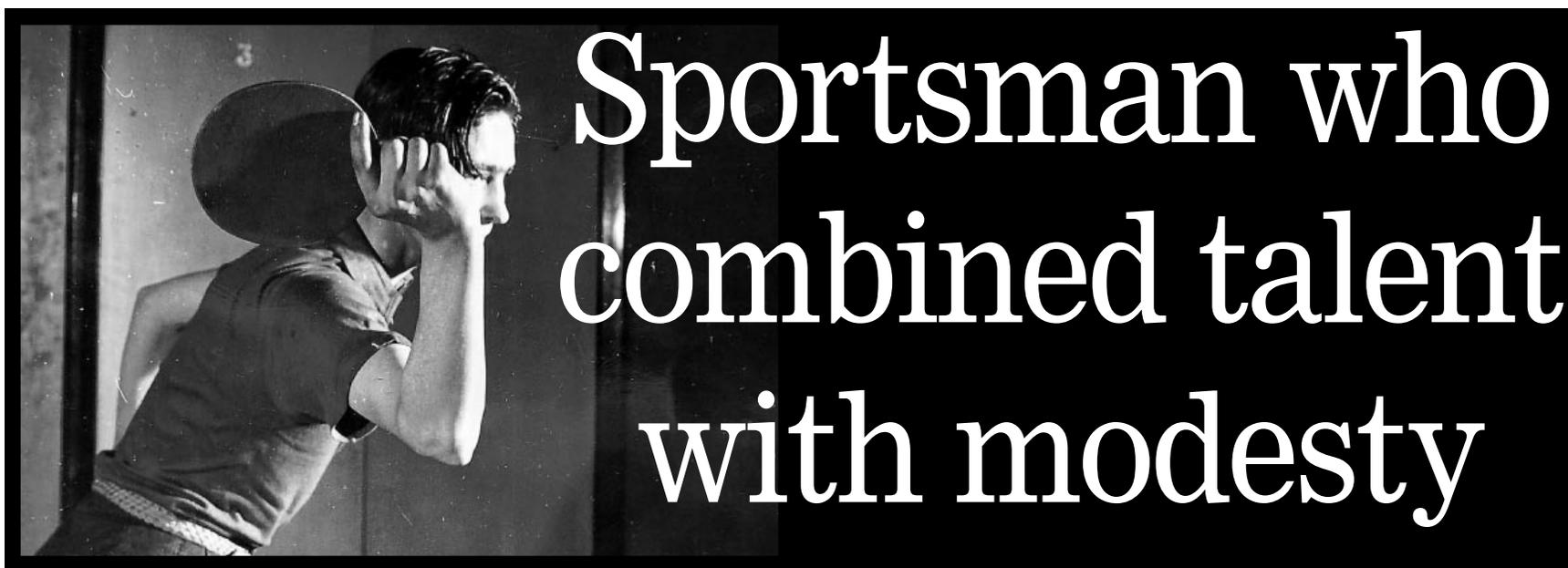
Now 18, Matthew was seven when he joined Street End's



junior section. He went to Millfield from St Edmund's School and also plays for Canterbury Rugby Club.

Primarily a batsman, Matthew follows in the footsteps of the late Ben Hollioake, the Surrey and England all-rounder; Rory Hamilton-Brown, the present Surrey captain; Craig Kieswetter, the Somerset and England wicketkeeper and Kieron Pollard, the big-hitting West Indian, as skipper.

"It's a fantastic honour and a daunting prospect to follow such good players," said Matthew, who has been head of house and head of school at Millfield, where Richard Ellison, the ex-Kent and England bowler, is head of cricket.



Sportsman who combined talent with modesty

STAN BROCKLEBANK, one of Canterbury's leading sportsmen, finally lost his battle with cancer when he died in the Pilgrims' Hospice on Sunday, April 1 - 62 years to the day he first played table tennis for England. He was 78 and lived in Albert Road.

From an early age, Stan excelled at whatever game he turned to, especially table tennis, cricket and, latterly, bar billiards.

Sport, and with it the competitive spirit and friendships it brought, dominated his life - he even won a holiday camp darts tournament he entered on the spur of the moment.

Born in Canterbury, Stan moved to Cumberland during World War II.

Returning to the city at the age of 11, he attended St John's Council School and took up table tennis seriously when he joined the Prince of Wales Youth Club.

His first individual triumph was in 1947, when he won the Kent Association of Boys' Clubs' juniors singles. Numerous titles followed and on April 1, 1950, he became the first Kent boy to represent England at table tennis. Against Wales, he won both his singles in their 8-2 victory.

At the time his mother told the Kentish Gazette: "He's a quiet boy, modest about his successes and well known for his sportsmanship."

Stan changed little throughout his

Tribute to Stan Brocklebank from someone who played against him, played with him and wrote about him - for more than 60 years, Alan Bensted

distinguished sporting career. In a Gazette preview of the Canterbury closed tournament in 1955 I wrote that he was seeded No 1. It was not often he wasn't.

With the Invicta Club he went on to collect trophy after trophy across the country, consuming in one way or another, according to Mrs Brocklebank, "a 2lb tin of glucose every week."

In an exhibition match, Stan once took on Johnny Leach, the world champion, just losing 21-18. Long after Leach had retired, Stan was still playing.

Stan Brocklebank's cremation is at Barham tomorrow (Friday) at 2.40pm followed by a wake at Canterbury Golf Club. Family flowers only, donations to the Pilgrims' Hospice.

In club cricket for Canterbury British Legion, formed in 1947, he was an outstanding fast bowler, whose line and length seldom strayed and he was a stylish batsman. For many years, Stan and the late Vic Luxton were a formidable attack to face on the green pitches at the Victoria Recreation Ground.

In 1954, his first season with the Legion, Stan topped the club batting and bowling averages and he was picked for an Association of Kent Cricket Clubs' XI

against Heathfield at the St Lawrence Ground.

The following year, when he did the double again, he took all 10 Boughton-under-Blean wickets for 15 runs and was presented with the engraved ball.

In 1958, he took 124 wickets and in 1963, in only the Legion's third week in the Gazette Evening League (formed in 1957), took 8-8 as Old Wives Lees were shot out for 15. In 1981, Canterbury Chaucer (formerly British Legion) merged with Lower Hardres and Nackington to form Street End CC and Stan was elected a vice-president.

When the popularity of bar billiards was at its height in Canterbury and district, he played for the Dolphin (St Radigund's) and the Unicorn (St Dunstan's) pub and won the league's individual championship, beating Chris Cook in the final. He was also in the Canterbury squad that earned county and regional honours and took part in the British Isles open championships in Jersey in 1999 and 2000. Last winter he was still playing in the Deal league.

Stan is survived by Rose and his two sons, three daughters and 10 grandchildren.



IMPRESSIVE HAUL: Stan Brocklebank with some of his table tennis trophies



City boss Murray explains resignation



REIGN OVER: Former Canterbury manager Paul Murray

PAUL MURRAY has revealed why he quit as manager of Canterbury City.

Murray, who took charge of City in June 2010 and led them to the Kent County League, Premier Division title last season, resigned after the 2-0 home defeat by Corinthian and said: "I wasn't happy with some of the things the club were saying to me over a period of two or three weeks.

"Then I had to start sticking up for the players over a few issues the club felt were the players' responsibility.

"I disagreed and that was the straw that broke the camel's back. I just felt I couldn't work under those circumstances anymore.

"I'm going to continue helping out youth co-ordinator Stuart McCluskey with City's Saturday morning Soccer School because Stuart is a mate of

By Kevin Redsull

mine but I won't be involved with anything else at the club. I would like to get back into management because I have proved over the past 20 months that I'm capable of doing a good job and I will see what happens at the end of the season."

A statement on the club's official

'I wasn't happy with some of the things the club were saying to me'

website said: "The Board wish to extend their sincere gratitude to Paul for not only gaining promotion to the Kent League at the end of last season but for also running a successful campaign this season which has seen City make a credible return to semi-professional football."

City chairman, Tim Clark, added: "There was a slight disagreement with Paul but, from our perspective, it was something we felt we could have worked through. However, Paul felt differently and it was his decision to leave."

Gary Miller, who joined City as assistant manager in February, has been appointed as caretaker manager until the end of the season. Eighth-placed City entertain Erith Town on Saturday.

Adams demands more of the same

Continued from back page this level but levels above and I do believe he has the potential to get there."

Off-spinner James Tredwell will return to the side, in place of Adam Riley, in the only change for the game at the County Ground, while skipper Rob Key will continue to lead the side despite revealing he will continue to wear ice packs on his troublesome wrists for the remainder of his career.

Adams is hopeful his side will put in another good display.

He said: "If the attitude stays the way it is, then I am sure we will get the performances to follow."

"I'm keen that we maintain the same attitude and same approach."