

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS

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SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS – CHRIS ADAMS

Old Cestrefeldian Christopher John Adams (School House and Years not known) born 6 May 1970, is the current cricket manager of Surrey County Cricket Club and a former English first-class cricketer who briefly represented his nation at Test and One Day International level.

An aggressive right-handed batsman, occasional right-arm off spin bowler and specialist slip fielder, Adams enjoyed a successful first-class career for Derbyshire and Sussex.

Adams made his first-class debut as an eighteen-year-old for Derbyshire in one match the 1988 season and stayed there until the 1997 season, when he left to join Sussex as captain. He is the longest serving county captain in Sussex's history. He captained Sussex to the 2003, 2006 and 2007 County Championship titles, and was one of five Wisden Cricketers of the Year in 2004 for his efforts in the previous calendar year.



He had a brief career at international level for England, playing five Tests and five One-day Internationals between May 1998 and January 2000. He made his Test debut in 1999 against South Africa at Johannesburg, and came to the crease for his maiden Test innings to face Allan Donald on a hat-trick, with England in the perilous position of four wickets down for two runs; he successfully negotiated the hat-trick, but was caught behind off Donald in both innings, for 16 and 1.^[1] Failing to reproduce his domestic form, Adams averaged just 13 in Tests and 17.75 in ODIs.

In a first-class career that ran from 1988 until 2008, Adams scored 19,535 runs, with an impressive 48 centuries and a highest score of 239.

In late 2006 he agreed a four-year deal with Yorkshire to become both captain and director of professional cricket, but dramatically reversed this decision on 14 November, saying that he did not feel able to deal with such a role at this stage of his career. His change of heart left Yorkshire "shell-shocked" but Sussex "thrilled".^[2] Adams announced he was to step down as Sussex captain on 14 September 2008, guiding Sussex to the Pro40 Division One Title the same day. He subsequently announced his retirement from first-class cricket, upon his appointment as cricket manager of Surrey.

(Thanks to Wikipedia for information)

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS – IAN BLACKWELL

Ian David Blackwell, (School House and years not known) born 10 June 1978, Chesterfield, Derbyshire, England, is an English cricketer. A left-arm orthodox spinner and powerful middle-order batsman, he has played for England in one-day and Test sides, and plays county cricket for Durham, having left Somerset at the end of the 2008 season.

Blackwell was called up for the England Test squad after Ashley Giles had to withdraw from the 2006 tour to India. After impressing in warm-up matches, he was selected for the 1st Test against India on 1 March in Nagpur. However, he was not frequently used by captain Andrew Flintoff, only bowling six fairly expensive overs in the first Indian innings, in comparison to fellow left arm spinner Monty Panesar's 42 overs. In the second Indian innings, Blackwell was initially more economical but as India went on an audacious chase of the huge total set to them by England, he was brought on to prevent the batsmen from scoring quickly, but conceded 18 runs in his first over. This came after a nervous innings of only 4 in his only opportunity with the bat, and Blackwell was subsequently dropped for the second Test, replaced by Liam Plunkett.



Blackwell remained first choice spinner for the ODI series however. Although England lost the series 5-1, Blackwell's performances were encouraging and seemed to indicate he was ready to hold down a regular place in the side. Ten overs in the first ODI went for just 24 runs at the same time as picking up one wicket, his cheapest ever spell in an ODI, while he also picked p figures of 2-39 and 2-21. Blackwell looked set to make another Test match appearance against Sri Lanka, but suffered a shoulder injury which derailed his season. As a consequence he was replaced as spinner in England's ODI side, and was subsequently overlooked by the selectors.

He started off his career at Derbyshire, before moving to Somerset in 2000 following a dispute with Derbyshire captain Dominic Cork. He was appointed captain of Somerset for the last part of the 2005 season after the departure of Graeme Smith. Having been appointed official captain for 2006, he had shoulder surgery and missed almost all of the season.

After the 2008 season, Blackwell left Somerset and joined Durham. Speaking of the move, Blackwell said "Making this cricketing decision has been the hardest thing I've ever had to do. I hope I am able to utilise my move to Durham so I am able to progress in all formats of the game and push for future England recognition". Also a factor in his departure from Somerset was Blackwell's struggle with fitness and disagreements with the captain, Justin Langer. On his first-class debut for Durham, in the opening match of the 2009 English season, Blackwell scored a century against the Marylebone Cricket Club, featuring a bowling line up including England hopefuls Sajid Mahmood, Kabir Ali, Tim Bresnan, and Adil Rashid.

(Thanks to Wikipedia for information)

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS – CHRIS COHEN

Chris Cohen CBE was Head of PE at Chesterfield School, succeeding the 'legendary' Gordon (Alf) Jephcote in 1983 on the latter's retirement. In 1991, on the closure of the school he moved to Heritage School at Clowne as Head of PE.



Alfreton based Chris has been involved in athletics for most of his life – as an athlete, coach and official. As a schoolboy, he competed for Derbyshire and Derbyshire Schools, before his athletics career ended when he was 25 due to injury. It was then he began coaching athletics instead, and mentored a variety of athletes, including former world champion long jumper Fiona May.

He had also begun officiating in Derby and, in 1979, received a call asking him to help at an event at Stoke Mandeville Hospital. Following the event, he became gradually more involved in disability athletics and, in the lead up to the 1988 Paralympics in Seoul, he was asked to teach the Korean Olympic officials the rules relating to Paralympic Athletics.

Chris was then asked during the Seoul Paralympics to become Chairman of the wheelchair section of Paralympic athletics, a role he carried out for twelve years. On the formation of the International Paralympic Committee in 1991 he was elected as its Athletics Chairman, leading to his deeper involvement in staging the Games over the next seventeen years, as well as officiating at five Olympic Games and several athletics world championships.

In addition, at about this time, he was appointed as a European Area Technical Official of the IAAF (International Association of Athletics Federations) leading to appointments to several European events. All of his work is voluntary and he retired from teaching in 2004 after finding that he was too busy with his athletics commitments. He was later appointed to the global list of International Technical Officials by the IAAF, with his first appointment at the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

When London was awarded the Olympic and Paralympic Games in 2005, Chris knew the time had come to make a decision. He would not be able to act as an international sport leader as well as work as part of the Games organising committee. He made the decision to retire from his IPC positions after the Beijing Paralympics, and was then appointed as the Paralympic Athletics Sport Manager for LOCOG (London Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games). This meant moving to London for the two years leading up to the Games. He was also appointed by UK Athletics as Competition Director for both Olympic and Paralympic Athletics, a role which meant sitting overlooking the field events, keeping them on time and deciding which events to showcase at various times, so that the crowd in the stadium and the millions watching on television around the world didn't miss the most exciting moments.

Just before his appointment, he was awarded the CBE in the New Year Honours List of 2010 for services to sport. Chris sees the award as being as much a reward for his wife Jude's patience and sacrifice as for his own successes.

Closer to home, he has been part of the management of the Derbyshire Schools' Sports Association and Secretary of DSSA Athletics for more than 20 years, as well as being Chairman of the English Schools Athletics Association (ESAA) in 2000. He has just taken over as Honorary Secretary of the ESAA. He led the county association in staging several national schools championships in Derbyshire, including at the Chesterfield School Storrs Road site.

Chris described his London role as "Quite stressful at times, because, with the eyes of the world on you, there is no space for error, but to be asked to do it was a dream come true." Apart from organising the competition, he had to liaise with the 44 other functional areas, everything from catering to transport, and from security to accommodation, to ensure the athletes, officials and volunteers, as well as the audiences, had the best experience possible when they came to the stadium.

Chris is now regarded as one of the top officials in world athletics, with his current list of events including being Technical Delegate for the European Championships in Zurich, which follows just a few days after his role as Chief ITO at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games. He finishes the season as Chief ITO in Marrakech at the Continental Cup, in which teams represent the five continents. Next year he already knows he will be officiating at the World Championships in Beijing.

Having said all that, and taking account of what he has done and where he has travelled, he still has very fond memories of his best days in teaching, standing on a Saturday morning at Brookside, looking over the school's fields and seeing several soccer, rugby and hockey teams playing while a cross-country race was going on. He regards those memories as being just as good as anything else he has achieved in sport.

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS – JOHN METCALF

John Metcalf (Lingard 1945 -1952) born 25.02.34 in Norwich but moved to Chesterfield with his father's work. Athletics Victor Ludorum and first eleven goalkeeper in 1951 and 1952. He was a member of the local athletics club, Chesterfield Harriers and AC. On leaving School he went off to do his National Service, being commissioned in the RAF from 1952 - 54, serving with the 2nd Tactical Air force in Germany where he was high hurdles champion in 1953. On returning to civilian life he took a place at Pembroke College, Oxford, from 1954 - 57 reading for an MA in Law. He was awarded Athletics Blues in 1955, 56 and 57 for sprints and low hurdles.

A member of the famous Achilles Club, he gained his first International vest in the 400m hurdles and ran for GB and England around 20 times between 1957 and 1960, including the British Empire and Commonwealth Games in 1958 where he came fourth, and the 1960 Rome Olympics where he won his heat in 52.24s but was eliminated in the semi-finals. He became Universities Athletics Union champion in 1957 for the 100 yards and 400m hurdles (an odd combination as people said at the time). He was also AAA's champion in 1957 in the rarely run 220 yards low hurdles and also finished fourth in the 440 yards hurdles at the 1958 British Empire and Commonwealth Games competing for England. His career personal bests were: 9.9s for 100yds, 23.5s for 220 yards low hurdles, and 51.9s for the 400m hurdles - all set in the era before faster all-weather tracks became standard.

In 1957 he went into industry, becoming Company Secretary of Imperial Metal Industries (IMI), a subsidiary of ICI based in Birmingham, and a Director of several of its subsidiaries in the UK and overseas.

He now lives in retirement in Richmond, North Yorkshire.

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS - GEOFF MILLER.

Geoff Miller (Bradley 1964 - 70) born 8 September 1952, is a former English cricketer, who played in thirty-four Tests and twenty-five ODIs for England from 1976 to 1984. He played for Derbyshire from 1973 to 1986, captaining the side from 1978 to 1981, and returned in 1990 after playing for Essex between 1987 and 1989.

From 1971 Geoff was playing in the Derbyshire Second XI and in other young cricketer's teams. He made his first-class debut for Derbyshire in July 1973, in a match against Somerset, when he scored a duck in his only innings. He was the Cricket Writers' Club Young Cricketer of the Year in 1976. He became Derbyshire captain in 1978, and in the 1981 season, led the side to victory in the National Westminster Bank Trophy. He ended the 1982 Boxing Day Test in Australia by catching Jeff Thomson - England winning by a mere three runs. He went to Essex in 1987, but returned to Derbyshire for his last first-class season in 1990. In 1991, he played Minor Counties cricket for Cheshire.



Geoff was a right-handed batsman and a very reliable right-arm off-break bowler, taking 888 wickets in 283 first-class matches (1973–1990) and 278 wickets in 334 List A matches (1973–1994). He took 60 wickets in thirty-four Tests and 25 wickets in twenty-five ODIs for England. Remarkably, he never scored a Test century despite twice coming extremely close, scoring 98 against both Pakistan away in 1977/8 (not out) and India at home in 1982.

He was elected as National Selector by the England and Wales Cricket Board in January 2008 and led a panel which then contained Ashley Giles, Peter Moores and James Whitaker. He had previously served on the panel of his predecessor, David Graveney, since 2000.

For a number of years Geoff was a partner in *Moss & Miller*, a sporting goods emporium in Chesterfield, along with Chesterfield FC. football legend, Ernie Moss.

Geoff is now a much sought after-dinner speaker, as, off the field, his greatest attribute was his ability to reduce his team-mates to stitches with his dry northern humour. He is now one of the funniest speakers on the circuit, with a stream of hilarious anecdotes. There are wild nights in the West Indies, tales of misadventure in Australia and rivalries nearer home. What distinguishes Geoff from most sporting after dinner speakers is his ability to reach audiences without an ounce of interest in sport. His timing and self-deprecating turn of phrase mark him out as a classic raconteur.

Thanks to Wikipedia for biographical details. Frank Gorman (Clarke 1948 -53)

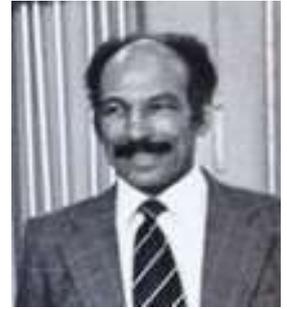
SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS – MR CEC THOMPSON

Cec Thompson rose from being a penniless orphan to become one of the first black men to play rugby league for Great Britain. He later worked as a window cleaner to fund his education gaining an honours degree in Economics at Leeds University.

He taught at Chesterfield School from 1974 until he retired as Head of Economics and master in charge of rugby in 1991.

He was a legend to the thousands of Chesterfield School pupils that he taught. His autobiography, "Born on the wrong side", is a superb insight into what can be achieved with focus and determination.

Courtesy of the Derbyshire Times – June 30th 2011



Cec Thompson's story was already an inspiring one of achievement over adversity when, in 1951, he became the second black player to represent Great Britain in a rugby league Test match, less than four years after being spotted by a Hunslet scout playing in a works tournament. However, he took greater pride from his progress through academia in later life, with his position as head of economics at Chesterfield grammar school, and his honorary degree from Leeds University in 1994, reflecting the determination with which he confronted the lack of a formal education that had once left him unable to sign autographs.

Thompson, who has died aged 85, was born in Birtley, Co Durham. His mother was a miner's daughter and his Trinidadian father, who had a job in Leeds putting gold leaf on the walls of the town hall, died before Cec was born. The family then relocated to Yorkshire, and the four children were sent to orphanages – Cec initially in Wiltshire, then Cheshire and the north-east. "I would have been an untouchable," he wrote in his autobiography, *Born on the Wrong Side*, which told of an upbringing in which he was bullied regularly, often in a racist fashion, leaving him bereft of confidence and social skills. "By the time I left school at 14, I was utterly desensitised and virtually unemployable."

After four years' labouring in Leeds, he served in the navy from 1944 to 1947, then returned to Leeds as a lorry driver's mate at the Yorkshire Copper Works. He credited the tough physical demands of years of manual employment for allowing him to make such an impact when he played his first game of rugby in a works tournament in Bramley. "After my second game, a Hunslet scout came up to me and said how impressed he had been by my tackling and my non-stop running," he recalled. He signed for £250, and "felt like a millionaire".

Thompson progressed rapidly through the professional ranks, despite breaking his leg late in his first season, to such an extent that Eddie Waring, then a newspaper journalist, wrote: "If Cec Thompson is not chosen for the Great Britain squad, the selectors must be racists."

A few black players had already earned representative honours in rugby league – George Bennett for Wales and the Cumberbatch brothers Val and Jimmy for England before the second world war, and Roy Francis for Great Britain after it. But Thompson's colour remained sufficiently noteworthy for the Daily Herald to headline its report of his debut, in a 21-15 victory over New Zealand at the Odsal stadium, Bradford: "Hunslet's Darkie one of Britain's heroes."

He also played in the second Test at Swinton, the first rugby league international to be televised, but the remaining highlights of his career came at club level with Workington Town, after he moved to the Cumbrian coast with his first wife, Barbara, in 1953.

"I was like a Martian in Cumbria, but a very popular one," he joked of the rarity of black faces. He had impressed Gus Risman, the great Welsh player who was then coaching Workington, and the pair remained sufficiently close for Thompson to give the address at Risman's funeral in 1994. In 1958 he played in both the Challenge Cup final at Wembley and the Championship final at Odsal, but Workington lost on each occasion and on the second, Thompson suffered a knee injury that hampered the remaining two years of his career.

He then had a mostly unhappy spell as the coach of Barrow, again following Francis as the second black coach in professional rugby league, but by this stage he had already turned an active mind to the next phase of his life. He had launched a window-cleaning business in and around Workington, and also felt sufficiently confident with reading and writing – developed on coach trips to away games with Hunslet, when he would learn new words from the Reader's Digest – to make a tentative move into journalism. He joined music and operatic societies, and an art club, passed his English O-level after taking night classes in Workington while coaching Barrow, then enrolled at Huddersfield Technical College in 1962.

He was then encouraged to apply for a place at Leeds University, and started a course in economics in 1965, at the age of 39. There he helped establish the first student rugby league club – the sport having previously been deemed unsuitable for academic institutions. After graduation he took a diploma of education and secured a job at Dinnington high school in South Yorkshire. Five years later he moved to Chesterfield grammar to become head of economics and in charge of rugby for 17 years. Meanwhile, his Cumbrian cleaning firm, TC Thompson, grew to employ 620 staff at its peak.

After retirement, he was able to spend more time in his beloved Lake District with his second wife, Anne, who he married in 1964, and their son, Mark, both of whom survive him.

Theodore Cecil Thompson, rugby league player and teacher, born 12 July 1926; died 19 July 2011

Courtesy of The Guardian 27 July 2011

This link accesses a 30 min Border TV documentary on the life of the legendary 'Cec'. There are some excellent scenes of life at Storrs Road.
[CEC Border TV documentary](#)

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS – PETER WILKINSON.

PETER WILKINSON, (Heathcote 1944-49) was not only among the finest runners Derbyshire has ever produced – he may well have been the most modest. On leaving school, he joined the National Westminster Bank staying until retirement. He was a lifelong friend of Ted Smith FRS (OCS President 1997) and a regular attendee at the annual reunion dinners.

Even within athletics a sport full of modest people, especially at club level, Wilkinson's humility stood out. Principally a marathon and cross-country runner, he won a bronze medal for England in the British Empire & Commonwealth Games of 1958.

There are precious few photographs of him in action but a remarkable piece of Pathe News footage, showing him winning a marathon for Britain in Holland in 1961, perhaps goes some way to summing the man up. As he crosses the line, he allows himself to raise his hands in celebration – but little more than waist height, and only momentarily.



Originally from Brimington, Chesterfield but latterly living in the Long Eaton area, Wilkinson represented Britain in five marathons and England in two Commonwealth Games marathons. He ran 21 marathons in total, winning four, and only once finished outside the top eight. He ran twice for England in the International Cross Country Championships, as part of a winning team in 1959 and as runners-up to Belgium in 1961.

With what was then Derby & County AC, he was part of a team that won the London to Brighton road relay in four successive years from 1959-1962. There were 10 appearances for Derbyshire in the Inter-Counties Cross Country Championships. Wilkinson continued to run 10Ks and half-marathons into his 50s, when veteran Derby AC runner Mick Smedley first encountered him. "He was a true inspiration to me when I first started with the club," recalled Smedley. "He was always there to pass on his vast racing knowledge and he was doing that right to the end, coaching groups of young athletes out in all weathers at Moorways."

Among those in the early 70s was Nick Lees, from Ilkeston, who went on to have a sparkling career representing Britain in cross country racing. "Peter was one of my first mentors when I joined the club as a 14-year-old," said Lees. "He was a top runner, gentleman, coach and inspiration throughout the years he spent at the club. He gave me so much advice and assistance when I was in my teens and told me early on that the only way to the top in running was hard work, simple as that."

It would be almost 30 more years before another Great Britain international to be, Luke Gunn, arrived at Moorways early in his teens. Wilkinson was, of course, still there. "Peter was one of the kindest and most humble persons I ever knew," said Gunn, a current England and Great Britain international in the steeplechase. "I was so fortunate to be coached by him for four years, during which his guidance brought me my first England vest and my only English Schools title. He taught me hard work but without me even realising it. He let me explore my running and try new things – including the steeplechase – and was the perfect quiet motivator who kept running fun at such a critical age when people drop out of the sport."

While Wilkinson shunned publicity or acclaim, he was President of Derby & County when he opened the new clubhouse at Moorways in August, 1989. A framed picture of him running – with a trademark handkerchief wrapped around his hand, to wipe away sweat – was installed above the clubhouse counter, where it remains. "The young athletes are always shown that picture and they look up to it," added Mick Smedley. "Peter will be sadly missed but his legacy – and his picture – will be here in Derby forever."

Peter died on February 20th 2014 aged 80. His funeral was Bramcote, Nottingham.

You can view Pathe footage of Peter Wilkinson winning in Holland in 1961: www.britishpathe.com/video/holland-aka-wilkinson-wins-dutch-marathon

(With sincere thanks to Colston Crawford, Derby Telegraph, for much of above information)

SPORTING OLD CESTREFELDIANS - BOB WILSON.

Robert "Bob" Wilson OBE (Heathcote 1955 - 60) is a former Arsenal and Scotland goalkeeper and later broadcaster.

Bob was born on 30 Oct. 1941 at Ashgate Road, in Chesterfield, where his father was the Borough Engineer and his mother was a Magistrate. Being the youngest child of six he had much older brothers (and an elder sister); two of his brothers were killed in the Second World War, one as a Spitfire pilot and the other as a rear-gunner in a Lancaster.

He attended Old Hall Primary School, then Tapton House Grammar School, where he met his future wife, Margaret Miles. He transferred to Chesterfield Grammar School at the age of 13, where his four elder brothers also went. He captained the Derbyshire Juniors Cricket Team. He went to Loughborough College of Education where he studied History and Physical Education on a teacher training course.

Wilson married Megs on 25 July 1964 at Holy Trinity Church, and they subsequently had three children: John , Anna and Robert . His son John Wilson is a presenter on *Front Row*, the BBC Radio 4 arts programme. Robert Wilson is a commercial photographer.

Wilson started late as a professional player, as his father would not let him sign papers with Manchester United as he thought it wasn't a reasonable job whilst he was a youth. After teacher training he signed for Arsenal in 1963. He had been playing reserve games for Wolves as an amateur and made his debut for Arsenal as an amateur. He was the first amateur to have a transfer fee paid (around £6,500).



Wilson made his debut against Nottingham Forest on 26 October 1963, in a 4-2 win. However, being forced to play understudy to Jim Furnell, it was to be over four years until Wilson became first-choice keeper in 1968, after Furnell made a mistake in an FA Cup tie against Birmingham City in March 1968. Wilson took over and remained in goal for Arsenal for the remainder of the 1967-68 season.

Now firmly ensconced in the Arsenal side, Wilson was ever-present in the 1968-69 season, which included Arsenal's loss to Swindon Town in the 1969 League Cup Final. Despite sustaining a broken arm the following season, 1969-70, Wilson recovered and won his first trophy with Arsenal, the 1969-70 Inter-Cities Fairs Cup. In 1971, he was Arsenal's player of the year in their famous double-winning season, in which he played every single first-team match in League and Cup, culminating in the 1971 FA Cup Final win over Liverpool.

He became eligible to play for Scotland when the rules were changed in 1970 to allow players to play for their parent's country of origin, if they had not already played for their own country. Wilson was selected by Tommy Docherty for his two games in charge, making his debut against Portugal on 13 October 1971. After Wilson's second game, against the Netherlands on 1 December 1971, Docherty left the position and his successor Willie Ormond reverted to a Scottish-born number one, in Bobby Clark of Aberdeen.

Wilson continued to play as Arsenal's keeper through the early 1970s, although an injury late on in the 1972 FA Cup semi-final against Stoke City meant he missed Arsenal's 1972 FA Cup Final loss to Leeds United and much of the 1972-73 season. Understudy Geoff Barnett took his place, but Wilson regained the number one shirt once fully recovered, and was Arsenal's first-choice goalkeeper up until his surprisingly early retirement from playing in May 1974, at the age of 32.

As a student and teacher of goalkeeping, Wilson identified his own signature technique as diving at his opponents' feet to save goals. This caused him a number of injuries throughout his career.

After retiring, Wilson was goalkeeping coach for Arsenal for 28 years during the period Pat Jennings, John Lukic, and David Seaman were goalkeepers. He retired at the end of the 2002-03 season, having helped Arsenal win two more doubles in 1997-98 and 2001-02, one of only two people to have been involved with all three (the other being Pat Rice). He made over 300 appearances for Arsenal and two appearances for Scotland.

After retiring as a player, he turned to coaching and broadcasting, presenting football programmes on television for 28 years, until 2002, and his opinion is still sought by radio and television to this day. Wilson had already appeared as pundit for the BBC during the 1970 World Cup.



After his football career, he became a football television presenter working firstly for the BBC from 1974 to 1994 as host of *Football Focus*. He then presented for ITV until his retirement in 2002, fronting ITV's UEFA Champions League coverage until the arrival of Des Lynam in 1999. He also fronted ITV's coverage of Euro 96 and the 1998 World Cup. He still makes occasional appearances on television, on the BBC's *Football Focus* and *Match of the Day 2*. Half Man Half Biscuit made reference to Bob Wilson as a broadcaster in the song "Bob Wilson, Anchorman".

In the mid-1980s he was also immortalised in comic strip form when he spent a season playing for the fictional Melchester Rovers team in the "Roy of the Rovers" strip, in a team containing another former professional player turned TV presenter, Emlyn Hughes, and Spandau Ballet members Martin Kemp and Steve Norman. The quartet helped lead Rovers to Milk Cup glory and a record-breaking successive number of clean sheets - a somewhat unrealistic achievement considering Wilson's age and the fact he hadn't played for more than 10 years.

In February 1994, his daughter Anna was diagnosed with malignant schwannoma, a cancer of the nerve sheath. After a long fight, she died on 1 December 1998, six days before her 32nd birthday. The "Willow Foundation" was set up in her memory in 1999 and operated locally, mainly in Hertfordshire. Wilson relaunched the charity on 4 October 2005 with a national remit. The organisation was established in Anna's memory and now helps some of the estimated 12,500 people in the UK, aged 16-40, who are diagnosed every year with a life-threatening illness. In 2007, Wilson was awarded membership into the Order of the British Empire (OBE) for his charity work.

(Thanks to Wikipedia for most of the information.)

