

= Jim Kilburn =

James Maurice " Jim " Kilburn ( 8 July 1909 ? 28 August 1993 ) was a British sports journalist who wrote for the Yorkshire Post between 1934 and 1976 . Well @-@ regarded for the style of his writing and his refusal to write about off @-@ field events , Kilburn wrote primarily about Yorkshire County Cricket Club . After a brief career in teaching , and having spent time in Finland , Kilburn was appointed cricket correspondent at the Yorkshire Post after impressing the editor with his writing . A serious man , he had an unusual way of writing his reports , but his editors refused to change his copy , so highly did they value his impact .

= = Early life and career = =

Kilburn was born in Sheffield in 1909 , and attended Holgate Grammar School in Barnsley , before completing a degree in economics at the university there . From an early age , he showed interest in cricket ; as a boy he received coaching from former Yorkshire cricketer George Hirst at Scarborough , and played for Barnsley in Yorkshire Council matches and for Bradford in the Bradford League . Bowling fast @-@ paced off spin , Kilburn was successful enough with bat and ball to win medals for Bradford and have his achievements reported in the press . He worked briefly as a teacher in a Harrogate preparatory school . While in Bradford , he met the vice @-@ consul for Finland ; as a result , he went to live in Finland for a year .

= = Cricket correspondent = =

During his time in Finland , Kilburn sent travel articles to the Barnsley Chronicle and the Yorkshire Post . The editor of the latter , Arthur Mann , was impressed by Kilburn 's work , and arranged to meet him in 1934 . Learning of his interest in cricket , and recognising his name from his success in the Bradford League , Mann gave Kilburn a trial as the newspaper 's cricket correspondent ; the position had been vacant since Alfred Pullin had retired in 1931 . An initial three @-@ month period , with a salary of £ 3 per week , resulted in a written commendation from Neville Cardus , and he was appointed permanently with responsibility for cricket and rugby .

Now paid £ 6 per week plus expenses , and initially writing under the by @-@ line " Our Cricket Correspondent " , Kilburn quickly established his reputation . Soon after he took the position , he was given the byline " J. M. Kilburn " ; his reports were often among the few not anonymised . He continued in the position until 1976 , when he retired .

= = Style and personality = =

As cricket correspondent for the Yorkshire Post , Kilburn wrote primarily about Yorkshire County Cricket Club . His obituary in Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack described his writing style : he wrote " with a fountain pen on press telegram forms at 60 or 80 words a shilling . At the close of play he immediately concluded his essay ; he hardly ever crossed anything out . His cricketing judgments were assured and rigorous , his style exact but sometimes elegant : Leyland 's bowling is a joke but it is an extremely practical joke . " The Times stated that his reports were " always precise , frequently elegant , sometimes stern and invariably fair and accurate . He never wrote an unpolished piece or an unidentifiable one , although he was only occasionally analytical . " The speed and ease with which he produced his reports , and his refusal to use a typewriter ? which he described as " the devil 's own invention " ? were envied by other journalists . Kilburn 's writing was printed exactly as he wrote it ; sub @-@ editors did not touch anything , even if he had made a mistake , as his employers valued his style so greatly . He refused to write about off @-@ field events which caused consternation for his editors as Yorkshire cricket was turbulent behind the scenes at the time he wrote . Nor would he write about the wider aspects of cricket , confident that his reputation made it impossible to sack him . This attitude made him popular with the players , and he became particularly close to Len Hutton and Donald Bradman . His position at the Yorkshire Post gave him

freedom to write about whatever he chose , and he refused several offers to move to national newspapers . But his obituary in The Times suggested that , had he worked for a London publication , he would have been as well @-@ known and respected as Cardus , E. W. Swanton and R. C. Robertson @-@ Glasgow .

The press @-@ boxes of Kilburn 's time , particularly in Yorkshire , were unfriendly and serious places . According to Wisden , " [ Kilburn ] was a tall , austere man who had little truck with press @-@ box banter . " According to writer Derek Hodgson , Kilburn was shy . However , his views and methods were regarded as old @-@ fashioned in the later stages of his career . Kilburn was often compared to his contemporary from Lancashire , Neville Cardus , but his style was dissimilar . Cardus wrote in a romantic style whereas Kilburn preferred factual accuracy ; according to Wisden , Kilburn was " harder , less flashy , more punctilious " . Journalist Frank Keating writes : " Neville Cardus was acclaimed the Wordsworth of cricket writing , while across the Pennines they hailed Kilburn as the Coleridge . With good reason . " Kilburn 's writings on the Yorkshire players of the 1930s and 1940s made them well @-@ known to the public as personalities , and he wrote several pieces for the Yorkshire Post which became famous . Kilburn had a deep love of cricket , and worried it was losing its way in embracing one @-@ day matches and sponsorship , although he did not believe that progress was necessarily bad . He believed that cricketers should be chivalrous , and greatly admired stylish play . He severely criticised anything on the field which he believed fell short of acceptable standards , including the occasion in 1967 when Yorkshire won the County Championship after engaging in time @-@ wasting tactics to avoid losing a game . He retired in 1976 , but continued to follow the sport very closely .

= = Legacy and death = =

Kilburn twice accompanied the England team on overseas tours to Australia : in 1946 ? 47 and 1954 ? 55 . During the former tour , he became a founder member of the Cricket Writers ' Club . He served as its secretary , chairman and later became an Honorary Life Member . He also became the only journalist elected as a life member at Yorkshire , and opened the newly built press box at Headingley Cricket Ground in 1988 . In his final years , he became blind ? his sight began to fail shortly after his retirement ? but according to Wisden , " Jim Kilburn remained an upright , dignified man until he died " . Outside of his work , Kilburn played golf to a reasonable standard , and was married with three children . Derek Hodgson writes : " All his work will be valued as an accurate insight into social attitudes in the first half of this century . Jim Kilburn intended always to write about cricket but in fact he told us all so much more . " He wrote ten books on cricket , and contributed regularly to The Cricketer magazine and to Wisden .