

= Craig Kieswetter =

Craig Kieswetter (born 28 November 1987) is a English former cricketer who appeared in 71 matches for England between 2010 and 2013 . A wicket @-@ keeper batsman , born and raised in South Africa , Kieswetter moved to England to complete his education , and began playing county cricket for Somerset in 2007 . Three years later , only two weeks after qualifying for the England cricket team , he made his international debut in a One Day International (ODI) against Bangladesh . He was considered a one @-@ day specialist , and all his international appearances came in ODIs or Twenty20 Internationals . He retired from professional cricket in June 2015 , aged 27 , due to an eye injury suffered while batting in 2014 .

Kieswetter played junior cricket for Western Province until the age of 18 , but a lack of progression led him to seek an alternative route in England . He studied at Millfield , where he was spotted by Somerset . The county 's lack of a strong wicket @-@ keeper gave Kieswetter his opportunity , and he made his debut for the team early in the 2007 season . He was qualified to play county cricket as his mother was Scottish , and his performances soon generated discussion about his potential to play for England . The captain of South Africa , Graeme Smith , made overtures to Kieswetter , inviting him to return to play in South Africa ; Kieswetter , however , affirmed his desire to qualify and play for England .

In early 2010 , Kieswetter achieved his target ; some strong performances for the England Lions , especially in a match against the senior England team , won him a place in the squad to face Bangladesh . His selection , along with the presence of other South African @-@ born players in the England team , was criticised , with some suggesting that there should be fewer foreign @-@ born players in the team . He scored his first ? and only ? international century in his third match , and a couple of months later he was named as the man of the match as England won the final of the 2010 ICC World Twenty20 . After a promising start for England , he was inconsistent and was dropped before the end of 2010 . He returned to the team the following year , but his place in the team was always at risk , and in 2013 he was replaced by Jos Buttler , his team @-@ mate at Somerset .

Kieswetter 's career was cut short due to an injury sustained while batting for Somerset in July 2014 : a ball penetrated the gap between his helmet 's grille and visor and struck him in the face , damaging his vision . There was initially some hope of a full recovery and he was even named in a provisional England squad for the 2015 Cricket World Cup , however he continued to experience difficulties with his vision and , in June 2015 , announced his retirement from professional cricket .

= = Early life and career = =

Kieswetter was born in Johannesburg to an Afrikaner father , Wayne , and Scottish mother , Belinda . He grew up in South Africa , studying at Diocesan College in Cape Town , and played cricket for Western Province junior teams between the ages of 13 to 18 . Kieswetter was disappointed with the way he was treated by the provincial team , who had asked him to play two or three years of club cricket before returning to them , so he decided to pursue his cricket career in England . He studied for a year at Millfield , where he gained his A @-@ levels . Mark Davis , a former Somerset bowler , spotted him at Millfield , and he was quickly signed by the county . He represented South Africa in the 2006 Under @-@ 19s World Cup in Sri Lanka , and won a Man of the Match award in the game against the United States for his innings of 80 off just 66 balls .

Kieswetter made his first appearance for Somerset 's second team in May 2006 , taking over from Sam Spurway as wicket @-@ keeper midway through a match when the latter was injured . He scored 94 not out in his first innings of that match against Glamorgan , and by the end of the season he had scored 245 runs at an average of over 40 . His performances were so strong that Somerset chose to release Spurway at the start of the 2007 season , and named Kieswetter alongside Carl Gazzard as their two wicket @-@ keepers . In early April that year , he made his one @-@ day debut for Somerset against Glamorgan ; he made 69 not out off 58 deliveries and took a catch described as " world class " by Somerset 's director of cricket , Brian Rose . He made his first @-@ class debut the following month , keeping wicket while Derbyshire made 801 for 8 declared and

scored 63 in the Somerset reply .

He continued to perform well during 2007 and 2008 , and was awarded the NBC Denis Compton Award , as the " most promising young player " , for Somerset in both seasons , scoring regular fifties in both first @-@ class and one @-@ day cricket . Notable among these innings was the 93 he scored against Glamorgan while batting at number eight . Kieswetter came in after two wickets had been lost in an over , with the score at 250 for 6 . His innings , which included a partnership of 130 with Andrew Caddick , helped Somerset to reach 402 and eventually win the match . Towards the end of the 2008 season , during a 40 @-@ over match against Gloucestershire , Kieswetter scored his first century for Somerset , scoring 121 runs from 107 deliveries , and sharing a competition @-@ record 302 @-@ run partnership with Marcus Trescothick .

In 2009 , Kieswetter passed 1 @,@ 000 first @-@ class runs in a season for the only time during his career . He scored his maiden first @-@ class century early in the year , accumulating an unbeaten 150 in a high @-@ scoring draw against Warwickshire . A few weeks later , he repeated the feat , scoring 106 runs against Durham to help his county avoid defeat . In his report for ESPNcricinfo , Andrew McGlashan described Kieswetter as " another likely South African to make the transition to England colours " . Kieswetter scored two further first @-@ class centuries during the year , both at Taunton , against Sussex and Lancashire ; he averaged just under 60 for his 1 @,@ 242 first @-@ class runs in the year . In one @-@ day cricket , Kieswetter opened the batting alongside Trescothick , and averaged 65 @.@ 83 , scoring an unbeaten 138 off just 131 balls in the opening group match against Warwickshire . In the quarter @-@ final of the 2009 Friends Provident Trophy , Kieswetter scored his second one @-@ day century of the season , but Somerset were defeated by six wickets and knocked out of the competition . His 248 runs in the 2009 Twenty20 Cup helped Somerset reach the final of that competition , where they were again beaten by Sussex . He was awarded his county cap during the final game of the 2009 County Championship against Worcestershire .

= = International cricketer = =

= = = International selection = = =

Following his strong performances for Somerset , Kieswetter was part of the England Performance Programme squad that spent eight weeks of the English winter training in Loughborough and Pretoria . The South African national cricket captain , Graeme Smith , said that he wanted Kieswetter to return to play cricket in South Africa ; rather than directly inviting him to play for the South Africa national cricket team , however , he was careful to state that " the challenge is to get him back into our franchise system first , but he is certainly someone we have seen and would like to get back into the system " . Kieswetter repeated his desire to play international cricket for England and , in January 2010 , he was named as part of the England Lions squad to tour the United Arab Emirates for a series against Pakistan A. The England head coach , Andy Flower , described Kieswetter 's performances during that tour as " a really good start " , and described the Twenty20 warm @-@ up match between the England Lions and the England senior team that followed the tour as " a chance for him to impress " . During that match , which was played on the day that he qualified for England , Kieswetter scored 81 runs to help the Lions beat the senior team . Kieswetter qualified to play for England on the basis of having a British passport , via his Scottish mother , and his residency in England . He had to wait until four years after his last appearance for South Africa , which was on 16 February 2006 during the Under @-@ 19s World Cup .

After England 's drawn T20I series with Pakistan , Kieswetter was added to the senior England squad for the ODI series against Bangladesh . He was immediately included in the team , playing as a specialist batsman alongside wicket @-@ keeper Matt Prior , in the first warm @-@ up match on 23 February against the " Bangladesh Cricket Board XI " . He scored 143 , his career @-@ best List A score , from 123 balls . These performances led to Kieswetter 's selection for the first ODI against Bangladesh on 28 February . Opening the innings alongside captain Alastair Cook , Kieswetter

struggled in his first over , edging a chance that was missed by wicket @-@ keeper Mushfiqur Rahim , and surviving a leg before wicket appeal two balls later . He made 19 runs in an innings described by ESPNcricinfo 's Andrew Miller as " tinged with nerves " and " chancy " . In the next match , two days later , Kieswetter was dropped by Mushfiqur Rahim off a thick edge that went for four on first ball he faced ; he was then caught at first @-@ slip off a similar thick edge to first @-@ slip on the next delivery . In the third match , however , he scored his first international century ? 107 runs ? which helped England to 284 for five and a 45 @-@ run victory . England won the series 3 ? 0 . In contrast to the " hard @-@ hitting batting " which Geoff Miller , the England selector , had cited as one of the reasons for his inclusion , Kieswetter 's century was patiently built after a nervous start .

When the England squad was announced for the 2010 ICC World Twenty20 , Kieswetter was named as the only wicket @-@ keeper in the squad , replacing Prior . Kieswetter opened the innings with Michael Lumb throughout the tournament , and ESPNcricinfo 's Andrew McGlashan identified their performances as one of the reasons that England reached the final . During the final , Kieswetter was England 's top @-@ scorer , hitting 63 runs from 49 deliveries , and was named as the man of the match as England won their first ICC global title . During the tournament , Kieswetter scored 222 runs , the fourth @-@ most of any player , at an average of 31 @.@ 71 and a strike rate of 116 @.@ 84 .

= = = Dropped and recalled by England = = =

After returning to England , Kieswetter 's form dipped , and he scored 121 runs from eight ODIs against Australia and Bangladesh . As a result , when England played five ODIs against Pakistan in September , Kieswetter was omitted and Worcestershire 's Steven Davies was preferred , although Kieswetter was included in the T20I squad . Kieswetter opened the innings alongside Davies , who was playing as wicket @-@ keeper , in the two T20Is , but only made scores of six and sixteen . Although he was named in the T20I squad for the tour of Australia , he was not selected to play , and instead took part in the England Performance Programme XI tour , before joining up with the England Lions to take part in the Regional Four Day Competition in the West Indies . During the competition , Kieswetter scored two centuries , against the Leeward Islands and the Combined Campuses and Colleges .

Kieswetter began the 2011 season strongly for Somerset , scoring 308 runs in his first four one @-@ day matches , including two centuries . Another century , in the County Championship prompted Jeremy James of ESPNcricinfo to ask " whether Craig Kieswetter will regain his place in England 's one @-@ day side before Jos Buttler assumes it ahead of him " . His form earned him a recall to England 's one @-@ day squads for the series against Sri Lanka , with Geoff Miller saying " [Kieswetter] will offer some real fire power with the bat along with his ability with the gloves " . In his first match back for England , the Twenty20 match , Kieswetter only scored four runs , but he was England 's top @-@ scorer in the first ODI match , with 61 runs , and was described as " England 's most impressive batsman " . He struck another half @-@ century in the fourth match of the series : he scored 72 not out as England won by ten wickets . A week later , playing for Somerset against Nottinghamshire , he scored the highest score of his first @-@ class career , accumulating 164 runs as part of a 290 @-@ run partnership with James Hildreth .

Kieswetter remained England wicket @-@ keeper for the T20I and ODI matches against India late in the season . In the T20I , Jos Buttler , his fellow Somerset wicket @-@ keeper , made his debut , albeit as a specialist batsman ; Jonny Bairstow , the Yorkshire wicket @-@ keeper , made his debut in the final ODI in a similar role . In that series , Kieswetter struggled against the moving ball in English conditions ; he was praised , however , for his attacking batting , including 46 runs from 25 balls in the second match . Based on the number of appearances that he made for England , Kieswetter was awarded an incremental contract by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) in September 2011 . During England 's subsequent 5 ? 0 ODI series loss in India , described by the Wisden Cricketers ' Almanack 's Stephen Brenkley as " a tour too far for England " , Kieswetter was the only England batsman to maintain a strike rate above 100 . He scored one half @-@ century

during the tour , and was included in the England Lions squad that toured Sri Lanka three months later .

= = = End of international career = = =

Playing for the Lions , Kieswetter moved into the middle @-@ order , rather than opening the batting ; this was intended to prepare him for a similar switch with the senior England team to allow Kevin Pietersen to open . He scored a century and a half @-@ century to help England win the series 3 ? 2 , though he was outperformed by Buttler . In early 2012 , playing against Pakistan in the United Arab Emirates , Kieswetter only batted twice in the ODI series , and was praised for his 43 @-@ run contribution in the fourth match , though George Dobell of ESPNcricinfo identified his wicket @-@ keeping as " still not as polished as he would like " . Although Kieswetter dropped down the order in ODIs , he retained his place opening the batting in T20Is . In contrast to the 2010 World Twenty20 , when the England players were told to attack bat selflessly , in 2012 the team was instructed to avoid losing early wickets , and Kieswetter struggled to adapt his game to score low @-@ risk singles and rotate the strike . During the 2012 ICC World Twenty20 , he lost his place in England 's T20I team after a match against New Zealand in which he scored four runs from fourteen balls . That was the final international Twenty20 match of his career . In his 25 matches , he scored 526 runs at an average of 21 @.@ 91 and a strike rate of 111 @.@ 91 . Despite his struggles in international cricket , Kieswetter had a successful season with Somerset ; he scored 848 first @-@ class runs at an average of just over 60 , including a century against Warwickshire and one for the Lions against Australia A.

The following year , Kieswetter retained his place in the ODI team for the tour of India , although ESPNcricinfo 's Alex Winter suggested that it might be due to " England 's desire to protect the workload of their players ahead of back @-@ to @-@ back Ashes series . " Winter 's colleague , Dobell , described the England ODI wicket @-@ keeper position as one of England 's key areas requiring resolution , citing both Bairstow and Buttler as candidates to take over , as well as the possibility of Matt Prior , the England Test wicket @-@ keeper , reclaiming the role . Kieswetter played the first three ODIs of the series , scoring 24 not out , 18 and 0 before he was dropped and replaced by Buttler . Dobell described Kieswetter as " perhaps ... a little unfortunate " , but cited his inability to adjust his game and the number of balls he blocked as the reasons for his removal . He played 46 ODIs , scoring 1 @,@ 054 runs at an average of 30 @.@ 11 .

= = Later domestic career = =

The competition between Kieswetter and Buttler for England 's one @-@ day wicket @-@ keeping role also caused conflict at Somerset for the 2013 season : both players wanted to fulfil the role for the county . Kieswetter began the season as the wicket @-@ keeper in the County Championship , but broke his thumb during the third match of the season , which kept him out of action for six weeks . Kieswetter had a particularly strong Twenty20 season , finishing as the leading run @-@ scorer in the 2013 Friends Life t20 with 517 runs , including five half @-@ centuries . He scored a late @-@ season century against Warwickshire in the County Championship , but in a season in which Somerset struggled against relegation , he scored a relatively modest 606 first @-@ class runs at an average of 31 @.@ 89 . At the end of the season , Buttler , whose contract with Somerset had expired , announced that he was joining Lancashire , leaving Kieswetter as the clear first @-@ choice wicket @-@ keeper at Somerset .

Kieswetter signed with the Brisbane Heat for the 2013 ? 14 Big Bash League , During the tournament , he scored 192 runs from eight matches including two half @-@ centuries . He entered the 2014 Indian Premier League auction , but remained unsold , to the relief of the director of cricket at Somerset , David Nosworthy . He was called up as a late replacement for the injured Luke Wright for England 's squad in the 2014 ICC World Twenty20 , but was not selected to play . He began the 2014 season positively for Somerset , particularly in the Twenty20 competition , in which he scored six half @-@ centuries in ten innings , averaging just under 50 .

= = Injury and retirement = =

On 12 July 2014 , Kieswetter suffered a broken nose and fractured cheek bone while batting for Somerset against Northamptonshire in a County Championship match . The bowler , David Willey , delivered a short @-@ pitched bouncer which went through the gap between the grille and the visor on Kieswetter 's helmet and struck him in the face . The injuries were initially described by Somerset 's chairman , Andy Nash , as " serious but non @-@ career threatening " . He underwent facial surgery , and suffered from double vision for a while after . He returned to the Somerset side before the end of the 2014 season and scored a half @-@ century in his first match back , against Middlesex , though he admitted that his vision was still not fully recovered . Kieswetter signed for the South African franchise Warriors as their overseas player to play in the Ram Slam T20 Challenge for the 2014 ? 15 season . He played all ten matches for the Warriors , scoring 199 runs at an average of 22 @.@ 11 , including two half @-@ centuries .

On 10 December 2014 , despite having been named in England 's 30 @-@ man provisional 2015 Cricket World Cup squad , Kieswetter revealed that he was still suffering vision problems . He announced that he would not play in the 2015 season and would seek further treatment . The following June , he announced his retirement from professional cricket , saying that , although he was still capable of playing , he could not play to the standard he wanted ; " In the end I just thought , there are too many mediocre players in county cricket ? and good luck to them ? but I don 't want to be another one . " He finished his career with similar statistics in first @-@ class and List A cricket ; in both he averaged just under 40 and had scored eleven centuries . In Twenty20 cricket , his highest score was 89 not out , and he averaged just over 30 . In an interview with ESPNcricinfo shortly after his retirement , Kieswetter said that he would be interested in working in the media , perhaps as part of a commentary team for Twenty20 matches .

= = Playing style = =

Kieswetter 's confident and attacking batting style was compared to that of Kevin Pietersen , another England batsman of South African origin . Although Kieswetter favoured the off @-@ side , he was also strong behind square on both sides , and stood with a typical South African stance , his bat held high . He was generally more highly regarded for his batting than his wicket @-@ keeping , often drawing criticism for the quality of his glovework . For a couple of matches during 2012 , he was used as an off spin bowler by Somerset , collecting three wickets .

Somerset experimented with Kieswetter throughout the order , trying to find the most effective place for him . He began as a middle @-@ order batsman , but by the end of the 2007 season , although he remained in the middle @-@ order in first @-@ class cricket , Kieswetter regularly found himself opening the batting alongside Marcus Trescothick in one @-@ day cricket , a role he would also take up in opening six matches of the 2009 Twenty20 Cup , although he later dropped back into the middle order to improve the balance of the side . On his international call @-@ up , England chose to utilise Kieswetter as an opening batsman . He was selected " because of his proven ability to pierce the field in the Powerplay overs , particularly with his booming drives up and over the covers . " He later moved down the order for England to accommodate Kevin Pietersen as opener .