

**Clive van Ryneveld**, who has died aged 89, belonged to that rare group of double internationals, having played rugby for England when at Oxford, before being selected for (and eventually captaining) his native South Africa at cricket.

Tall and willowy, van Ryneveld used his long reach to drive superbly, especially against slow bowling. His leg breaks and googlies were sometimes erratic but occasionally unplayable, while his quick reflexes and natural athleticism made him a superb fielder in any position.

On the rugby pitch his ability to run elusively with dash, swerve and speed left defences floundering, and won him a reputation as one of the best centre-three quarters of the postwar years.

Later, as a lawyer and politician, he played an honourable role in the struggle against the apartheid policies of Dr Verwoerd. In both sport and life the principle of fair play was burnt deeply into his character.

At a tense moment in a Test against Australia at Durban, in 1958, van Ryneveld, as captain, irritated home supporters when he deliberately refused an opportunity to run out Neil Harvey, the best Australian batsman.



**The Oxford Cricket Team in 1949 (with Van Ryneveld centre of the front row) CREDIT:COLORSPORT/REX/SHUTTERSTOCK**

Harvey had glanced a ball to the fine leg boundary. Hugh Tayfield gave chase, and from the way he picked up the ball gave the impression that it had run over the boundary. The batsmen stopped running and started to walk back to their original ends.

Tayfield, however, then hurled the ball back to van Ryneveld at the bowler's end, shouting out that the ball had not in fact crossed the boundary. Van Ryneveld was able to collect the ball and take off the bails with Harvey still far from the crease. He did not, however, appeal, considering that it would be unsporting to capture a wicket by a seeming trick.

In the final Test of that series, at Port Elizabeth, Australia needed only 68 to win in the fourth innings. But the wicket had suddenly begun to fly, and in Neil Adcock and Peter Heine South Africa possessed a viciously hostile pair of fast bowlers.

In the second over Adcock sent down three successive bumpers which all missed Colin McDonald, the Australian opening batsman, by a hair's breadth. Both the umpire and van Ryneveld called for a stop to this kind of attack. Shortly afterwards McDonald was caught at slip off another fierce bumper from Adcock.

Now Neil Harvey and Wally Grout were peppered with short deliveries. Van Ryneveld, who believed that one bumper every eight-ball over sufficed, reacted by taking off his fast bowlers. Adcock and Heine, of course, were furious; and many wondered whether the Australians would have been as merciful.

Clive Berrange van Ryneveld was born in Cape Town on March 19 1928, of mixed Dutch, German and French descent. Seven generations before, in 1759, a Daniel van Ryneveld had arrived in South Africa from Holland.

Daniel's son William Stephanus became chief financial officer of the Cape. When the British took over he transferred his loyalties to the new regime, and in 1809 was appointed Chief Justice.

William Stephanus's house, Groote Schuur, was later enlarged by Herbert Baker for Cecil Rhodes, before being bequeathed to the nation as a residence for the prime minister. It is now a museum.

Clive van Ryneveld's father, another Clive, played rugby for South Africa before becoming a lawyer, while the younger Clive's maternal uncle, Jimmy Blanckenburg, was selected for 18 Tests as a highly accomplished off-spin bowler.

Van Ryneveld was brought up in privileged circumstances. At Diocesan College, or Bishops, in Cape Town he was a star of the cricket and rugby teams.

In December 1946, aged 18, he made his debut in first-class cricket, securing victory for Western Province against Rhodesia with a dashing 90 not out in the second innings.

Diocesan College was one of four schools chosen by Cecil Rhodes to elect a Rhodes scholar to Oxford every year. Clive's brother Tony had gained this award in 1946, going up to Trinity College and winning a rugby Blue. Clive followed suit in 1947, save that he found a berth at University College.

Theoretically he was reading Law, but from the moment he arrived sport dominated. He won a rugby Blue in his first term and in 1948 he played a large part in Oxford's victory in the Varsity match at Lord's, taking seven for 57 in Cambridge's second innings.

That December, at Twickenham, van Ryneveld sealed Oxford's 14-8 triumph by scoring a legendary try after a long period of Cambridge pressure. Kicking the ball ahead from his own 25, he covered nearly a hundred yards to outstrip the Cambridge defence and touch down.

In consequence van Ryneveld was selected early in 1949 to play for England against Wales at Cardiff Arms Park, and against Ireland at Lansdowne Road, Dublin. Both these matches were lost, though van Ryneveld scored a splendid try against Ireland.

He was also a member of the England side which beat France 8-3 at home, and returned to Twickenham on his 21st birthday to confront Scotland for the Calcutta Cup. England triumphed by 19 points to three, with van Ryneveld scoring two tries.

In the summer of 1949, van Ryneveld captained an Oxford cricket side which achieved seven victories before encountering Cambridge at Lord's. These included wins against Yorkshire and against the New Zealand tourists who, caught on a sticky wicket, lost for the only time that summer.

Wisden gave full credit to the "spirited" leadership of the Oxford side: "Keen, firm and yet friendly, van Ryneveld found his decisions always cheerfully accepted by a team who realised his fine qualities."

At Lord's, however, against a Cambridge side which had previously won only one match, everything suddenly crumbled. Despite excellent bowling from the captain, Oxford lost by seven wickets. Eight days later van Ryneveld returned to Lord's to play for the Gentlemen against the Players, and showed his skill as a batsman by top-scoring in both innings.

In December 1949 he played at fly-half as Oxford beat Cambridge 3-0 at Twickenham. Conscious, however, of the approach of Finals, he told the selectors that he would not be available to play for England that winter. Nor did he play much cricket in the summer of 1950. He again, however, bowled well in that year's Varsity match, taking five for 78 in Cambridge's first innings. The match was drawn.

That September he returned to South Africa where he captained Western Province to victory in the local league. In a trial for the forthcoming tour of England in 1951, he won his place by taking 15 wickets.

In England, though, the South Africans rarely scored enough runs to permit the luxury of a leg break bowler. Van Ryneveld made his Test debut as a batsman, and in all five Tests that summer bowled a total of only 19 overs.

After making 150 against Yorkshire at Sheffield, van Ryneveld was promoted to No 3 in South Africa's batting order for the third Test, when he batted sturdily for 40, holding a rampant Alec Bedser at bay for two and a half hours.

In the fourth Test, at Leeds, he made 83, his highest Test score, in a second-wicket stand of 198 with Eric Rowan. His average of 24 for the series, however, was disappointing. His sole achievement was to bowl Len Hutton with a ball that was meant to turn, and did not.

On his return to South Africa, van Ryneveld was admitted to the Cape Bar, and let it be known that, owing to work commitments, he would be unavailable to tour Australia in 1952-53.

He did, however, play in the home series against New Zealand in 1953-54, achieving some useful scores, and helping to win the fifth Test with his leg-breaks. And in 1955-56 he led Western Province to victory in the Currie Cup.

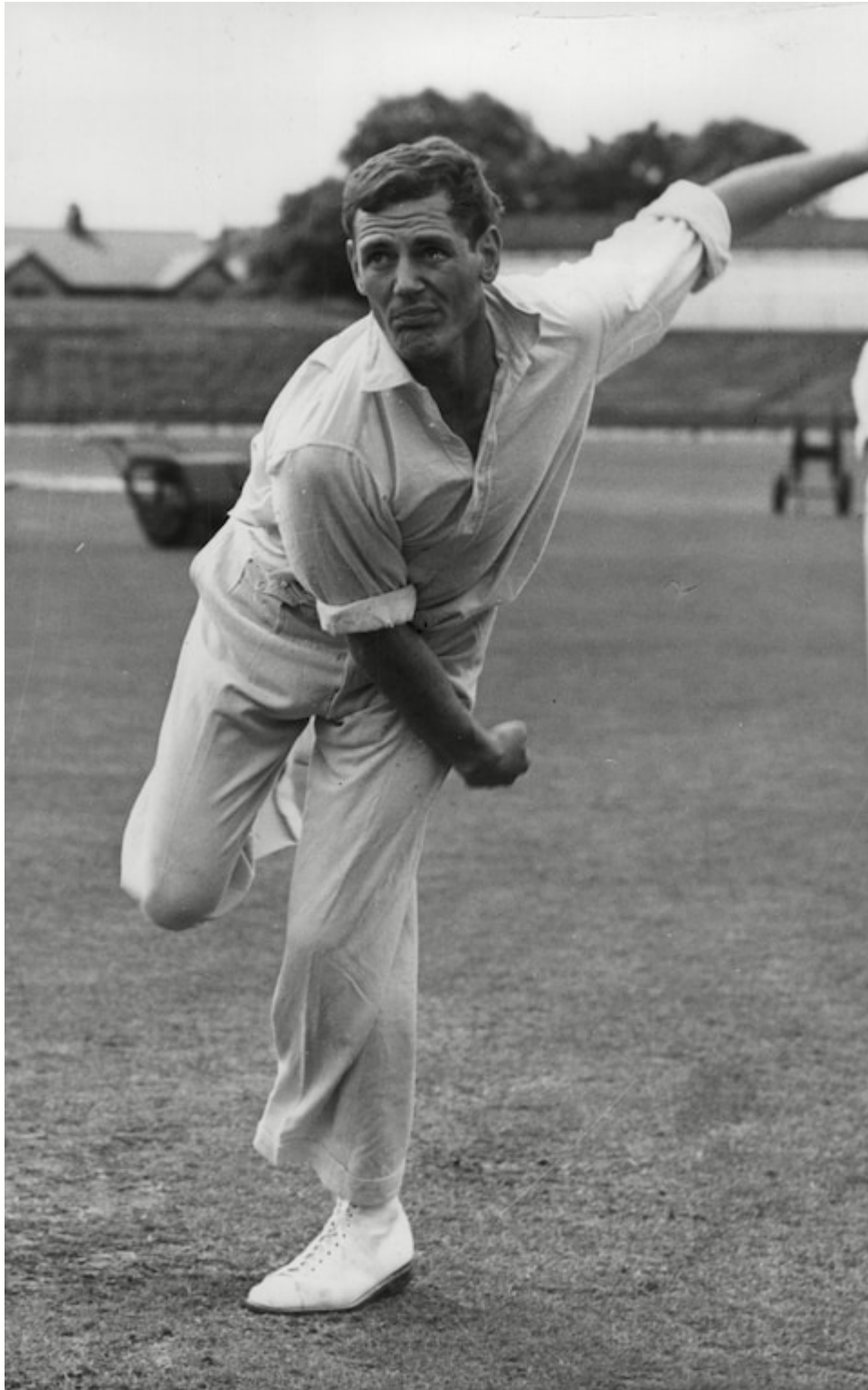
Jackie McGlew had been appointed to lead South Africa for the series against England in 1956-57, but when he suffered a shoulder injury, van Ryneveld took over the captaincy for four out of the five

Tests, being obliged to forgo some of his honeymoon in order play in the fourth. South Africa fought back from 0-2 down to square the series.

In 1957 Van Ryneveld was elected to Parliament as the United Party's candidate in East London North. Though he now had far less time for cricket, he decided to make himself available for the forthcoming series against Australia. Having missed the first Test through injury he took over the captaincy for the remaining four Tests, three of which Australia handsomely won.

This was the end of his international career. He had played in 19 Tests, scoring 724 runs at an average of 26.81, and taking 17 wickets for 39.47 apiece. Of the eight Tests played under his captaincy, South Africa won two, lost four and drew two.

After the end of his Test career van Ryneveld played only two more first-class matches, in 1962-63. In 101 games he had scored 4,803 runs (including four hundreds) at an average of 30.20, and taken 205 wickets at 30.24.



Clive van Ryneveld CREDIT: WILLIAM VANDERSON/PICTURE POST/GETTY IMAGES

Meanwhile, in 1958 Dr Verwoerd had become prime minister of South Africa, and immediately began to intensify the policy of apartheid. In 1959 van Ryneveld became one of the 12 MPs who abandoned the United Party with its slogan "White Leadership With Justice", to join the newly formed Progressive Party, which wholly rejected racial discrimination. Under this new standard, van

Ryneveld vigorously opposed legislation designed to achieve separate and enfeebled voting rights for the black population.

In 1961 Dr Verwoerd, having fixed the system, called an election in which the Progressive Party lost all their members save Helen Susman.

Van Ryneveld now returned to the Bar in Cape Town, where in 1962 he defended five Africans accused of taking part in the Paarl Riots, in which two whites had been killed. Two of the defendants were acquitted and the other three sentenced to death.

In 1967 he left the Bar to join Hill Samuel Merchant Bank South Africa. He remained, however, close to the controversies that led to the banning of South Africa from Test cricket.

He set himself against this boycott, taking the view that, while apartheid must be defeated, it was hardly just to penalise South Africa's Test players, most of whom were opposed to the government's policy. At the same time, everything should be done to improve facilities for black, Coloured and Indian cricketers.

In 1989 van Ryneveld became chairman of the John Passmore Trust, which supported and encouraged black cricketers. In 1995 he received the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh at the Langa Stadium, the oldest African township in Cape Town. Unfortunately the ceremony got rather out of hand as spectators rushed forward to see the Queen, who had to make a hasty exit.

His memoirs, *20th Century All-rounder: Reminiscences and Reflections of Clive van Ryneveld*, were published in 2011.

Clive van Ryneveld married, in 1957, Verity Hunter, daughter of the Anglican bishop of George, Western Cape. They had two sons and a daughter.

**Clive van Ryneveld, born March 19 1928, died January 29 2018**

Obituary from the Daily Telegraph, 30<sup>th</sup> Jan 2018