



R.Dist.Comp. Arnold Long, V

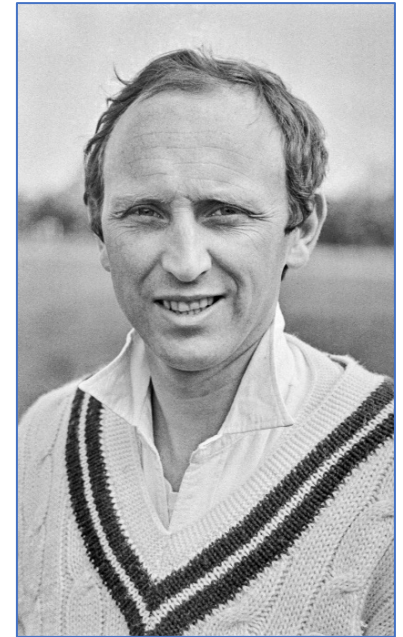
It was with great sadness that we learnt of the death of Right Distinguished Companion Arnold Long on the 1st of January 2026. Arnold, a retired Company Director, was born on the 18th of December 1940 in Cheam.

Arnold was well known as a former cricketer. A wicket-keeper and left-handed batsman, Arnold claimed 1046 victims from his 452 games over a 20-year career. He played for Surrey CCC as wicketkeeper in the first team from 1962 until 1975. Over that period, they won the Benson and Hedges Cup in 1974, the County Championship in 1971, and in 1964 at Hove versus Sussex Arnold caught eleven batsmen in the two innings. This was then a world record but has been equalled twice since then.

Arnold was then invited to join Sussex in 1976 for the twilight of his cricketing career, and what 5 years it was. Tony Greig was Captain, but in 1978 he was sacked by Sussex because of his involvement in the Packer affair and Arnold was asked to take over. They had a disappointing start to the season but eventually in September won the Gillette Cup, beating Somerset by 5 wickets.

Arnold joined Coulsdon Lodge of Perseverance in 1970 at the insistence of his godfather and uncle who were both Freemasons. Just prior to going in the chair in 1986 Arnold joined the Royal Arch, quickly followed by Mark, Royal Ark Mariner, Rose Croix and Knights Templar and, in the 1990's, many other Orders. Over the years Arnold said that he had been very lucky with the various ranks and jobs he has received in Freemasonry, but in particular some were very special and most enjoyable.

Grand Rank in both Craft and Royal Arch; Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Mark between 2004 and 2009; District Grand Master in the Royal and Select Masters between 2005 and 2013; Grand Visitor in the OSM in 2014, Deputy Grand Marshal in the Red Cross of Constantine for two years; and finally, Provincial Grand Summus for the Province of Surrey in the Scarlet Cord from 2020 to 2024.



Looking back, this was especially poignant as Arnold went on to develop Alzheimer's a few years later. He was very open and stoic about it and it did not stop him going to meetings, which he was able to do with the assistance of many of his Masonic friends.

Sadly, Arnold's health deteriorated rapidly necessitating a stay in hospital mid-December, coming out just before Christmas. It was a blessing that he was able to spend Christmas with his family, but sadly he took a turn for the worse on Boxing Day when he was readmitted into hospital. Arnold passed away peacefully on New Year's Day with his family by his side.

I was privileged to have known Arnold for many years. We first met in the Royal Arch Provincial Office over 25 years ago and developed a good friendship.

Right Distinguished Companion Arnold Long was a pleasure to know during his lifetime, a man who enjoyed life, his family, and his Freemasonry.

I well remember his installation as our Provincial Grand Summus by the Grand Summus, M.Dist.Comp. Ian Currans and his team in 2020 as it was a Virtual Business Meeting held over Zoom. I believe the first in the world. As the Provincial Grand Recorder at the time, I had to set everything up, with a lot of help from my old friend, Tim Ford, who ran the technical side of the meeting.

Just afterwards, Arnold joined Comp. Wally Maynard and I in completing the Scarlet Cord Alzheimer's Challenge organised by R.Dist.Comp. Phil Clare, Provincial Grand Summus for Kent.



Dist.Comp. Chris Eley, IV, Deputy Provincial Grand Summus

Tributes to Arnold 'Ob' Long



Club

ARNOLD LONG (1940-2026) – OBITUARY

Arnold Long, Surrey's wicketkeeper for a generation in the 1960s and 1970s, died aged 85 on New Year's Day.



Arnold Long, Surrey's wicketkeeper for a generation in the 1960s and 1970s, died aged 85 on New Year's Day. He later led Sussex to the Gillette Cup and then returned to The Oval as chairman of the cricket committee. *Richard Spiller pays tribute to a fine player and man.*

Neat and unobtrusive, Arnold Long was a sterling presence from the moment he became Surrey's first-choice wicketkeeper in 1962. That first full season – his first-class debut had come two years earlier – saw him succeeding the mercurial Roy Swetman, his 74 catches and 91 dismissals setting a record for the county. The man known as "Ob", unflashy and teetotal, would be a fixture for more than a decade.

Long's fitness and concentration were exemplary, and his reading of the game could be a considerable help to both captains and bowlers, or at least "those who wanted to listen" as he would say with the glimmer of a smile in his understated way.

Rebuilding from the glory days of the 1950s was the job for Surrey in the following decade under Micky Stewart, their first chance of a trophy coming in 1965 only to be heavily beaten by Yorkshire in the 1965 Gillette Cup final. They finally made it six years later in 1971, Cheam-born Long's benefit year, by winning the County Championship. Long was tested by not only the variety of the attack – the fast but sometimes wayward young paceman Bob Willis, seamers led by Geoff Arnold and Robin Jackman, off-spinner Pat Pocock, leg-spinner Intikhab Alam and slow left-armed Chris Waller.

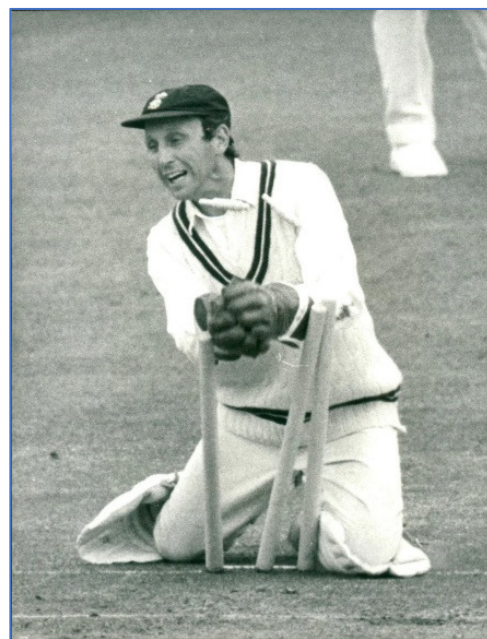
Just as testing was working out how far back to stand – such were the dead pitches at that time at The Oval, which made bowling teams out twice difficult, that Long would need to get much closer to the stumps to avoid catches falling short.

By now the senior professional, he was also in the Surrey side which won the Benson & Hedges Cup three years later, gaining an unwanted place in history by becoming the final victim of a Ken Higgs hat-trick as they were bowled out for 170. But they fashioned an unlikely victory – by 27 runs – in dismissing Leicestershire for 143 on a surface offering negligible bounce. Long took a typically smart stumping to remove Graham McKenzie along the way. Yet within a year he had left Surrey, dropped early in 1975 after being identified – wrongly – as the focus of opposition to skipper John Edrich in an unhappy dressing room.

His 352 first-class matches, there were 804 in all formats, had produced 703 catches and 103 stumpings. Also capable of handy contributions down the order, his glovemannship earned him a place among Surrey's long line of fine keepers which take in the likes of Herbert Strudwick and Ben Foakes.

Long was snapped up by Sussex and from the following summer his skills were put to good use at Hove. When Tony Greig, having been sacked as England captain for his role in the Packer Affair, was also deposed as Sussex captain in 1978, Long was left to sift through the wreckage of a club in turmoil.

The county made a horrendous start to the season but Long, with typically quiet determination and helped by former Surrey colleagues Geoff Arnold and Stewart Storey, led a revival that culminated at the end of that season in producing one of the great one-day shocks in English cricket. Unfancied barely began to describe his side as they came up against a Somerset team including Ian Botham, Viv Richards and Joel Garner in the Gillette Cup final at Lord's.



But they won by five wickets, Long having devised a way to keep Richards quiet, and Somerset would have to wait another year for their first trophy. He played for another two years, making 97 first-class appearances for Sussex altogether, before handing over to John Barclay a highly promising side which came within two points of winning the County Championship in 1981.

An insurance broker, Long built up his own business while enjoying family life, he and Barbara had three children, Masonic work and golf.

He was not finished with cricket, though, and took over from Jimmy Fulford as chairman of Surrey's cricket committee in 1991. It was a job for which he was well suited, understanding not only the game but human nature and soon having to use his negotiating skills to bale out a new signing whose creditors had followed him from his old club. Being a season ticket holder at Chelsea ensured he had plenty in common with county skipper Alec Stewart.

Dealing with internal club politics was a stern task and Long found himself out of sympathy with the club hierarchy, who he felt wanted too great an involvement with the running of the professional side. It was a battle he was bound to lose as he found when the cricket committee was abolished in a restructuring, Long speaking out strongly but in vain at a special general meeting. Eventually that decision was reversed and Long was a member of the newly reconstituted cricket committee although his relationship with those in power was often distant and sometimes frosty.

But even if he watched from afar, only occasionally visiting the Kia Oval, he always cared passionately for Surrey and always had a pertinent observation to make in that quiet and succinct way which characterised his enormous contribution on and off the field.



Sussex Cricket was saddened to hear of the death of Arnold Long, on New Years Day, at the age of 85.

Arnold "Ob" Long joined Sussex, after 15 years as the Surrey first choice wicketkeeper, in 1976 and succeeded Tony Greig as our captain in 1978. Tributes paid to Arnold this week, by playing colleagues including John Barclay, Roger Marshall, Paul Phillipson and Chris Waller, reflect the very high regard in which he was held by those who played with him.

He was much respected not only as a "fine man" and a very high quality wicketkeeper but also as a shrewd captain whose "tactical brilliance" ensured that Sussex emerged victorious in the 1978 Gillette Cup Final against the much vaunted Somerset team which included Ian Botham and Viv Richards.

After retiring from cricket in 1980, Long had a successful business career and returned to the Oval as a much respected Chair of the Cricket Committee.

The thoughts of all of us at Sussex Cricket are with Arnold's family and with his friends across the game.

B B C

FORMER WICKETKEEPER LONG DIES AGED 85

SPORT

Former wicketkeeper, Arnold Long, a trophy-winner with two different counties, has died at the age of 85.

Long claimed 1,293 victims - 1,135 catches and 158 stumpings - in first-class and limited-overs cricket during a 20-year playing career.

He made his debut for Surrey in 1960 and was a member of their County Championship winning side in 1971 when they lifted the trophy by virtue of two more victories than Warwickshire after the teams finished level on points.

Long was also a member of their B&H Cup-winning team in 1974 but left The Oval for Sussex two years later and captained them for three seasons, during which they beat Somerset by five wickets in the 1978 Gillette Cup final at Lord's.

Following retirement, he later returned to Surrey as chair of the cricket committee in the 1990s. A club statement on X said Surrey were "saddened" by the passing of a man "affectionately known as 'Ob'".



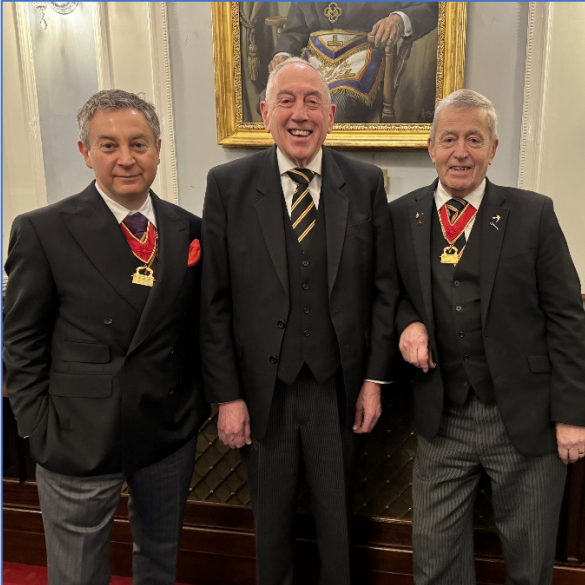


The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of London



On Thursday the 8th of January 2026 a delegation from Surrey attended the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Senatus of London held at Mark Masons Hall.

When we arrived, we were treated to a drinks reception, which was very much appreciated.



We received a very warm welcome from R. Dist. Comp. Jules Greenwall, Provincial Grand Summus, and the London Companions.

Present at the meeting were many Provincial Grand Summi.

The Companions were called to Order to receive the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus who entered the Temple in procession, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Officers of the Year.



Provincial Grand Senatus was opened in due form and the Provincial Grand Summus was saluted with seven under direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Dist.Comp. Seirios Kokkalis. The other Right Distinguished Companions were then saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.



Provincial Grand Senatus was pleased to receive the Deputy Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Francis Charles Spencer, who was accompanied by the Assistant Grand Summus, R.Dist.Comp. Howard Saul Markham, and the Grand Regent Vicarius, R.Dist.Comp. Michael Frederick Barnes.

The Provincial Grand Summus welcomed the honoured guests of the Province and other Distinguished Companions.

After the regular business of Provincial Grand Senatus had been concluded, the Provincial



Grand Summus was pleased to reappoint Dist.Comp. Boon Sin Tan, V, **P.A.G.D.C.**, as Deputy Provincial Grand Summus. He then thanked and Dist Comp. Dr. Surjit Bhalla, IV, **P.A.G.D.C.** for his services as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus and announced that he has appointing Dist.Comp. Oswald Terrance Hall, III, as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus.

Dist.Comp. Terry was introduced, obligated, invested and installed as Assistant Provincial Grand Summus, and was saluted with seven under the direction of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.





The Provincial Grand Summus addressed Provincial Grand Senatus. In his Address he welcomed everyone to the first Scarlet Cord meeting of the year.

He congratulated those who had received appointments or promotion in Provincial Grand Rank and ended by thanking his Provincial Grand Recorder, Dist.Comp. Trevor Gray, IV, **P.G.Swd.B.**, who was standing down this year, thanking him for all his hard work and support for the Province over many years.



He also thanked the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, and his team, for all their assistance and support.

The Deputy Grand Summus, the Assistant Grand Summus, and the Grand Regent Vicarius, retired from Provincial Grand Senatus under the direction of the Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

Provincial Grand Senatus was closed in due form and the Right Distinguished Provincial Grand Summus retired in procession accompanied by Right Distinguished Companions, and Honoured Guests.



After refreshments in the bar, the Companions of the Provincial Grand Senatus of London and their guests enjoyed a most convivial meal together.



A fantastic night at Kent Consistory



A fantastic night at Kent Consistory with 3 candidates, 9 taking their 2nd Grade and over 30 in attendance, which included Surrey's finest (sic) Robert Anderson and Mark Sharp who witnessed a truly extraordinary event on the 21st of November.



This will be repeated at the Hill of Zion Consistory meeting in April, where the Consistory will have several candidates to undertake their first degree.

Thanks to Mark Sharp



A donation to the Sutton Women's Centre



The Provincial Grand Senatus of Surrey has given a donation to the Sutton Women's Centre to support the good work they do in the community.

In 1982 a group of local women started meeting at Roundshaw Centre, Wallington and formed a committee with the aim of identifying and progressing the needs of local women. In December 1983, the Greater London Council awarded a grant to the committee towards the creation of a women's centre. They then registered as a charity.

After a long search for a suitable property, contracts were exchanged on a house at 3 Palmerston Road, Sutton, and on the 1st of May 1985 Sutton Women's Centre opened its doors for the first time.

The Sutton Women's Centre offer:

- **Counselling** to give women confidence and the ability to manage their daily lives, and to look and plan for the future.
- **Freedom Programme** - a 12 week group course designed for women who are experiencing or have experienced domestic abuse.
- **Support Groups** are run twice a month for women who have completed the Freedom Programme
- **English as a Second Language Classes** are available for women who have basic English and want to improve their language skills.
- **Women's Writing Group** meet once a month.
- **Parenting Workshops** designed to support mothers as they deal with day to day challenges, helping to build self confidence in being a mum and providing them with helpful advice and tips.
- **Step-by-Step Computer Training** to guide complete beginners through the basics and beyond to improve basic digital skills.

Over the years many thousands of women have come through their front door, some as service users, some as management committee members, some as staff, and many as volunteers. It is the experience and commitment of these women who have made the Sutton Women's Centre the successful organisation they are today.

<https://suttonwomenscentre.co.uk/>