

## **Jan Brittin obituaries**

**BBC**

**12.09.2017**

### **Jan Brittin: England's leading female Test run scorer dies aged 58**

Jan Brittin, England's leading female Test run scorer, has died from cancer aged 58.

Brittin scored 1,935 runs in 27 Test matches, making five centuries in a 19-year international career.

She was part of England's World Cup-winning squad in 1993 and was the tournament's leading run scorer, with 410 in eight innings.

"She was a legend and a class apart," said Clare Connor, director of England women's cricket.

Brittin spent her entire domestic career at Surrey, and is still the club's leading female run scorer.

She top-scored with 48 in the World Cup final against New Zealand and took the winning catch.

"I was in awe of her when I first arrived into the England set-up," added Connor, who played for England and Sussex. "More than anyone else, the coaches included, I craved her respect and for her to think I could play.

"For girls of my generation, she was our first real female role model. JB was born to play Test cricket and it's unlikely that her record in this format will ever be beaten."

The Surrey flag will be flown at half mast during the ongoing County Championship match between Surrey and Yorkshire.

**Hindustan Times**

**13.09.2017**

### **Jan Brittin, former England women's cricketer, dies aged 58**

Former England cricketer Jan Brittin passed away due to cancer at the age of 58.

Brittin, who died on Tuesday, was a part of England's World Cup-winning side in 1993.

Brittin was the leading run-scorer and century-maker in Women's Test cricket with five hundreds in her 27 matches between 1979 and 1998, ESPNcricinfo reported.

The right-hander played 63 ODIs, and top-scored with 48 when England beat New Zealand at Lord's to win the World Cup.

Her Test best of 167 came against Australia at Harrogate in 1998 -- in the penultimate match of her career -- and she opened alongside Charlotte Edwards, who paid tribute on Twitter calling Brittin "her idol".

**England and Wales Cricket Board**

**12.09.2017**

## **Brittin was outstanding and truly lovely – Connor**

Clare Connor has paid tribute to Jan Brittin, England's leading Test run-scorer, who has died at the age of 58.

In addition to scoring 1,935 runs in 27 Test appearances and 2,121 runs in 63 One-Day Internationals, with five centuries in each, Brittin had the distinction of top-scoring with 48 in England's 1993 World Cup final win against New Zealand at Lord's – and also of taking the winning catch.

Surrey, for whom Jan also played, today lowered the flag at the Kia Oval to half mast during their Specsavers County Championship fixture against Yorkshire in tribute.

"JB was one of the most quiet and unassuming cricketers you could meet, but she was pure class," said Connor, the ECB's Director of England Women's Cricket. "An outstanding cricketer and a truly lovely person. In a year when England have again won the World Cup at Lord's, we should not forget the huge contribution JB made to the development and success of women's cricket in this country.

"For girls of my generation she was our first real female role model. She batted with grace and timing – a classical opener, so beautiful to watch."

"For girls of my generation she was our first real female role model. She batted with grace and timing – a classical opener, so beautiful to watch. She was also a brilliantly athletic cover fielder.

"JB was born to play Test cricket and it's unlikely that her record in this format will ever be beaten. She also had a fine record in the one-day game, and of course she made that significant contribution to England's World Cup win at Lord's in 1993.

"She played for England for two decades at a time when the women's game was totally amateur. Despite being a conventional batsman, in personality she was quirky and unconventional. I was in awe of her when I came into the England set-up as an 18-year-old. She was a legend, a class apart. More than anyone else, the coaches included, it was her respect that I craved, and for her to think I could play.

"She will be remembered so fondly by the women's cricket fraternity as well as by her numerous friends in the golfing world. She was a wonderful golfer as I found out when I was lucky enough to play a round with her in Calcutta on my first England tour, aged just 19. I remember feeling star-struck. The irony is not lost on me now, for nobody could have played international sport with more modesty than JB.

"On behalf of the ECB and the England women's team, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Jan's family and friends."

In the course of scoring 48 in the 1993 World Cup final, Brittin also became the first woman to score 1,000 World Cup runs. Recalling the moment she walked out to bat, she said: "Never before have I gone out... with tears in my eyes, caused by the wonderful ovation from the members who lined our path through the Long Room, followed by the crowd's reception as we walked out to the middle."

But her most memorable single contribution came much later in the day, as described by the Guardian's cricket correspondent Mike Selvey. "With the game already beyond reach and nothing to lose, Catherine Campbell, the Kiwis' last batsman, hit hard and high to deep midwicket. Brittin was lurking. As the ball steeped away towards the Grandstand, she dashed to her left and took the catch

as it came over her right shoulder: dropping it was never an issue. Up went her arms – the ball was last seen heading aerially towards Swiss Cottage – and she stampeded off into the arms of the awaiting supporters who had already streamed out of the stand and flooded on to the pitch.”

## **Surrey County Cricket Club**

**12.09.2017**

### **Jan Brittin (1959-2017)**

Surrey CCC is deeply saddened to announce the death of Janette ‘Jan’ Brittin – one of the trailblazers for women’s cricket in Surrey and England – who has passed away aged 58.

A veteran of 27 Test Matches and 63 One Day Internationals Jan, known universally as JB, is Surrey’s all-time leading female batsman and played a vital role in developing women’s cricket in the county.

The club will pay tribute by flying the Surrey flag at half mast during the ongoing match between Surrey and Yorkshire.

She remains the leading female Test Match run scorer and century maker of all time, with five centuries and 1,935 runs and was part of England’s World Cup winning team of 1993.

Brittin started her 19-year international career in 1979 and played until 1998, spanning the period between the game’s original iteration and the start of its modern developments.

Her first Test Match was alongside the pioneering Rachael Heyhoe-Flint whilst team mates in her final Test included future England greats Charlotte Edwards, Claire Taylor and Clare Connor, who is now the Director of England Women’s Cricket.

She played in both women’s Test Matches staged at Guildford CC in 1996, opening the batting alongside Edwards and scoring a memorable 146 against Australia.

Surrey CCC Director of Women’s Cricket Ebony Rainford-Brent said: “Today is a such a sad day for the cricket community hearing the news of Jan Brittin’s passing.

“JB was such an inspiration to me and many others growing up who were able to watch or play with one of the greatest female cricketers of all time. As a character she was fun, engaging and always generous in her knowledge, particularly when she gave back as a coach later in her career. Her records speak for themselves the class of player she was and will stand the test of time.

“She will be sorely missed by the Surrey community, and we as a county are sending out our condolences to her loved ones and family.”

Clare Connor, Director of England Women’s Cricket, added: “JB was was one of the most quiet and unassuming cricketers you could meet, but she was pure class. An outstanding cricketer and a truly lovely person.

“In a year when England have again won the World Cup at Lord’s, we should not forget the huge contribution JB made to the development and success of women’s cricket in this country.

“For girls of my generation she was our first real female role model. She batted with grace and timing – a classical opener, so beautiful to watch. She was also a brilliantly athletic cover fielder.

“JB was born to play Test cricket and it’s unlikely that her record in this format will ever be beaten. She also had a fine record in the one-day game, and of course she made that significant contribution to England’s World Cup win at Lord’s in 1993.

“JB played for England for two decades at a time when the women’s game was totally amateur. Despite being a conventional batsman, in personality she was quirky and unconventional. I was in awe of her when I came into the England set-up as an 18 year old. She was a legend, a class apart. And so, more than anyone else, the coaches included, I craved her respect and for her to think I could play.

“JB will be remembered so fondly by the women’s cricket fraternity as well as by her numerous friends in the golfing world. She was a wonderful golfer as I found out when I was lucky enough to play a round with her in Calcutta on my first England tour, aged just 19. I remember feeling star-struck. The irony is not lost on me now, for nobody could have played international sport with more modesty than JB.

“On behalf of the ECB and the England women’s team, I would like to extend our deepest sympathies to Jan’s family and friends.”

## **The Independent**

**20.09.2017**

**Marcus Williamson**

### **Jan Brittin: record-breaking cricketer who advanced the women's game Latterly a teacher, her record of five Test hundreds remains unbeaten in women’s cricket**

Jan Brittin, who has died of cancer aged 58, was one of England’s finest woman cricketers, a record-breaking player who represented the country in 63 one-day internationals and 27 Test matches between 1979 and 1998. Clare Connor, director of England Women’s Cricket, said of her: “JB was one of the most quiet and unassuming cricketers you could meet, but she was pure class. In a year when England have again won the World Cup at Lord’s, we should not forget the huge contribution JB made to the development and success of women’s cricket in this country.”

Brittin was born in Kingston upon Thames in 1959 to Maggie and Kevin Brittin, and grew up in Chessington. She attended Fleetwood County secondary school and at first played cricket for the local Tadworth club, later joining the Purley Redoubtables Women’s Cricket Club. She made her debut Test for England against the West Indies in 1979, aged just 19, alongside Rachael Heyhoe Flint.

Interviewed by Thames Television News in 1984 in the run-up to the men’s Test against New Zealand, she was asked if she would ever consider playing for the men’s team, if it were possible. She responded: “I think it’s something you always dream of ... going out at Lord’s and that sort of thing. But realistically I don’t know whether I would relish it.” She went on to make 144 not out in the drawn first Test that year.

In 1993, while the England men’s team suffered a 4-1 loss in the Ashes, Brittin helped the England women to victory over New Zealand at Lord’s. As opener, she made 48 runs. Then, in a dramatic finale to the game, she ran 30 yards to take the winning catch of Catherine Campbell’s ball, falling into the arms of jubilant supporters spilling onto the pitch.

Brittin scored her Test best, 167 runs, in her penultimate game, playing against Australia at Harrogate and opening alongside Charlotte Edwards. By the end of her career, in 1998, she had

scored 1,935 runs in 27 Test matches and established a record of 2,121 runs in one-day internationals, a record not broken until five years later. Her record of five Test hundreds remains unbeaten in women's cricket. She was made MBE in 1999 and given honorary life membership of the MCC the following year.

After two decades working in the sports department of British Airways, Brittin had latterly taught at Danes Hill School in Oxshott, Surrey, and had maintained her passion for cricket. For her fellow players it was her sense of fun and generosity of knowledge, especially as a coach later in her career, that stood out.

Surrey CCC paid tribute by flying their flag at half mast during their championship match against Yorkshire last week. Ebony Rainford-Brent, director of women's cricket at Surrey, said: "JB was such an inspiration to me and many others growing up who were able to watch or play with one of the greatest female cricketers of all time. Her records speak for themselves the class of player she was and will stand the test of time."

Janette Ann Brittin, cricketer, born 4 July 1959, died 11 September 2017

**The Guardian**

**19.09.2017**

**Peter Mason**

**Jan Brittin obituary**

**Cricketer who scored five Test hundreds, a total not yet beaten in the women's game**

Jan Brittin, who has died of cancer aged 58, was the highest Test match run scorer in women's cricket, a record that is likely to stand for the foreseeable future given that women's Tests are less numerous than they once were.

A calm, elegant and quietly confident opening bat, Brittin amassed 1,935 runs in Tests for England between 1979 and 1998, and for some years also had the highest tally in international one-day cricket – 2,121 – until her compatriot Charlotte Edwards surpassed that in 2003. Edwards idolised Brittin, and their careers overlapped by a couple of years but they played in different eras – Brittin, initially at least, in the be-skirted days of Rachael Heyhoe Flint; Edwards in a time of trousers and Twenty20.

In Brittin's day women's cricket had a lower profile than it did subsequently, so perhaps the key point in her career was when England won the 1993 World Cup final at Lord's against New Zealand. The crowd was much smaller than it was for England's sell-out World Cup win in 2017 at the same venue – only 4,500 were in the ground then. But the prime minister, John Major, was present, the match was broadcast live on BBC's flagship sports programme, Grandstand, and England's win made it on to the front pages of most newspapers. In many ways it was a pivotal moment in the development of women's cricket.

It was an emotional day. Brittin was deeply touched by the acclamation she and her colleagues received from the crowd, especially when the England team walked on to the field through the Lord's Long Room and the members lined their path clapping vigorously as they went by. "Never before have I gone out with tears in my eyes," she said.

Having set up England's win with the match's top score of 48, Brittin took the winning catch as New Zealand fell short in their run chase. It was a difficult chance that could easily have been fluffed. "Hit

hard and high to deep midwicket," wrote Mike Selvey in the Guardian. "Brittin was lurking. As the ball steeped away towards the grandstand she dashed to her left and took the catch as it came over her right shoulder: dropping it was never an issue. Up went her arms – the ball was last seen heading aerially towards Swiss Cottage – and she stampeded off into the arms of the awaiting supporters who had already streamed out of the stand and flooded on to the pitch." Brittin's 416 runs in that World Cup tournament were the most by anyone on any team, and she accumulated them at an average of 51.

Born in Kingston upon Thames, south-west London, to Kevin Brittin, a clerk at an aircraft manufacturing company, and Maggie (nee Goodway), an accounting-machine operator, Jan grew up in Chessington, Surrey, and went to Fleetwood County secondary school (now Chessington community college). Showing an early aptitude for sports, she played cricket for the local club side, Tadworth, and later for the women's club, Redoubtables, and represented Surrey for many years. An excellent hockey player, both at Chelsea College of Physical Education in Eastbourne, where she trained as a teacher, and at Ealing hockey club, she won three caps with the England indoor team in 1987.

After teaching at Wallington County grammar school in Surrey, she managed a sports shop in Tooting, south London, before being offered a job in the British Airways sports department at Heathrow, where as an amateur England player she could at least get staff discounts for air fares on foreign cricket tours.

Her Test debut was at home against West Indies in 1979, aged 19. Over three matches in that series, sometimes batting in the lower middle order, she had limited scope to impress. There were only five women's Tests over the next five years, so it was not until 1984 that she made her next England appearance, against New Zealand at Leeds. This time she had more impact, as she opened the batting and made 144 not out in the drawn first Test. She followed up with 96 in the next at Worcester, and on tour with England in Australia that winter averaged 42.90 in five Tests, including a century in Perth. Her reputation for consistent excellence was now established and became the hallmark of her career.

Brittin's first World Cup final was in 1988, against Australia at the Melbourne cricket ground, where she top scored with 46 not out batting at No 3. But it was not a happy team performance and she recalled later that as Australia knocked off the runs with ease, "the ground seemed a very large and a very lonely place". A bitter experience for someone who hated losing, that defeat made the win in the 1993 World Cup all the sweeter, especially as England were also out in the semi-finals of her only other World Cup, in 1997 in India, a match in which she top scored for her side again, with 32.

Brittin called a halt to both her one-day and Test match careers the year after, at the age of 39, even though, in many ways, she still appeared to be at the height of her powers. In her final Test series, at home against Australia in 1998, and despite batting with a damaged finger, she had innings of 146, 59 not out, 167 (her highest Test score) and 72 in her last three matches.

Across her 19-year Test career covering a record 27 matches, Brittin averaged 49.61 with the bat and scored five hundreds, a total not yet beaten. She also took nine wickets with her off spin and, as an exceptional cover fielder, a record 19 catches in World Cups. In 63 one-day internationals her batting average was 42.42 – with another five centuries and a highest score of 138 not out in 1982. She was made MBE in 1999.

After her playing days Brittin taught at Danes Hill school in Oxshott, Surrey, having spent more than 20 years in her previous job at British Airways. But she kept up her associations with cricket and in

particular with Surrey, where she was an engaging and unassuming coach to younger players who appreciated the attentions of one of the greatest players the women's game has seen.

She is survived by her parents.

Janette Ann Brittin, cricketer, born 4 July 1959; died 11 September 2017