

Cricket Club speeches

If you play cricket let me warn you about allowing your wife to pick up the technicalities of the Beautiful game. Or if she does pick up those niceties the best plan is to prevent her making speeches. Of course you could go right back to fundamentals. Should you marry at all when you have a beautiful game to pledge your life to. If you do succumb to matrimony do make sure that the wife realises that a man must have his priorities. That established, do not under any circumstances let the better half exert her charms on your teammates.

Women, I find, have a way of being able to talk so much better than men – and men, being unable to resist female wiles, are likely to think "Here is a woman who can speak in public. Let us ask her to speak at our Annual Cricket Cup Club Dinner". This chain of events happened with my Dorothy, and I found myself unwittingly coaching her in the days that led up to the Cricket Club Dinner. She made the most of my weakness and when she stood up to speak she started (very coyly):

"Mr President, Ladies and Gentlemen, I am told that my husband is a fine fielder who fields at Silly Point, Derek Wood fields at Silly Mid-On, Ron Burnstead at Silly Mid-Off – and I'm waiting to hear who is fielding at Absolutely Stupid Long Stop."

Her words brought the house down, particularly when she made several more references to Stupid positions.

I made a mental note to use my position as Captain to ensure that Dorothy would not be asked to speak at future Dinners. One can only deplore such sacrilegious utterances.