

Cricket Morkels

Cambria 14 bold

Google “MORKEL” to see how overwhelmingly the two cricket brothers, Albie and Morné dominate the listings. There is so much readily available in cricket information sites, *youtube* and others about these two outstanding players that for our story I shall be brief about their current achievements - which can readily be updated on the internet. If we have a contribution to make, it will be to place them and cricket in context of the broader family.

Historically the family has been known for its prowess in rugby (see our story about the Rugby Morkels), but there has been an interest in cricket for over a century. Hendrik Johannes MORKEL (1842 - 1902), uncle of Rugby Springboks Sommie and Dougie MORKEL, was elected in November 1886 as Chairman of the first Cricket Club on the very new goldfields of the Witwatersrand (1, p45). One of his sons was a ‘very fair left-handed bowler (1, p 53). Dougie and his older brother Harry were also good cricketers (1, p52).

Two early first class Morkel cricketers were brothers Denys (Denijs) and Raymond MORKEL (1, p53). They were inspired to cricket by their father, William (Dooley) MORKEL (1864 - 1926). From his obituary (1, p27) and the memoirs of J.P. Duminy (2), former Vice-Chancellor of Cape Town University, we know that William was a remarkable sportsman. Born in Somerset West he was a senior public servant and retired to his Windsor farm near Cape Town at Diep River. His keenest interest from his younger days was cricket. He played for Claremont Cricket Club in Cape Town for many years, primarily as a bowler. Somewhat later he moved to Bellville and was captain and the life of the local cricket club for many years (See our story in “The Morgenster Morkels, pt3). At the age of 55 he took 8 wickets for 24 runs and, at 61, he took part in an Old Crocks match for Villagers against Hamiltons.

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Denijs Paul Beck MORKEL (1906 – 1980) played first class cricket from 1924 to 1938. He first appeared for South Africa in 1927-28, when he played in all five tests against England, but with modest results. On the tour of England in 1929 he did much better. Tall and well-built, he bowled fast



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British Army. He died suddenly in a Nottingham hospital on 6 October 1980, aged 74 years. (3)

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