

# Cricket Morkels

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).

Two early first class Morkel cricketers were brothers Denys (Denijs) and Raymond MORKEL. They were inspired to cricket by their father, William MORKEL (1864 - 1926). From his obituary (1, p27) 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, and 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. 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. William also played rugby for Villagers Football Club and represented Western Province in the 3<sup>rd</sup> tournament in 1894, when the team won the series.

**Denijs Paul Beck MORKEL** (1906 - 1980) played first class cricket from 1924 to



**Denijs Morkel (2)**

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 medium away-swingers with an easy action and was probably the best bowler on the team. He had decided to settle in England and was not available to play against the MCC side in 1930 -31. His health declined and he was not a success on the 1931-32 tour of Australia. In 1932 Sir Julien Cahn helped him to establish a business in the motor trade in Nottingham, which became a flourishing concern. He continued to play in England and made nearly

10,000 runs and took 400 wickets. During World War II he served in the British Army. He died suddenly in a Nottingham hospital on 6 October 1980, aged 74 years. (2)

**Raymond Kenneth Bellville MORKEL** (1908 – 1953) was a left-handed bowler and batsman and played first class cricket: Orange Free State (Main FC: 1926/27); Western Province (Main FC: 1927/28-1930/31); and Border (Main FC: 1935/36-1939/40). (3)

### **Albie, Morné and the Vereeniging Morkels**

This sporting family are the progeny of Daniel Johannes (Vat) MORKEL (1917 – 1968), who was born at *Die Bos*, second son of Johannes Albertus (Johnnie Bos) (1882 – 1966). Vat was a champion athlete, specializing in discus and shotput and studied Physical Education at Stellenbosch University.



**Daniel Johannes (Vat) Morkel**

Source: Morkel Family Video 1983

Vat was an inspirational teacher and sports coach at a high school in Vereeniging, a town on the banks of the Vaal River, the border between the then Transvaal and Orange Free State provinces. His sons, Albert was a first class cricket player and Gerhard a national discus champion.

Albert (Johannes Albertus) born 1950, followed his father, teaching at the same school in Vereeniging. He played first class cricket for Transvaal Country Districts (4).

Albert and his wife, Mariana have three sons, Malan, Albie and Morné. Malan MORKEL, born 1978 playing for Gauteng XI was a seam bowler who took two wickets, including that of Lara off the West Indies on November 11, 1998. He is Coach and Manager of H/S Garsfontein Cricket (5).

### **Albie Morkel**



**Albie Morkel hit the biggest six seen during the 2007 World Twenty20 and he winds up another at The Oval (11)**



**Albie Morkel (9)**

**Johannes Albertus (Albie) MORKEL**, born 1981 is a right-arm fast-medium bowler and left-handed batsman. He rose to prominence playing for his provincial side Easterns against the touring West Indians in 2003-04 when he defied food poisoning to score a century and take five wickets at Benoni. Ray Jennings, his provincial coach and a former South African wicketkeeper, predicted that Morkel would become a world-class allrounder, and Morkel was given his first taste of international action when picked for the tour of New Zealand in 2003-04. However, his early career brought only a glimpse of his talent and he always looked a perfect Twenty20 cricketer, where he continues to excel. He made his Test debut for South Africa against Australia in the third Test in Cape

Town in March 2009, replacing his brother who was dropped for the game. He has since played in several tests for South Africa as well as participating in the Indian Premier League for Chennai Super Kings. He has been man-of-the-match against Australia and also man-of-the-series for One Day Internationals. Albie is married to Marthmari neé Groenewald, and their son Albertus Johannes MORKEL was born on 1 December 2009 (6).

### **Morné Morkel**



**Morné Morkel (10)**

**Morné MORKEL**, born 1984, is an out-and-out fast bowler who has the pace and height to trouble the best. He made his first-class debut in 2003 and earned promotion to the Nashua Titans in the 2006 domestic season. A certain Allan Donald marked him out as national potential with good words

for the lanky fast bowler's ability to extract bounce and bowl genuinely fast. Morkel sat out of much of the 2005 season due to injury, but excelled in a fast bowling camp organised by the South African board under Donald's watchful eye. Critics have had little to say against him, and both his attitude and physical

strength were seen as plus points. With the big talking point of the 2006-07 season being India's tour of South Africa, Morkel used the opportunity to play for Rest of South Africa against the tourists to make a statement. On the opening day of the four-day fixture at Potchefstroom, Morkel cut a swathe through the Indian top order with 4 for 29. That showing earned him a Test call-up, and he made his debut in the second Test at Durban when Dale Steyn was ruled out, showing good application in an unbeaten 32, shepherding his fellow tail-enders, and pushing South Africa on to a score that seemed scarcely probable earlier in the match. He added three quick wickets on day three to help South Africa to a fantastic win, but missed out on the final Test at Cape Town.

He had a brief stint with Kent during the 2007 season and then impressed during the ICC World Twenty20 when his pace and bounce proved too much for some top batsmen. A stress fracture early in the Pakistan tour which followed halted the rapid rise, and at the start of 2008, his spell at Yorkshire was cut short by injury, but Morkel bounced back to lead South Africa's attack, without ever being at his



**Albie Morkel (R) is congratulated by Morne Morkel for the wicket of Nowroz Mangal of Afghanistan during The ICC World Twenty20 Group C Match between South Africa and Afghanistan played at The Kensington Oval on May 5, 2010 in Bridgetown, Barbados (8)**

best, on their victorious tour of England in July and August. In October 2008 he and his brother Albie became the first brothers in 56 years to be named as South African Cricket Annual Cricketers of the Year in the same season, and Morkel was an important, if unspectacular, part of South Africa's successful tour of Australia. He paid the price for some indifferent bowling form in the return series, however, and was dropped for the third Test at Cape Town. After a relatively quiet year, during which he

featured in South Africa's squad for the World Twenty20 but was overlooked for the Champions Trophy, Morkel was recalled to the one-day team for the third ODI against England in November 2009. He continued to trouble batsmen with sharp pace and steeping bounce in the Test series that followed, and came within a whisker of sealing a dramatic victory for South Africa in the third Test at Cape Town when he removed an obdurate Ian Bell in his penultimate over. He has played for Kent in the UK and Rajasthan Royals in India (7).

## Sources and Notes

Websites with information, photos and youtube videos of the Cricket Morkels abound. I list those I used.

1. P.W.Morkel, 1961. *Morkel Family history and Family Tree*. Published privately.
2. Denys MORKEL <http://www.espnricinfo.com/southafrica/content/player/46246.html>
3. Raymond Kenneth Bellville MORKEL  
<http://cricketarchive.com/Archive/Players/14/14155/14155.html>
4. Albert <http://www.espnricinfo.com/southafrica/content/player/46498.html>
5. Malan  
[http://www.quincric.co.za/index.php?option=com\\_contact&view=contact&id=1&Itemid=43](http://www.quincric.co.za/index.php?option=com_contact&view=contact&id=1&Itemid=43)
6. Albie [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albie\\_Morkel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albie_Morkel)
7. Morné [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morn%C3%A9\\_Morkel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Morn%C3%A9_Morkel)
8. Photo Morné congratulating Albie <http://www.zimbio.com/photos/Albie+Morkel/Morne+Morkel>
9. Albie photo  
[http://www.google.com.au/images?hl=en&pg=albie+and+morne+morkel+photos&xhr=t&q=albie+morkel+photos&cp=6&bs=1&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&sa=X&ei=r\\_x2TYOSFoiycl2f\\_IEF&sqi=2&ved=0CCsQsAQ&biw=1908&bih=1145](http://www.google.com.au/images?hl=en&pg=albie+and+morne+morkel+photos&xhr=t&q=albie+morkel+photos&cp=6&bs=1&um=1&ie=UTF-8&source=univ&sa=X&ei=r_x2TYOSFoiycl2f_IEF&sqi=2&ved=0CCsQsAQ&biw=1908&bih=1145)
10. Morné photo <http://search.rediff.com/imgsrch/preview.php>
11. [http://connect.in.com/morkel/photos-45881844-morkel766pa-2df3514f89d3028c.html#image\\_button](http://connect.in.com/morkel/photos-45881844-morkel766pa-2df3514f89d3028c.html#image_button)

## FAMILY LINE FOR DENYS AND RAYMOND MORTEL

- a1 Philip MORTEL \*27.2.1677 (Date uncertain) † 12.4.1735 (*Onverwacht*) xx 17.11 1713 Catharina PASMEN ~ 17.8.1691 † 29.3.1764 *Onverwacht* d.o. Roelof PASMEN & Sophia VAN DER MERWE.
- b3 Willem MORTEL ~25.12.1718 † 1788 (*Onverwacht*) xx 22.7.1759 Helena Catharina MALAN (*Morgenster*) ~ 11.3.1736 † 27.10.1825 d.o. Daniel MALAN & Maria VERDEAU
- c6 Daniel Johannes MORTEL ~ 2.9.1764 † 15.8.1825 (*Onverwacht*) xxx 25.4.1802 Sophia Alida Brink ~2.10.1768 †19.11.1824 d.o. Jan Godlieb BRINK & Susanna Maria DE KOCK
- d9 Willem MORTEL 3.6.1803 ~1.7.1804 †27.12.1876 (*Morgenster*) x Isabella Maria ZEEDERBERG \*28.2.1809 Cape Town †27.10.1886 d.o. Roelof Abraham ZEEDERBERG of Stromstad Sweden & Margaretha Elizabeth LOUW
- e1 Daniel Johannes MORTEL \*12.12.1832 †4.12.184 x 6.7.1863 Maria Adriana VAN DER BIJL \*15.7.1822 (Eerste Rivier) ~ 28.1.1844 (Stellenbosch) †26.12.1904 d.o. Paul Andries VAN DER BIJL & Elizabeth Wilhelmina HEROLD
- f 1 **Willem MORTEL** \*23.4.1864 ~13.12.1864 Somerset West †9.4.1926 (*Windsor Farm, Diep Rivier*) x 25.2.1980 Margaret Alexandra Adriana VAN BREDA \*27.8.1864 (Newlands) ~ 13.12.1864 †6.7.1917 (*Selborne, Bellville*), d.o. Alexander Jacobus VAN BREDA & Hester Elizabeth de Wet VAN DER BIJL
- g1 William Algernon Kingsmill \*? †10.9.1927 (Pretoria).  
g2 Alexander van der Bijl  
g3 Frank James Sievwright \*23.8.1899 ~ 6.11.1898 (Somerset West)  
g4 **Denijs Paul Beck** \*29.1.1906 †6.10.1980 (**Nottingham, UK**) Cricketer  
g5 **Raymond Kenneth Bellville** \*23.8.1908 †8.11.1953 Cricketer

## FAMILY LINE FOR VEREENIGING MORKELS

- a1 Philip MORKEL \*27.2.1677 (Date uncertain) † 12.4.1735 xx 17.11 1713 Catharina PASMEN ~ 17.8.1691 † 29.3.1764 (*Onverwacht*).
- b3 Willem MORKEL ~25.12.1718 † 1788 (*Onverwacht*) xx 22.7.1759 Helena Catharina MALAN (*Morgenster*) ~ 11.3.1736 † 27.10.1825
- c6 Daniel Johannes MORKEL ~ 2.9.1764 † 15.8.1825 (*Onverwacht*) xx 6.9.1793 Maria Dorothea LOUW ~17.12.1775 † 1801
- d7 Hendrik Johannes MORKEL \*1798 ~23.1799 † 14.2.1859 (*Onverwacht*) x 10.6.1821 Catharina Jacoba THEUNISSEN (*Vergelegen*) ~ 18.9.1803 † Dec 1831
- e1 Daniel Johannes MORKEL \* 15.7.1822 ~ 25.8.1822 † 12.8.1879 (*Die Bos/Onverwacht*) x Emerentia Elizabeth MALAN \*4.6.1822 † 25.9.1902
- f4 Hendrik Johannes Louw MORKEL \* 6.5.1854 ~25.6.1854 † 6.5.1926 (*Die Bos*) x 28.5.1878 Helena Catharina Philippina MIJBURGH (*Parel Vallei*) \*22.3.1860 † 21.11.1940.
- g9 Johannes Albertus MORKEL \*27.3.1882 (*Die Bos*) ~14.5.1882 †1966 x Antoinette Maria MALAN \*7.6.1878 ~8.9.1878 †5.8.1944
- h3 Daniel Johannes MORKEL (Vat) \*21.5.1917 (*Die Bos*) ~1.7.1917 †1968 (*Vereeniging*) x Anna BURGER
- i1 **Johannes Albertus (Albert) MORKEL** \*14.8.1950 (*Vereeniging*) x Marianna DU TOIT
- j1 **Malan MORKEL**
- j2 **Johannes Albertus (Albie) MORKEL** \*14.8.1981 x Marthmari GROENEWALD
- k1 **Albertus Johannes MORKEL** 1.12.2009
- j3 **Morné MORKEL** \*6.10.1984
- i2 Gerhard MORKEL x Gerda VAN WYK
- j1 **Simone**
- j3 **Gerhard**