



It was the end of an era for Holton Cricket Club this week when chairman David Peddy hung up his boots after playing the game for 46 years.

Peddy, 56, a well-known cricketer around the Oxfordshire villages, has played the last 26 of them for Holton, near Wheatley and has done a huge amount for the club down the years, both on and off the field. His last game was against Oxford Rescue on Sunday.

David, whose son Giles plays for the county, is way ahead on runs scored for the club, with more than 6,000, and leads the appearance record with over 300.

Club captain John Simpson said "We'll miss his trademark leg-side glance for a single 'just to keep the score moving along'".

David, who used to open, said. "I've been with Holton since it was set up in 1977 and I'm very sad about giving up playing. You don't do something for 46 years unless you really enjoy it".

He has hit more than 60 half-centuries and achieved his top score of 100 not out seven years ago. He has also bowled on occasions.

"I think I bowled four balls last year, but then had to stop", he laughed.

But Peddy, who is a member of the Oxfordshire Umpires' Association, said it saddened him the way sledging has become more and more rife in the game, even in social fixtures on a Sunday.

And it seems fewer players and teams want to play 'time' cricket.

"I've seen it watching my son in youth cricket, but you get it in all forms of cricket and I don't approve of it," he said.

"Fewer clubs play village cricket and people want to play overs games all the time rather than time cricket".

"I've also noticed a lack of youngsters coming through, not so much in Oxfordshire, but in the country generally, but that's down to how much cricket is taught in schools".

