



CRICKETING GREAT: Left, Tom Stafford with Sir Viv Richards, and right, fully kitted out at the wicket

Funeral driver Tom plans Ashes success

A TEESIDE worker hopes to succeed where the professionals failed and deliver Ashes success for England.

Tom Stafford, a driver with family-run funeral firm Crake and Mallon, hopes to be selected for the England over-60s against their Australian counterparts this summer.

Mr Stafford was part of the national side in 2011 and 2012, and is a wick-

etkeeper for the Yorkshire over-60s.

The 65-year-old ran a milk round and newsagents before retiring to work for the Stockton-based funeral director.

He said: "I enjoy my work as I feel like I am helping people on a difficult day. Crake and Mallon is a very good to work for because everybody knows each other and it's very much about being part of a team.

"I work when I'm needed and in the summer they are happy to let me work round my cricket."

Mr Stafford also met cricketing great Sir Viv Richards during a county tour to the West Indies last year, where the former batsman gave him a trophy for claiming the most catches and stumpings.

He said: "To get three lions on my

shirt was marvellous and Sir Viv came down with other former West Indies players Curtly Ambrose and Ridley Jacobs to hand out trophies.

"He was really friendly and very chatty."

Alison Crake, senior partner of Crake and Mallon, said: "Tom is a great ambassador for the cricket and for our company."