

## GENTLEMEN versus PLAYERS.

Old enough to remember those games?

**Ah the days of social class, when even the very word 'cricket' indicated approved behaviour. Misbehaviour was 'not cricket'. The Gentlemen did not need to be paid. The Players, the lower orders, did. The matches first took place in 1806 and stopped in 1963. Perhaps back then we thought the sixties would see the end of class warfare.**

By the way, those Gentlemen often picked up expenses higher than the wages of the Players. Surprised? How else do you get to be a Capitalist?

I believe that if you read **Michael Heseltine's latest book, From Acorns To Oaks: An Urgent Agenda to Rebuild Britain, 2025**, you will have no hesitation in classifying him as a member of the Gentlemen. But a very nice member of the team, showing the Players in Liverpool, Manchester, Birmingham and other places how to raise their game to get on the pitch with the Gentlemen, though not in the same changing room.

He tells us that he is from Swansea, not the Swansea I used to know but the one that seems to be a suburb of Esher or Walton on Thames. A proud Welshman? Actually a Wannabee Englishman, posh Englishman! And an ultra rich one as well. His house in England has a Visitors Centre.

Until Thatcher was inflicted upon us our governments, from whatever party, adhered to the Postwar Consensus. The nationalised industries were maintained. After Thatcher we were placed into a Tory Consensus, a socially and industrially destructive Consensus, Privatisation Rules, OK.

The two pictures of himself that Heseltine presents to us are, first, that he is much nicer than Thatcher, that the Players should see him as an exemplar of capitalism at its best. And, second, that he can enable them to get the occasional game as a sub for the Gentlemen.

I happen to know a fair amount about his role in Liverpool. Local politicians allowed him to make grand claims for his achievements. He does not seem to be aware that when councillors want support from Central Government they are happy to let them take the credit for all the work.

Freedom of the City for goodness sake!

As for taking credit for helping the Eldonian Housing Co-operative, I experienced at first hand the harm that his government did, a story for another day when you have the patience to be bored yet more by me.

**My judgement?**

**Heseltine is a Surface Politician.**

**Guess what, that makes him hugely better than most of them these days.**

**And the Tory Party? A story to tell your grandchildren.**

**Cliff Jones, 15th. April 2025.**

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