

Martyn Astin: Past, Present and Passion!

Profile by Russell Eggar

If there is one person who displays passion and commitment to Mytholmroyd Cricket Club beyond the norm, that person would be Martyn Astin.

A former captain of the first team and last season's highest scoring batsman in the 2nd XI, scoring over 800 runs, Martyn is not so much a member of the team as an institution. He is highly regarded within the club and the Halifax League for his outstanding contribution to cricket and is inexplicably tied to Mytholmroyd Cricket Club.

Martyn has played for the club since the age of 10 when his father, the great John Astin (a name that appears a lot around the village), introduced him to the game and spawned his love for cricket and a career that has lasted now nearly 30 years. Over time, Martyn has seen the club hovering between the Halifax League 1st and 2nd divisions with very limited real success, and it wasn't until 2003 that the club established itself as one of the biggest and most successful in the area.



Passionate about cricket and committed to the club, Martyn's career has witnessed both highs and lows. His love for the club goes so far that he even believes that any low points in his career should be learnt from and used as building blocks. He has bad memories, though, of the team being bowled out for 33 away to Stanley back in 1985!

Having said this, there have been defining moments in his career, not least the moment he was handed the first-team captaincy in 1978 aged just 18; he then kept the captaincy for 17 or 18 seasons. He has fond memories of this period even though he feels that at some points he may have been misunderstood, but mentions that this can happen when there is such widespread passion at the club.

Martyn's figures really do speak for themselves. He has scored over 20 centuries, over 100 half-centuries and scored over 20,000 runs in his time, making him one of the most important players in the club's recent history. He

is also a man who has a good support system in place in the form of two daughters and a new fiancée. He works during the week as a material controller for a large bathroom contractor outside Bradford but is more than happy to contribute his weekends to Mytholmroyd Cricket Club in whatever way necessary to help them gain more and more success.

In many ways, Martyn is the link between the club's past, present and future. He was brought up playing cricket for the club; his father, John, was captain when he started playing (when Mytholmroyd were the strongest club in the area) and when dad stopped playing, Martyn took over as skipper and his father became president of the club. He has seen players come and go, he's seen the game change drastically over the years, and he has seen trophies won and lost. He was part of the team that won the prestigious Crossley Shield competition in 2006 for the first time in 50 years; the last time had been in 1956 when his father had played a crucial on-field role. Martyn is now opening bat for the second team and is constantly encouraged by the wealth of new batting talent in the club today and continually impressed by the foundations being laid for the future.

It is a credit to Martyn that he openly attributes the club's recent success to the people around him and he firmly believes that things will only improve at Mytholmroyd, and as such is proud to be a part of the club. Martyn believes that he will only stop playing cricket the day he either can't walk out to the square or can't physically see the ball!

Martyn is a fiercely competitive player and one who will always take the right approach to any game. More importantly, he will always be grateful for the memories he has, the laughs he has endured, and the fantastic friends he has made, all because of his relationship with Mytholmroyd Cricket Club.