

Profile of Johnny Marshall by David Febrero

The phrase 'there's always one' comes to mind when describing Shelf's 1st XI wicketkeeper Johnny Marshall. When asked about the lowest point of his career, which can be a sensitive topic for many players, Johnny smiles and replies: "Being dropped for a fat lad. I won't say who, but he knows!"

The talented Marshall has been playing cricket for Shelf since junior level. Amazingly, at the age of 11 he so impressed his elders that club legend Mick Priestley advised him to try for the 1st XI. "Mick told me I should practise with the big boys if I thought I was good enough – two years later, when I was 13, I was starting in the second team," he said.



On the field Johnny has all-round talents. He won the most improved player award for the Under-15s, and two years later won the most improved batter for the Under-17s. 'The Mullet', as he is known around the changing rooms, also won the league award for wicketkeeping – his most favoured position. "Obviously I have won many more awards, but I don't want to bore you with them," he jokes.

Johnny doesn't have a most memorable match because "every game has a comedy aspect to it when you're playing for Shelf – but I will never forget smacking Neil Gill for 50 in the Evening League. Mick Smith attempting to run to the boundary is also unforgettable," he says.

Outside of cricket Johnny loves sport, but also, inevitably, "sex, drugs and rock and roll". He is currently a first-team player and cannot wait to show his worth in the upcoming season. "Everyone is really confident we can perform well in the league – I just can't wait to get started," he confirms.