

Profile of Neil Kennedy by David Febrero

First team bowler Neil Kennedy has experienced some of the most memorable, and forgettable, games in Shelf's history.

In his first season as a player, in 1993, Neil was part of a Waddilove Cup final defeat that took place in the most remarkable, and depressing, circumstances. 'We were chasing 150 or so and were 60-0 and going strong,' he remembers. 'Then, somehow, we were being bowled out for just 80 runs, and I was the last one out.' However, Neil does also have fonder memories of playing for Shelf. During his first spell at the club, between 1993 and 2000, 'Bernie' (as he is known to the team) achieved a record bowling analysis for Shelf, dismissing nine batsmen for just 18 runs against Hepworth. 'Steven Priestly got the other one, and I have only just started speaking to him again!' he joked.



Neil is handy with the bat as well. Against Crossroads, again in his first spell at the club, Neil came into bat at number 10 with the rest of the team contributing a mere 16 runs together. He ended up posting an outstanding 82 before he was finally bowled. Moreover, while playing for Long Lee, before his move to Shelf, Neil batted his way to his first 'first class' 50 in just eight minutes. He and his fellow partner put on 86 runs in just four overs!



He has been playing cricket since he can remember. Unbelievably, he joined his first cricket team, a local under-14 side, at just nine years old. After dominating at this standard, Neil ended up at Shelf, and despite leaving in 2000, he returned again last year. He is currently a member of the first team, although in his previous spell at the club he was a committee member and the evening league vice-captain.

Outside of cricket Neil is a keen footballer and supports Burnley FC. He is also obsessed by classic cars, and has a 1971 MGB Roadster and a 1977 Triumph Dolomite Spirit.