

HOLMFIRTH THE FINAL STOP FOR UNFORTUNATE TRINIDADIAN QUICKIE

Profile of Tony Gray by Sam Hollis

Tony Gray was a frightening specimen. The Trinidad-born fast bowler's pace and bounce once terrorised opening batsmen across the world, and even, more recently, Holmfirth Cricket Club near Huddersfield.

Standing tall at 6ft 6ins, Gray played 5 tests and 25 ODIs for the West Indies, and should in fact have had more caps if it wasn't for the emergence of true greats of the game such as Ian Bishop and Courtney Walsh. This thought is confirmed by his impressive stats at international level.



Gray took a wicket every 28 balls in the one-dayers, including 6 for 50 against Australia on his home ground in 1990. Injuries took away from this superb - yet short - West Indies career, and you could well argue that he was representing his country at the wrong time. Any other time-period would surely have given him an illustrious career.

Along with stints for in the Western Transvaal and Tobago, Gray signed for Surrey in 1985, and successfully kept club captain Geoff Howarth out of the team for the rest of Howarth's career at Surrey. This was because the overseas-player regulations at the time would not allow the two playing in the same side. In the end, Howarth himself insisted that the club needed Gray's bowling more than they needed his batting. Gray took a total of 180 wickets for the London side in his five-year stay at The Oval.

Now, at the age of 44, Gray can look back on an interesting career. He had a modest batting average, though; in his 5 Test matches, he averaged only 8 runs per innings. Which might not sound like a great deal, but fellow West Indian bowling legend Courtney Walsh only achieved a batting average of 7.54 in the 132 Tests he appeared in, which puts it into some context!

In his first class career as a whole, Gray took a total of 451 wickets in 122 matches. He moved to Holmfirth after he had spent time in Trinidad in the late 1990s.

With 22 wickets in 5 Tests, Anthony Hollis Gray can feel somewhat aggrieved that he was competing for a place in such a vintage period for West Indian fast bowling.