

MIDDLESEX MAN WHO IDOLISES VIV

PLAYER PROFILE: Rohan Abbott by Duncan Robinson

Rohan Abbott has been an invaluable member of the Augustinians set-up for the past two years. His first season was so successful that he was named as captain last season. However, after the highs of the first season, the second proved to be anything but happy for Abbott as the side struggled.

This is what has contributed to Abbott's shock decision to leave Augustinians and retire from cricket altogether. Abbott gave these further reasons for his decision, "When you're not enjoying yourself there's no point and I'm also not getting any younger. I'm 47 now and I feel the time is right. Other clubs have tried to persuade me to come out of retirement but I'm really just looking forward to spending more time with my family."

Abbott's decision will have come as a massive blow to Augustinians and their prospects for the upcoming season. Abbott is an aggressive right-handed batsman and his style has proved very effective in stacking up runs over the past two years. It is not only his ability with a bat that will be missed by Augustinians, though. He is also a more than handy medium-fast bowler. He was formerly a quick bowler but, as he puts it, "I haven't been able to bowl as fast as I've got older."



Abbott's all-time favourite player is Viv Richards. He watched him as a youngster and he was a great inspiration to him growing up playing cricket. What he liked most about Richards was his style and attitude and the way he "liked to dominate." What he really found inspirational about Richards, though, was that he played the game for the fans and it was clear he really enjoyed himself. Abbott likes to base his style of play on Richards and likes to think he has a similar attitude towards the game.

Abbott, a stock controller by profession, grew up in Ilford in London. Due to this he followed Middlesex CCC during his youth. He says of this, "I used to regularly attend games at Lord's because it was the nearest ground to me. Since I moved to Huddersfield eight years ago I do not really follow Middlesex as much, though." Away

from the cricket field Abbott is an accomplished musician and takes great satisfaction from being able to play both the piano and guitar.

Abbott says he will show his support to the club by regularly attending games this summer, "depending on the weather!" It is a shame that such a genuinely caring and down-to-earth man as Rohan Abbott has cut his playing career short because, like his idol Viv Richards, he plays cricket out of love for the game. This is an all too rare quality in today's cricketers and he will be missed, not least by Augustinians.