

‘THE CLUB MEANS EVERYTHING TO ME’

Q&A: SIMON HOYLE – BATSMAN-WICKETKEEPER BY IAN HODGSON

IH: How did you become a wicketkeeper?

SH: I guess it was the way I was brought up because my dad was a keeper and I followed suit. I started playing cricket from a young age and I have played for Broad Oak since I was in the youth team and to the present day – and I’m now in the first team.

IH: How long have you played in the first team for?

SH: I made my first team debut when I was 15 in 1983 and I've played for them ever since.



IH: What age did you start playing junior cricket?

SH: I first played for the juniors when I was nine or ten years old; then I played a bit of second team cricket and then cemented my place in the first team.

IH: Did you have much success at youth team level?

SH: Yes, we won some trophies at under-13 level and for the under-17s - where we won the Walker Cup - but there wasn't an under-15 level.

IH: What's your best batting performance?

SH: It would be the 1985 match against Holmfirth, where they had Tony Gray playing for them, who played Test match cricket for the West Indies. I scored 85 that day and Broad Oak went top of Section 'A'.

IH: What would you say your strengths are as a batsman?

SH: I feel that I can adapt to any situation in any particular game. I can score quick runs if needs be and I can also hold an end up if wickets in hand are more important, or if we've got attacking players at the other end. The older you get the more you play with responsibility and with the team in mind.

IH: Have you scored any centuries?

SH: No, my top score is 85, which I've reached twice. Also I've had a couple of seventies and a few half-centuries.

IH: What does Broad Oak CC mean to you?

SH: It means everything to me. I was brought up here and have lived here my whole life. Living so close to the ground and other players and members makes you feel part of a community.

IH: Do you take part in off-field activities?

SH: Yeah, I'll try and go up there as often as I can. Last weekend I went up there for a raffle, and it's good that everyone gets involved with this. There's usually plenty of bands on as well.

IH: How long do you see yourself playing for?

SH: As long as you can do, as you're a long time retired! Once you stop there's no going back so I just want to make the most of it, so as long as I'm fit enough I'll carry on.