

JOHN EDWARD SHILTON

John Shilton was born in Horbury on 2 October 1861 and died in Sedburgh on 27 September 1899. He played for Warwickshire between 1885 and 1895. His obituary in *Wisden* in 1900 said that, 'At his best he was a first-rate left-handed bowler, slow to medium pace. Bowling with a high and very easy action, he combined plenty of spin with accuracy of pitch, and during his early years in the Warwickshire eleven he was brilliantly successful.'

During his career he scored seven half-centuries with a highest score of 91 not out. He scored 2,283 runs at an average of 10.92. He also took 748 wickets for 10,803 runs at an average of 14.44. He took five wickets or more on 62 occasions and ten wickets in a match on 15 occasions. His best figures being 9 for 51. He took 124 catches. Shilton died aged just 37 - his life a book in its own and told by Robert Brooke in his volume, *John Edward Shilton's Book – Triumphs and Disasters of a Warwickshire Cricketer*. Suffice to say that ill health, bankruptcy and drink played a big part in his life story.

He played for the Mirfield club as a 14-year-old but returned in 1881 as the club's second professional behind J.Bushfield after he left the army. In the games between August and September he is alleged to have taken 59 wickets. On 28 June he took three wickets and scored 1 run batting at seven away at Rastrick. Then on 27 August he took five wickets at home against Leeds Clarendon and on 10 September four wickets against Dewsbury United Clerks.