

# ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE!

## Profile of Love Alish by Mark Edmonds

After the success of Tinashe Panyangara in 2007, new overseas player Love Alish will be hoping to hit the same heights in 2008. Love is a fast-medium opening bowler and also a very useful batsman lower down the order. At 25 years of age, the Indian quickie is also coming to the peak of his career having honed his skills in Indian first-class cricket over the past few years.



Even better for Barkisland is Love's current participation for Chandigarh Lions in the Indian Cricket League, which is played over the Twenty20 format. Playing alongside experienced internationals such as South African Andrew Hall and New Zealander Chris Cairns has only sharpened his skills further ahead of his move to the Drakes Huddersfield League. Of course, playing in the Indian Cricket League rather than the Indian Premier League means that Love will also be available from the very start of the season, therefore allowing everyone at Barkisland to fully benefit from his input.

Love has so far made five appearances for the Lions out of their seven games in the 2008 competition, taking six wickets in the process. Two significant scalps were that of long-time county cricketer Stuart Law and the New Zealand one-day specialist Andre Adams, both of whom have significant experience in the short form of the game.

In first-class cricket, the right-arter represented the Punjab state side where he was top wicket-taker for last season before signing to the ICL, having best bowling figures of 5-73 as well as also achieving a top score of 76. On top of this he has claimed the notable scalp of Indian legend V.V.S. Laxman not only once, but twice, in the same four-day game! The confidence gained from

dismissing such a batsman as “Very Very Special” will only help when he comes up against specialist overseas batsmen this coming summer. The ability to both bat and bowl could also prove crucial to BCC’s fortunes, especially in English conditions which can be more than ripe for fast bowling.

The partnership of opening bowlers Love and Tinashe is full of pace and movement and is something that could take Barkisland’s division by storm. Tinashe was a revelation last summer, and with the Zimbabwean again on hand to give Love some tips on how to bowl in English conditions, there is certainly cause for optimism in the squad.