

# BECKS, BRANDON, AND BOTTOM!

5 minutes with Paul Winrow  
By Mark Edmonds

**Nickname:** Cinders – apparently I'm always the first one to go home on a night out!

**Favourite sportsman as a youngster:** Probably David Beckham. I grew up watching him at Manchester United and even now he's probably my favourite.



**Strengths:** I'd say my determination, I want to play, want to practise all the time. I've got a reasonable amount of ability but I always work hard at my game.

**Weaknesses:** My knee! [Paul tore the cartilage in his left knee just before Christmas playing football]. Plus I probably don't have as much talent as I should have.

**Who do you play like:** I was always a bit of an Atherton! Just keep batting, keep batting and keep batting really.

**Highlights:** I got a double hundred last year, which actually matched my Dad's highest score for the club, which is 206. I think he was pretty happy it wasn't broken, to be honest! Then in 2005 we won the Bradford League 1<sup>st</sup> Division which was the first big trophy that I had won.

**Lowlights:** That same year – 2005. We lost in two cup finals which was a downer, and obviously getting relegated in 2006.

**Toughest opponent:** Brandon Nash, who was a South African batsman. He was just a quality player, it didn't matter who was bowling - he was just awesome.

**Best player played with:** Flintoff – I played with him for Lancashire 2nds and he was coming through at the same time. He was destined – the club knew he was going to be a big star. He was massive and used to just smash the ball all over the park.

**Best advice given:** That you can't score runs back in the pavilion! It was my Dad's theory, which I never used to listen to, but eventually you realise that he is talking some sense.

**Biggest practical joker:** Shaggy (Matthew Steers) definitely. He always comes up with the goods, there's plenty going on when it comes to him.

**Biggest influence:** I'd say Ian Steen who was my first coach at Yorkshire. He taught me how to really bat properly and everything.

**First car:** It was an N reg white Vauxhall Astra 1.7 diesel! It was battered, it was white, it was horrible but it was a good little car.

**Favourite Film:** Schindler's List

**Favourite type of music:** I'm not a big music fan really, anything that's in the charts I'm pretty happy with.

**Favourite TV programme:** Bottom – we used to watch it all the time at Uni, went to see them live three times. I think it was all the practical jokes, the slapstick comedy and then all the banter that goes along with that.

**Favourite female celebrity:** Halle Berry – that scene in James Bond!

**Most embarrassing moment:** I was playing in a cup semi-final about 10 years ago and I got an inside edge off a very quick bowler straight into my knackers. I keeled over in a heap and there were probably about 500 people watching. I was out two balls later because I just couldn't bat on!

**Ideal holiday destination:** Thailand – the people are really nice and you can do the beach, do the backpacking, do the culture all in about two days. I'd love to go back there.

**Where do you see yourself in five years:** Probably retired in a wheelchair! My wife would like me to retire. Hopefully winning the league title three years on the trot.