

ONE OF THE LADS

Profile of Tinashe Panyangara by Mark Edmonds

In addition to overseas player for 2008 Love Alish, Barkisland can again call upon the services of former Zimbabwe Test bowler Tinashe Panyangara for the upcoming season. Originally BCC's 2007 overseas player, Tinashe has now qualified as an EU resident and is available to play for the whole of the coming campaign.



The Zimbabwean fast bowler first came to these shores while representing his country at the 2004 ICC Champions Trophy where he took on both England and Sri Lanka. Before that, Tinashe had made his Test debut against Sri Lanka in May of the same year where he took three wickets including those of Prasanna Jayawardene and Muttiah Muralitharan. "Tin Man", as he is known by his teammates, has also represented his country in 23 One Day Internationals taking 26 wickets, including that of England star Ian Bell.

Tinashe originally made his English club debut in 2006 for Grimsby, who were playing in the Lincolnshire League. However, when the opportunity came to play for Barkisland, he jumped at it: "The standard of cricket here is a lot better than it was at Grimsby," he says. "I want to play at the best level that I can and hopefully this year it'll be even better after being promoted last season. I want to test and push myself."

During the winter months, the right-arter keeps himself fit by playing rugby union for Halifax Vandals. Not only is his pace tough for the opposition to handle, but he shows off his natural sporting ability by also kicking the side's penalties and conversions. "Cricket is still obviously my main sport," he maintains, "so I stopped playing for Halifax on March 1st in order to concentrate fully on pre-season."

So what has persuaded the former Test player to stay at Barkisland for now and the foreseeable future? “Everyone here is so friendly,” Tinashe says with a broad smile breaking across his face. “It wasn’t just a case of one or two players helping me, it was everybody on and off the field who were brilliant to me – it helped me settle in very quickly.” The Zimbabwean was also encouraged to mix socially as much as he could with the side and it shows in how he really is now “one of the lads”.

Although Tinashe is quiet and almost shy at times, he lets his cricket do all the talking for him, normally while uprooting your off-stump. Club captain Paul Winrow is especially pleased with Tinashe’s decision to stay with BCC for this season. “It’s great for the club, as we’ll now have both Tinashe and the new overseas player in Love Alish,” says Paul. “With stronger opposition where we’ve been promoted as well, it’ll be like having two professionals at the club rather than just the one.”