

# STAR IN THE MAKING

## Profile of Basil D'Oliveira, Marsden CC, by Mark Bryans

Basil D'Oliveira treated Marsden and their supporters to a cameo appearance when he played for them as a substitute professional during the Whitsuntide weekend in 1960. In the match against Linthwaite he smashed a magnificent century including hitting 30 from one over.

### D'OLIVEIRA OUTSTANDING IN WHIT GAMES

#### Three quick fifties and six wickets

**OUTSTANDING** among Huddersfield Cricket League feats during the Whitsuntide cricket matches, blessed by ideal weather conditions, were those of the coloured South African player, Basil D'Oliveira, who deputised for Marsden professional, Pat Illingworth, on Monday and Tuesday. Illingworth was playing for the Yorkshire second eleven against Lancashire II.

Playing at Linthwaite on Monday, D'Oliveira hit a magnificent 101, including thirty off one over, — the third individual century so far this season — and followed by capturing six Linthwaite wickets for 28 runs in seventeen overs as Lancashire were dismissed for 70 runs.

On Tuesday at Marsden he captured only two wickets but going in at the fall of the first Marsden wicket promptly proceeded to hit 62, including two sixes and ten fours.

D'Oliveira scored his first fifty at Linthwaite in thirty-six minutes, his second in thirty-four minutes and the one at Marsden in thirty-two minutes.

As he is a professional he does not qualify for the quickest fifty award.

**Pepper's effect**

Another deputy professional to do well was the Australian, Cecil Pepper, who took the place of the injured Bernard Brooke in Broad Oak's side at Ribblesdale on Monday, and who took six wickets for 12 as Huddersfield were dismissed for 107. He then scored 25 not out as Broad Oak went to a six-wicket victory.

### Association side lose at Barnsley

**ALTHOUGH** runs were scarce in the annual Whitsuntide match between Huddersfield and District Cricket Association and a Barnsley and District League XI at Grimethorpe Institute ground there was ample compensation for the crowd in the shape of some first rate bowling backed up by excellent fielding.

Barnsley won their second game since the event was revived seven years ago in impressive fashion with six wickets in hand.

Huddersfield won the toss, elected to bat on what appeared to be a wicket full of runs, but surprisingly their batsmen were always struggling. Only two players, J. Taylor (28) and T. Willerton (22), reached double figures in the total of 71.

Of the Barnsley bowlers, D. Brown took four for 35 (in thirteen overs, two of which were maidens) and J. Carr four for 22 (in nine overs, three of which were maidens). The other successful bowlers were D. Miran (1-6) and T. Holding (1-2).

Barnsley got off to a shaky start, losing their opening pair, C. Brookes and J. Carr, for a meagre 19 runs. Both players fell victims to pace bowler D. Carr.

Barnsley suffered a further shock when F. Barry brought off a fine one-handed catch to dismiss J. Pyne. The Barnsley score stood 37-3 and Huddersfield appeared to have a fighting chance—but then came the great transformation.

Barnsley captain Eddie Mills, joined by D. Eagle, did some hurricane hitting and took the score to 47 before Eagle, with a polished 41 to his credit (including eight boundaries), was "Yorked" by F. Jackson.

Mills (20 not out) and R. Bone (6 not out) were together when Huddersfield were dismissed for 70 runs.

### District League

FIRST ELEVEN SECTION "A"

Player	R	W	O	M	D	TS	TS
Huddersfield	5	4	1	2	0	21	
Thorncliffe	2	4	1	0	0	14	
Broad Oak	2	4	1	0	0	22	
Kirkstall	2	4	1	0	0	22	
Dalton	2	4	1	0	0	22	
Hill Topper	2	4	1	0	0	11	
Lindwood	2	4	1	0	0	11	
Stanninglee	2	4	1	0	0	11	
Strath	2	4	1	0	0	12	
Haltwhistle	2	4	1	0	0	12	
Alwoodley	2	4	1	0	0	12	
Blomfield	2	4	1	0	0	11	

SECTION "B"

Player	R	W	O	M	D	TS	TS
Colley	3	7	2	0	0	6	28
Stanninglee	3	4	1	0	0	6	24
Padstow	3	3	1	0	0	24	
Lapthorn Hall	3	3	1	0	0	21	
Rivets	3	3	1	0	0	21	
Pyramus Hill	3	3	1	0	0	17	
Haworth	3	3	1	0	0	17	
Rossett	3	3	1	0	0	15	
Linthwaite	3	3	1	0	0	15	
Armitage	3	3	1	0	0	12	
Bradley Hill	3	3	1	0	0	12	
Shaydon	3	3	1	0	0	9	



**B. D'Oliveira**  
First Africa

### Schoolboy dream in reality

**SATURDAY** brought for seventeen-year-old Stewart Sykes of Scholes, the happy experience every schoolboy dreams about — a last-minute call to help his side and a match-winning performance.

An unwanted reserve for the Scholes second team he was called on for the first time against Holmfirth because they found at the last moment they were a man short.

Holmfirth's opening bats 11, Marnham and D. Senior, were going strong with over 50 on the board before, in desperation, Sykes was called on to bowl—and promptly claimed seven wickets for 36 runs!

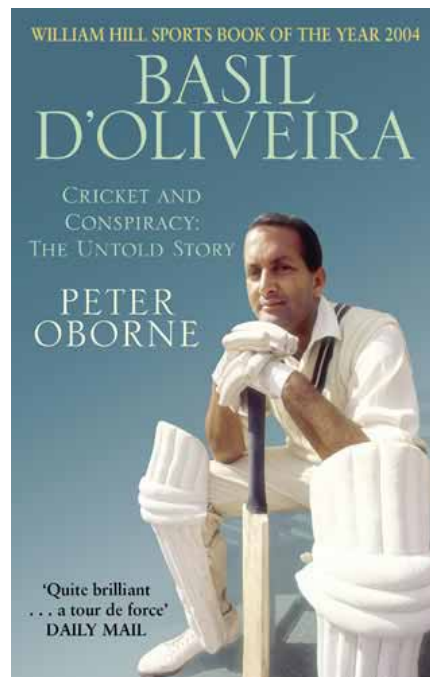
Holmfirth were all out for 122 and Scholes with N. Sill and

### Holmfirth player impresses

**STEWART ARMITAGE**, the young Holmfirth fast bowler, gave an impressive performance for the Yorkshire

The story of the coloured South African-born England all-rounder is that of legend. He was barred from representing South Africa due to Apartheid. He did, however, captain the non-white South African cricket team as well as represent the South African non-white soccer team. But after a glowing reference from sports journalist John Arlott, Middleton CC of the Central Lancashire League signed him as a professional. He later represented Worcestershire and England and 'Dolly' was even voted *Wisden Cricketer of the Year* in 1967.

He was not selected for the England tour of his native country in 1968 and many believed this was due to pressure placed on the MCC by South Africa, who threatened to cancel the matches if D'Oliveira were to be included. After an injury to another member of the touring party, D'Oliveira was called in as replacement and the South African Prime Minister John Vorster hastily cancelled the tour. Many see this incident as provoking the sporting boycott of South Africa on account of their apartheid rule. D'Oliveira himself later revealed he had been offered a large sum of money not to go on the tour.



D'Oliveira's Test record speaks for itself. He played 44 matches and finished with a batting average of 40.06 (with 2,484 runs) and a bowling average of 39.55 (with 47 wickets). Many cricket experts believe that if he had been spotted at an earlier age – he was 29 when he signed for Middleton - he would have set many records.

Now at the age of 76, D'Oliveira is in ill health, suffering from Parkinson's disease and living in a care home. His son Damian also played county cricket for Worcestershire for 13 years and is the current director of the club's academy. Basil's brother also travelled to England to play cricket, although he only ever represented his county, Leicestershire, on one occasion.

The impact of Basil D'Oliveira has not been forgotten by his county or adopted country. Worcestershire named a stand at their New Road ground after him and in 2004 it was announced that the victors of any future Test Series between England and South Africa would become holders of the Basil D'Oliveira Trophy.