

HADLEE, FAIRBROTHER AND NIRVANA

Profile of Al Leeson – First Team Fast Bowler

By David Brenchley

Describe yourself on the pitch

[I'm a] disciplinarian, a bit of a laugh. I try to be a perfectionist, I like to set my own field. Just have a bit of a laugh, camaraderie. At the end of the day it's only a game; if we win, lose or draw it doesn't bother me as long as everybody pulls their weight.

How long have you been playing for Outlane and who have you played for previously?

I started 2008, hadn't played for about two years before that. Previous clubs: Midsummer Norton, who were in the West of England Premier for about six years from 2000. Prior to that, a couple in the Lancashire League.



Do you have any memorable matches?

2002 Second XI Cup Final; we played on Taunton's main ground against a team called Bridgewater who were very arrogant. We won by 50 runs, I took a couple of wickets and a couple of catches, played on a very good track. That's one that sticks out, and I actually won a piece of memorabilia. Other than that not many, probably too many to forget rather than to remember.

Who would you say is your cricketing icon?

I think the best batsman I have ever seen was Neil Fairbrother, used to play for Lancashire and England. Always busy, a small player, adaptable in any situation, kept the bowler guessing where to bowl to him. Bowling-wise I would say Richard Hadlee who used to play for New Zealand. The best of the lot, temperament, good line and length, gentleman on an off the pitch, unlike what you get today.

What do you enjoy most about playing cricket?

Basically, because I am a bowler I like to get the other people out! If you don't like the person at the other end you have got to make them dance so you pitch it in short, make them guess etc. I have taken a lot out of the game from coaching so now it's about giving something back, bringing a few young players through at the same time.

What other sports do you play (or watch) in your spare time?

I work out, do a lot of football but not really much else. I like a bit of Brit Pop, 80s/90s grunge music – Nirvana, etc but I just chill out really.