

COLD BUT CLASSY!

Andrew Smith on Stuart Law - Illingworth CC and Australia

We signed Stuart through Jack Simmons at Lancashire, who had lots of good contacts in Australia. Stuart was a young lad at the time, maybe 18, and on the fringes of the Queensland team. You could say he was a little green and up and coming.



He coached the juniors when he arrived. On one occasion I remember him being very cold at junior practice night. In fact I think he had five jumpers on! He said he'd never been so cold and might actually die if he stayed out any longer. So we came inside – and sat him in front of a gas heater for two hours!

He only played until the June. I think he scored one century for the club. He looked a really class player – I wasn't really surprised when he went on to make the grade in first-class cricket. He was an all-rounder in his younger days and I think we over-bowled him slightly.

He also hurt his knee. Queensland wanted him to have it treated in Australia rather than in England, so he flew home. He was on the verge of a breakthrough with Queensland, and had signed a contract with them just after he signed the dotted line to play for us. So he was happy to be back home.

Within a few years he had made his name and had moved out of our league. The rest is history. I think he had three years at Littleborough in the Central Lancashire League and then obviously went on to skipper Queensland, play for Australia and also ply his trade with Essex and Lancashire in the English County Championship.