

# New Road's right arm <sup>1979</sup>

WHEN Albert Bottomley, of Rastrick New Road Cricket Club, died in 1975, the committee of the Huddersfield and District Cricket Association decided that the memory of his selfless work for both club and league should be perpetuated, and instituted the Albert Bottomley Loyal Service Award, presented annually to someone whose record of loyalty is worthy of such a tribute. The present holder of this award is Albert's son, Trevor, also of Rastrick New Road.

It is 32 years since, as a young schoolboy, Trevor Bottomley played his first game for New Road, in the second eleven, naturally. He started as Len Hutton began his career for both Yorkshire and England — with a duck — but he took three catches and remembers how, his mother having promised 3d a catch, he dashed home after the match to claim his three threepenny bits. However, like Hutton, he was clearly destined for better things, and he made steady progress until, in the 1950 season, he had the rare distinction of topping both first and second eleven batting averages.

The following season he joined the Huddersfield club in the Huddersfield League, and it was while at Fartown that he was selected for the Yorkshire Federation trials. Other youngsters hoping to be selected for the Federation Tour were Brian Stott, Ken Taylor, Doug Pedgett and Mel Ryan, all to become regulars with the Yorkshire senior side — two of them played for England — and Jack van Gelovan who, after leaving Yorkshire, had a long career with Leicestershire.

It remains Trevor's greatest disappointment that he narrowly missed selection for that team, and he had to accept as a consolation being picked as twelfth man when the U-19's played against Lancashire at Fartown. In his scrapbook is a "Huddersfield Examiner" cutting showing a photograph of him flanked by two other Huddersfield youngsters — Ken Taylor and Mel Ryan.

He played with Huddersfield for two seasons before joining Golcar, still in the Huddersfield League, and it was this season which confirmed in him the belief that loyalty means more than ambition.

Leaving early in the morning for work at Lindley, he went twice a week straight from there to the Golcar ground to attend practice, but with no more than half-a-dozen caring to turn up, while most of the cricketers from both of New Road's teams were at Badger Hill on the same night, it was clear where his future lay. To play the game with people, friends moreover, who shared his enthusiasm and desire to practice and play as often as possible was more important than the status of playing at what was supposed to be a higher level.

His return to Badger Hill began an association with the club which has been broken only by a period of National Service, and has coincided with the New Road club's remarkable run of success, to which his talents have been a major contributor. During those years the club have won the First Division of the Huddersfield Association on 15 occasions, and have been Lumb Cup winners 11 times.

While serving in the RAF he continued to play a great deal of cricket, both with and against such players as Keith Gillhouley, who had a few games with Yorkshire before becoming a Nottinghamshire player in the early 1960s, and A. C. Sherrif and Stuart Leary, of Kent. Leary was, of course, a Charlton Athletic footballer for many years as well as a hard-hitting batsman until his retirement seven or eight years ago.

In the Yorkshire County Cricket Club Yearbook there is a section entitled "Exceptional Bits of Bowling." Looking at the statistics of Trevor Bottomley's career, a list headed "Exceptional Bits of All-round Day" would be formidable indeed. To quote just a few of the many examples — 53 and five for 32 against Acre Mills; 50 out of 98 all out, then five for 25 as Birchencillife were bowled out for 97; seven for six as Berkby made only 86, and 32 as New Road won by seven wickets; 94 and five for nine against Britannia Works. Only a fortnight ago, he scored 45 and took five for 11 as his team progressed to the Second Round of the Lumb Cup.

Almost as of right he occupies a high position in the League batting averages, finishing first in 1963, and, although he regards his bowling as a secondary achievement, he has frequently been one of the Huddersfield Association's most successful bowlers. Bottomley has now scored over 10,000 runs for New Road as well as taking over 200 wickets.

However, the facts of a cricketer's career provide little measure of that man's qualities in playing what an eighteenth century poet called the "glorious, manly, British game." Statistics tell nothing of the strength of the opposition, nor of the context in which a player's runs were scored or wickets taken. The story of a Lumb Cup game against Galtone in 1962 provides evidence of Trevor Bottomley's temperament, of his reaction when an important match appears lost.

Outline totalled 175, and shortly after the start of the New Road innings, Bottomley was hit above the eye, receiving a nasty gash which clearly needed attention. After visiting three doctors he finally had to go to the hospital to have several stitches inserted into the wound and, returning to the ground, was able to resume his innings at No 8. New Road lost three further wickets, and 38 were required for victory when Len Herbet Revell bent joined him at the wicket. On a difficult day, they saw their side into the Extra Round, with Bottomley, who had been out for nearly one hour, scoring 37 not out. New Road went on to win the match.

There is one other impression that Trevor Bottomley has carried the



**TREVOR BOTTOMLEY**

New Road team for the past two-and-a-half decades then this is unintentional, and the player himself is at pains to point out that he has always been one of a team, a team which, in the early 1960s won the First Division of the Association for seven consecutive seasons.

That team was captained by Trevor's cousin, Wilfred Bottomley, present secretary of the club, himself an outstanding batsman, who won the League batting averages in 1965, when Trevor was second; Roland Towell, Dougie Swallow, Ken Broadbent, David Croft and Charlie Horner are just some of the names in a team which achieved a rare dominance, and a feat which will probably remain unequalled.

Cricket is not the only sport which Trevor Bottomley has played. Until joining the RAF he was fullback in the Rastrick New Road soccer team, and in 1960 was a member of the Elland United team which won the First Division of the Halifax League, the Knockout Cup and the West Riding Cup. His winter sport is now the less strenuous but no less skilful game of billiards, and among his many cricket and football trophies are three which he won as a member of the New Road teams that finished at the top of the Huddersfield Sunday School Billiards League.

Trevor's daughter, Suzanne, who hopes to become a physical education student later this year, appears to have inherited her father's sporting ability. A student in the sixth form at Brighthouse Girls' Grammar School, she is the current holder of the Arthur Reeve Trophy, presented annually to the school's outstanding all-round sportswoman. As Arthur Reeve was President of Rastrick New Road for 31 years, it is fitting that the trophy donated by the former Mayor of Brighthouse should find its way into the Bottomley household. Captain of the school hockey and athletics teams, she is also tennis champion and a member of the netball team. At hockey, she was captain of the Calderdale Under-18 side during the past season, and represented Yorkshire at that age level. She is also an accomplished cricketer, playing for Wakefield Ladies.

Suzanne's mother, Myra, although without an impressive list of sporting achievements, is nonetheless as involved in the affairs of Rastrick New Road as her husband. For 13 years she has been secretary of the Ladies Committee, and is one of that unsung band of wives and sweethearts who labour behind steaming tea urn and stacks of cut loaves, margarine and meat paste to provide sustenance for their lusty menfolk, who will spend their afternoon cavorting and cursing under sun and cloud.

As well as being a leading player for many years, Trevor Bottomley has contributed as much to New Road during the week as on Saturday afternoons. He still practises regularly, in an age when many cannot bother themselves with such a time-consuming inconvenience, and is frequently to be seen cutting the outfield at Badger Hill, or preparing a pitch for the weekend's game. Like John Nyren of the Hambleton side two centuries earlier, he is the "head and right arm of the club."

There was a recent suggestion, not a serious one, in the Bottomley household that Trevor might be approaching the end of his playing career but this was confidently dismissed by one who feels he had a point to make. Last season, under his captaincy for the first time, the New Road first team did not win a trophy and finished third in the league. This is regarded as a failure, and it seems to me that Trevor Bottomley will not be finished until he leads his side back to their accustomed position.