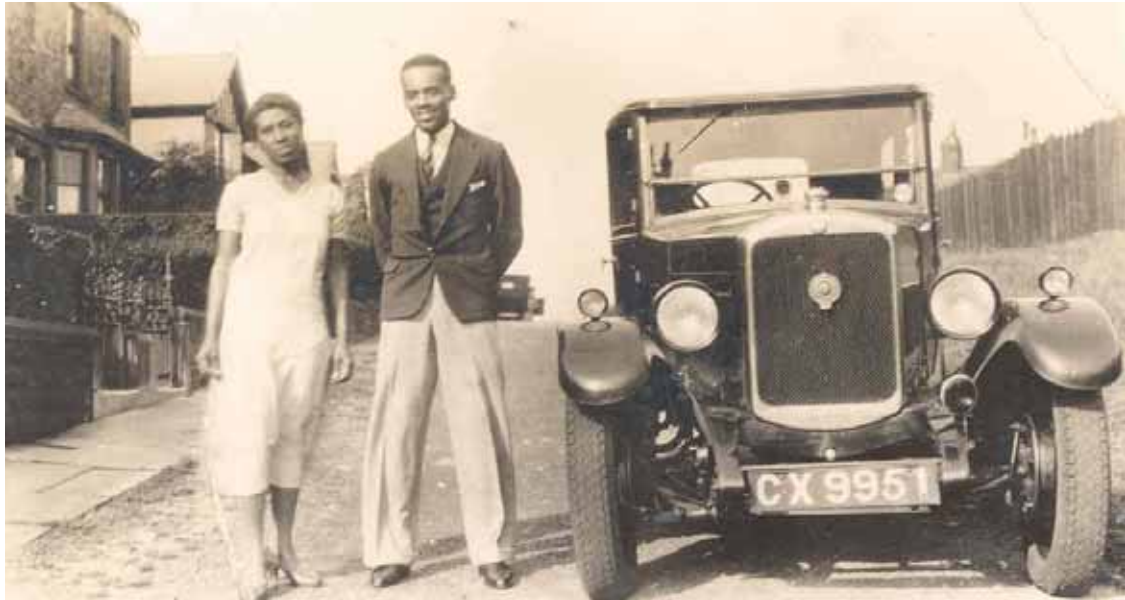


# CRICKETING PIONEER

Profile of Edwin St. Hill by Peter Redding

**Teams: Slaithwaite, Trinidad, West Indies**

In many ways Edwin St. Hill is the most significant player in the history of the Huddersfield League. His acquisition by Slaithwaite in 1934 was a milestone, as he became the first black player to appear in the Huddersfield League and in the process paved the way for a host of coloured players to make their name in West Yorkshire.



St. Hill, one of three brothers to play for Trinidad, made his debut in 1924 at the Kensington Oval in Barbados against British Guiana. Among his teammates that day was the legendary Learie Constantine, who would later prove to be an influential figure behind his defection to England ten years later.

St. Hill made an excellent start to his First Class Career with the ball even though he was regarded as little more than a medium pacer. He claimed 11 wickets in his first 2 matches sharing the new ball with the lively Constantine. His early days as a batsman proved to be frustrating as he was moved up and down the batting order. This was highlighted by the fact that he batted at

number 11 on his debut then opened in his second game before moving back to number 11 for the following match.

Having only made a limited impact thus far in his career everything came together for St. Hill in one match, the 1929/30 Inter Colonial Tournament Final against British Guiana. He claimed 6 for 117 in the first innings and then followed up with 67 with the bat in the second innings, his maiden 5-wicket haul and First Class half-century respectively.

His performance was rewarded with a call up to the West Indies squad to play England in 1930. St. Hill's two appearances in the series were best remembered for the batting of the "Black Bradman" George Headley, who scored 3 centuries in 4 innings. St. Hill managed only 18 runs and 3 wickets in the two games but was retained in the squad for the tour of Australia that followed in 1930/31. Unfortunately he struggled to make an impact in the state games on the tour, scoring only 16 runs in 5 innings and as a result failed to appear in the 5 match Test series.

The tour of Australia proved to be St. Hill's final taste of First Class cricket as he swapped Trinidad for Slaithwaite. The move itself was a matter of chance, St. Hill was attending a charity match at the club, featuring fellow Trinidadian Learie Constantine, when he was approached about becoming the professional at the club.

St. Hill's move was big news at the time given that no coloured players had previously appeared in the league. He debuted in 1934 and was an instant hit in his first season at the club claiming 87 wickets at 12.91 in addition to scoring 408 runs as Slaithwaite shared the title with Golcar. He returned in 1945 after the Second World War and took his tally to 152 wickets at 10.52. He died in 1957 but 50 years on he is still regarded as the most famous and influential cricketer to have graced Hill Top.

1924-1931	Batting and fielding averages										
	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	100	50	6s	Ct	St
<b>Tests</b>	2	4	0	18	12	4.50	0	0	1	0	0
<b>First-class</b>	17	29	6	274	67	11.91	0	1		11	0

Bowling averages													
	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	10
<b>Tests</b>	2	4	558	221	3	2/110	2/134	73.66	2.37	186.00	0	0	
<b>First-class</b>	17		4519	1832	64	6/117		28.62	2.43	70.6	1	1	

Source: [www.cricinfo.com](http://www.cricinfo.com)

## SLAITHWAITE'S NEW PROFESSIONAL.

EDWIN ST. HILL, OF LOWERHOUSE.

The big step in the local cricket world has been taken. Rumours have been current of late that some local clubs were to engage players of outstanding repute as their next professionals and it is fitting that the Slaithwaite club, who have been widely mentioned in this connection should take the first step. They have engaged as their professional for next season Edwin St. Hill, the West Indian, who for the past three seasons has played with the Lowerhouse club in the Lancashire League. He will be the first coloured player to be introduced into the Huddersfield League.

St. Hill, who was introduced to the Lowerhouse club by Constantine, visited Slaithwaite with his more famous countryman in a friendly match this season, and attracted the interest of the Slaithwaite officials on that occasion. 28 years of age, he has played for the West Indies in America and Australia. Last season he scored 477 runs with an average of 20.73, and took 77 wickets at an average of 13.87. We understand that Slaithwaite have offered him £240 together with a benefit match for full weekly services for the season. That means he will be available for mid-week games.

### PLAYED IN THE COLONIES.

Through the courtesy of Mr. Herbert Sykes, secretary of the Slaithwaite club, we are able to publish the following details concerning St. Hill from a writer who signs himself "Lowerhousian." The writer states: "This native of Port of Spain, Trinidad, is a well-educated man. He was signed by Lowerhouse on the recommendation of Constantine and in his first season the club received over £500 in "gate" money for its enterprise.



E. ST. HILL.

St. Hill has played cricket in Australia and New Zealand. One of his brothers came over to this country with a previous team from the colony, but this player was a batsman only. Slaithwaite's new professional is a good all-round cricketer, and the opinion is often expressed that the best has not been seen of this player yet.

St. Hill is essentially a player who plays for his club, otherwise his averages with both bat and ball would have been better than they are. On countless occasions he could easily have carried out his bat but the West Indians delight to put action into their play and the additional risk thereby entailed is joyfully accepted by them.