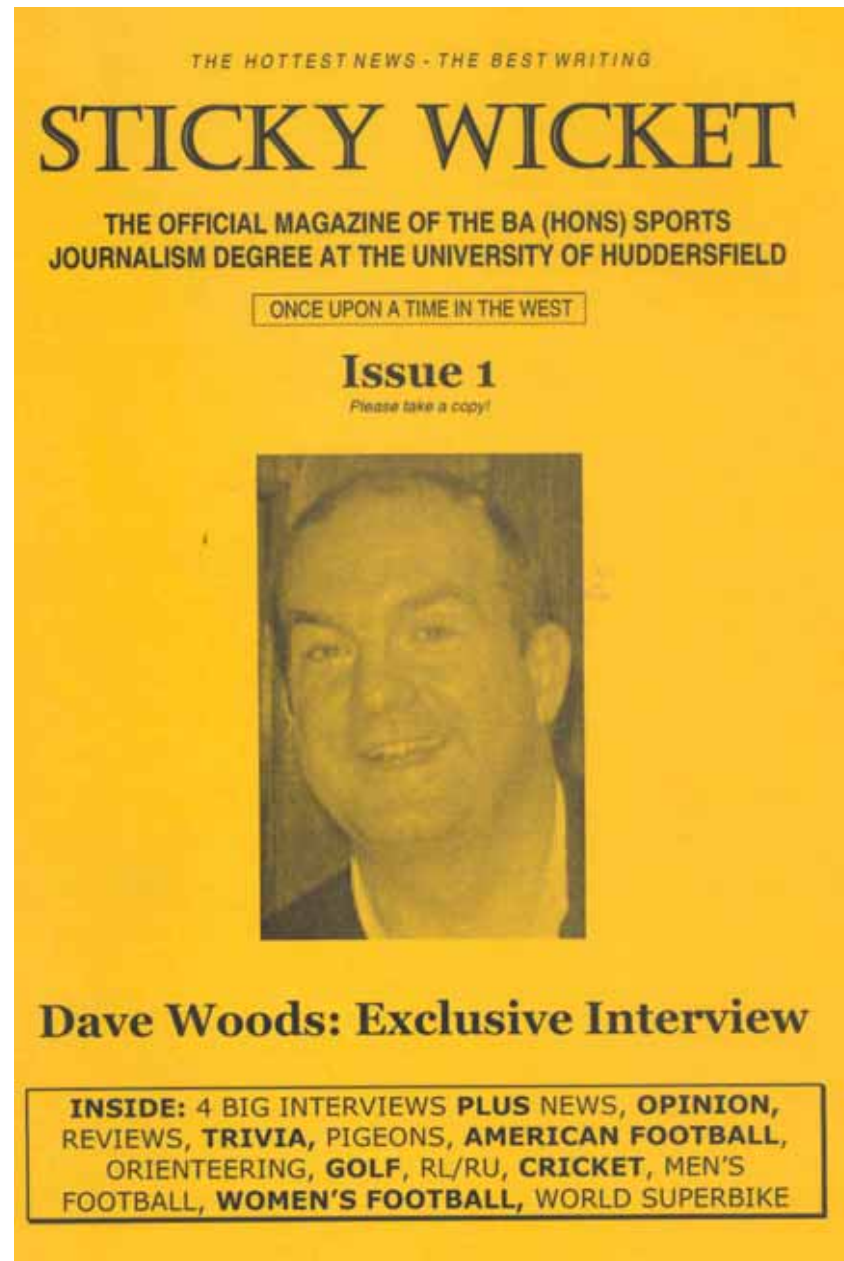


In January 2008, Issue 1 of *Sticky Wicket* – the magazine of the BA (Hons) Media and Sports Journalism degree at the University of Huddersfield – featured the Cricket Heritage Project:



Exploring cricket country

The Calderdale & Kirklees Cricket Heritage Project is an ongoing community history initiative sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Huddersfield

This Project aims to explore and celebrate the cricketing heritage of Kirklees and Calderdale.

It received a £43,400 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and also received an in-kind contribution of £7,000 from the University of Huddersfield. The Project is about cricket, community and the local heritage.



The project website

Since 2004 the Project has had many public outcomes including the following:

- Over 100 exhibitions about local cricket
- Electronic cricket archive at www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk
- Archives set up at Halifax and Huddersfield town libraries
- Oral history interviews conducted and now broadcast on website



An old Emley batsman

- Cricket heritage walks devised and now downloadable
- Activity packs for schools created and being distributed
- Three annual Pennine Cricket History conferences held
- 'Bat & Ball' evening course staged & various books, booklets and articles published

Contact Dr Peter Davies, Project Leader, via 01484 472405 or p.j.davies@hud.ac.uk or go to www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk.

In recent years BA (Hons) Sports Journalism students have made a significant contribution to the project. This profile of Edwin St. Hill – Slaithwaite CC, Trinidad and the West Indies – was written by 2007 graduate Peter Redding:

Pioneer with bat and ball

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 bat 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.