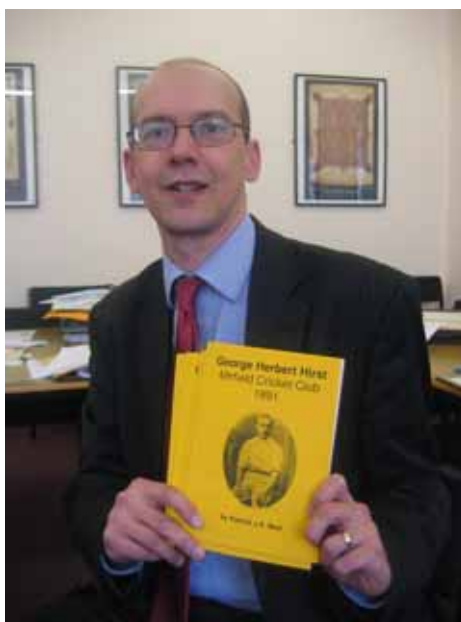


NEW YORKSHIRE CRICKET BOOK – PRESS RELEASE



Author Pat Neal

A new book about one of Yorkshire's greatest cricket heroes has just been published.

The publication puts the spotlight on White Rose legend George Herbert Hirst - and the author is Pat Neal, stalwart of Mirfield Cricket Club near Dewsbury.

Hirst learnt his cricket at Kirkheaton CC and went on to play 24 Test matches for England between 1897 and 1909.

But in 1891 he played a single summer for Mirfield CC - and this is the subject of Mr Neal's fascinating volume.

'Hirst was a superstar in his era,' explains Mr Neal, 'and together with another Kirkheaton cricketing giant, Wilfred Rhodes, he is one of the most talented sportsmen to emerge from the Huddersfield and Dewsbury area'.

The demon all-rounder batted 16 times for Mirfield in 1891, scoring 416 runs at an average of 34.8, almost double that of the next best batsman. He also topped the bowling charts with 80 wickets at 4.7 runs apiece.

The author of the new book says: 'I had heard a rumour that Hirst had played a couple of games for Mirfield, but it wasn't until I started digging around in the local library that I realised how central he was to Mirfield Cricket Club in 1891.'

Mr Neal has been associated with Mirfield Cricket Club for over 20 years, as player and administrator. He is club secretary, has starred in 11 major cup finals, and has recorded a dozen centuries during his batting career.

The book has been published in association with the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project currently running at the University of Huddersfield and being sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund. See www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk for further details.

Copies of the book can be ordered via (01484) 472405.



Hirst in later life