

**Joe Russell: Interview on 27/05/2005**



Played for 40 years, started at Primrose Hill CC then moved to Shepley CC

Joined Army and played with Shepley whilst on army leave.

Did 3 years in the service, once out went back to Shepley CC

Approached by Almondbury CC with Eddie Leadbeater (he finished his career at Almondbury CC)

Almondbury a good side - very competitive in Section A

After two years returned to Pip Hill, but things didn't work out, so went to Dalton. Got married and moved to Holmfirth and played with Holmfirth CC. 1962-1963 won Section A championships. Dumped out the semi-finals by Golcar and left after 2 years.

Moved back to the Colne Valley and played with Linthwaite, which at the time was a struggling club, and short of players. Played with them for 8-9 years, then left. Asked to play at Paddock, went back to Almondbury, Linthwaite then back to Paddock.

Slaithwaite in trouble, money spent on overseas players and ended up on skid row.

Joe went to help for a season.

Went back to Primrose Hill to finish career. TSB Cup, promotion and helped bring the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI teams on.

### **Primrose Hill 1997**

Joe went up to sort out field condition , tried to get wickets back into shape, repaired machinery, helped with some funds out of his own pocket. Previous people had plundered the club, bats, pads and trophies gone. League helped by getting roller repaired. No longer any committed players. Primrose Hill had turned out more players for Yorkshire than any other local club. Pips have fallen from grace.

Joe argues that Yorkshire County Cricket Club only want to play at Headingley, no tours around local clubs anymore.

Teresa, his wife, used to heckle him from the side before they got married. Watched Primrose Hill from the banks in the long grass as a kid, Started his cricket at St Josephs, Commercial Street, back of St Pauls. Hat trick against Kirkheaton for Primrose Hill.