

Phil Redgwick: Shat's Own 'Ground Force'

Profile by Matthew Elston.

Wind, rain, sleet, snow and the occasional day of sunlight - nothing keeps this weathered campaigner from his square.

Whether he's tending to the wicket or taking care of the opposition's opening bowlers, 'Redgy' never lacks commitment. This gruff-accented opening batsman is as Skelmanthorpe, or 'Shat', as they come. Raised on nearby Lidget Lane, the cricket field he now tends to surely holds many fond childhood memories.

Redgy's rough features are unmistakable and extremely characteristic of a local cricket groundsman. The looks of a face worn by the wind and slightly tinted by the sun are assertive. Phil has been with SCC since 1980 and he has been tending to the field since 1988. Redgy is also head groundsman at the Galpharm Stadium and has been for four years.



'Allegedly' an opening bat, Redgwick looks back on a fantastic career at Skelmanthorpe. One of his finest memories was the 1990 league and Sykes Cup 'double'. This is a familiar favourite of fans and players alike – and it was their first-ever Sykes Cup success after being only whisker away on three other previous occasions.

Redgwick is clearly a big favourite in the village. Having enjoyed more than his fair share of successes over the years, he recalls celebrations so memorable they left him "crawling out of the clubhouse on my hands and knees". It's little wonder that with players like Mahboob, Irani, Hurlbatt and Higgins for company, Skelmanthorpe were so successful throughout the entirety of Redgy's playing days.

The man himself has no plans to give up just yet. Despite time not being on his side, and "not being as quick as I used to be", there's a steely will and determination in this particular local cricketer. Clearly Phil wants to be with the Lidget Lane club long into his twilight years, enjoying all the success he has contributed to and undoubtedly helped to nurture.