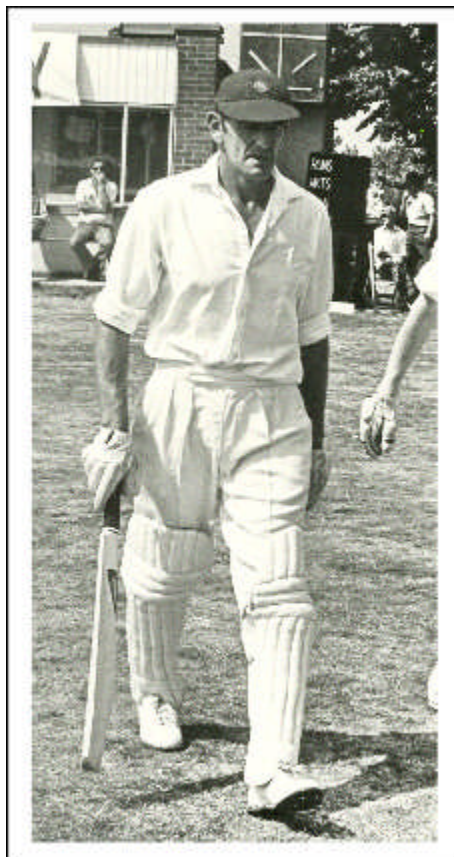


# Hall of Fame

## W.B. (Brian) FLINTOFF



### Sessay Cricket Club

Player	1945 - 1990
Club Secretary	1955 - 1996
Groundsman	1971 - 2006
Scorer	1991 - 2005
League Committee	1957 - 1959 1968 - 1969
League Vice-President	1997 - 2006

**Brian Flintoff** has been an active member of Sessay Cricket Club for an incredible 62 years having started as a player in 1945 and continuing to the present day which sees him in his thirty-sixth year as Club Groundsman. He is undoubtedly the doyen of Sessay Cricket Club and almost certainly holds the record for the longest involvement with the York Senior League since his first season in the League was in 1946 when the competition resumed after a gap of six years due to the Second World War.

Brian is the longest serving club secretary in the League's history having held that important position for 42 years from 1955 until he handed over in 1997 to Keith Houlston who, by remaining in the position to the present time has maintained a continuity which has seen the club have just two secretaries in a period of 52 years.

In a further major contribution to his club, Brian took up scoring duties on his retirement and continued in this capacity until the end of last season. He also served on the League committee for a total of five years in two spells and was made a Vice-President of the League in 1997 in recognition of his dedication.

Whilst Brian could equally have qualified for the 'Hall of Fame' in the 'Lifetime Achievement' category he gains a place on the strength of his playing record which is truly impressive. Unfortunately complete records do not exist for the seasons 1946 to 1956 although Brian has been able to provide details of his batting from 1948 to 1956 from his diaries. Thus only details of two seasons, 1946 and 1947 are missing along with information re. one of his 21 league centuries. With his run aggregate logged at 19670 the addition of two years runs would take Brian well over the 20000 mark. If the same criteria of 150 runs and a minimum average of 15 is applied to the years prior to the publishing of a handbook, Brian has qualified for the league's batting averages every year from 1948 to 1990, a total of 43 seasons during which he averaged 31.78 despite playing much of his cricket on the bowler friendly tracks of the 50s, 60s & 70s. This makes his achievement of scoring 894 runs in 1955 all the more remarkable and this mammoth achievement came in a year when his side were Division two champions and his son John was born and began his progress to an impressive cricketing career by touching the divisional trophy at a very early age.

During the 'lost' years, Brian hit 8 centuries and his final tally of three figures scores amounts to 21 with his career best being an unbeaten 144 against Magnets in 1949 and his final ton 107 against Civil Service which he made 40 years later in 1987. In all classes of cricket he made 41 centuries.

As a schoolboy cricketer, Brian was a talented left arm spin bowler and was good enough to be called up for Yorkshire Second XI having been told by Yorkshire's famed coach, Arthur Mitchell that he was in the top four left arm bowlers in the County. Unfortunately the two day game at Bradford Park Avenue late in the season was abandoned without a ball being bowled this denying Brian the chance to exhibit his talents. The start of the following season saw Brian suffer an attack of the 'yips' and his rating slump to nearer 204 in the left arm ratings.

Brian, who has been a farmer at Sessay all his life, will no doubt cite his appearance in the Sessay side who narrowly failed to lift the National Village Trophy in 1976 at Lords but he also gained immense satisfaction when he and his son John posted two double century opening partnerships as they hit 250 against Bedale and 213 against Woodhouse Grange.

As well as John, who himself has had a terrific career with Sessay, other members of the Flintoff family are "into cricket". Daughter Anne gained top marks in a coaching course when all the other members were male. She played for York Ladies when they toured New Zealand. Grandson Paul is a current member of the club's under 12 side whilst Brian's wife, Margaret was, for many years, one of the team of ladies who ensured that cricket teas at Sessay were always highly rated.

AVP

*Photo— Brian going out to open the batting with David Harrison in the National Village Cup semi-final at Isleham (Cambridge) in 1976  
Early career records supplied by Brian Flintoff from his extensive diaries. Photo also supplied by WBF*

### YORK SENIOR LEAGUE RECORDS HELD

- First player to score both 10 centuries and 20 centuries in the League
- Held record for most centuries until overtaken by Collis King and Richard Sykes in recent years
- Almost certainly most prolific run scorer in history of the League with 19670 runs + two unrecorded seasons
- Highest 1<sup>st</sup> Division aggregate of 730 Runs in 1949

- Highest 2<sup>nd</sup> Division aggregate of 894 Runs in 1955

### BRIAN FLINTOFF – PLAYING RECORD

(Records not available for 1946-7 and any odd appearances in second eleven)

YEAR	DIV	INN	NO	HS	RUNS	AVE	Pos	OVERS	MDNS	RUNS	WKTS	AVE	Pos
<b>Sessay</b>													
1946	<i>Records not available</i>												
1947	<i>Records not available</i>												
1948	1	16	2	124*	383	27.36							
1949	1	16	2	144*	730	52.14							
1950	1	12	1	56*	370	33.64							
1951	1	15	2	83	499	38.38							
1952	1	16	1	88*	327	21.80							
1953	2	13	2	87	447	40.64							
1954	2	11	2	119	454	50.44							
1955	2	16	3	103*	894	74.50							
1956	1	12	1	123*	331	30.09							
1957	1	14	1	106*	362	27.85	4th						
1958	1	15	-	80	398	26.53							
1959	2	21	5	105*	801	50.06	1 <sup>st</sup>						
1960	1	21	4	75	450	26.47							
1961	1	18	1	97	526	39.94							
1962	1	19	1	117*	601	33.39							
1963	2	18	3	114	756	50.40	1 <sup>st</sup>	80.0	6	312	20	15.60	
1964	2	17	3	97*	469	33.50	5 <sup>th</sup>						
1965	2	18	3	123*	422	29.75							
1966	1	16	3	67*	263	20.23							
1967	2	14	4	63	369	36.90	1 <sup>st</sup>						
1968	2	19	2	111	699	41.11	4 <sup>th</sup>						
1969	1	18	2	113	439	27.43							
1970	1	20	2	143*	690	38.32	3 <sup>rd</sup>						
1971	1	16	1	93*	397	26.46							
1972	1	18	-	79	449	24.94							
1973	1	20	1	66	346	18.21							
1974	2	20	4	85*	446	27.87							
1975	1	19	1	67	409	22.72							
1976	1	17	-	84	412	24.23							
1977	1	16	2	39	213	15.21							
1978	4	17	4	73	389	29.92							
1979	3	13	2	100*	290	26.36							
1980	3	13	2	62	257	23.36							
1981	1	17	1	101	438	27.37							
1982	1	19	2	98	444	26.12							
1983	1	18	3	67	402	26.80							
1984	1	12	1	100*	296	29.60							
1985	3	8	2	73*	280	46.67	2 <sup>nd</sup>						
1986	3	19	1	93*	609	33.83	5 <sup>th</sup>						
1987	4	16	3	107	516	39.69	5 <sup>th</sup>						
1988	4	18	3	79*	464	30.93							
1989	5	19	4	66*	537	35.80							
1990	4	18	2	78	396	24.75							
<b>Totals</b>		<b>708</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>144*</b>	<b>19670</b>	<b>31.78</b>		<b>80.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>312</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>15.60</b>	

#### Centuries (21)

1946-7	1 century – details not known	1948	114	v York Sugar Factory
1948	124* v Easingwold	1949	109	v Tadcaster
1949	144* v Magnets	1965	123*	v Bolton Percy
	109 v Easingwold	1968	111	v Selby Londesbrough
1954	119 v York Civil Service	1969	113	v Dringhouses
1955	101 v Magnets	1970	143*	v Huntington
	103* v Thirsk	1979	100*	v Stillington
1956	123* v Rowntrees	1981	101	v Ripon
1957	106 v York R.I.	1984	100*	v Bedale
1959	105* v Heworth	1987	107	v York Civil Service
1962	117* v York Ramblers			

#### Leading Batting Averages (3)

1959 – D.2      1963 – D.2      1967 – D.2

#### Leading Run Maker (3)

1955 – D.2      1959 – D.2      1963 – D.2

#### 500 Runs in a Season 11

Most Runs in a Season 894 in 1955

Highest Score 144\* v Magnets 1949

Most Wickets in a Season 20 in 1963

**Number of times qualified for inclusion in league averages in Handbook (44)**

Batting = 43

Bowling = 1