

# Hall of Fame



## M.R. (Mick) OLDFIELD

Bilton-in-Ainsty (Wetherby League) 1956 – 1962

Long Marston (Wetherby League) 1963 - 1964

**Tadcaster** 1965 – 1966

**Sheriff Hutton Bridge** 1967 – 1994

**Mick Oldfield** began playing league cricket at the age of 16 in the Wetherby League with Bilton in Ainsty for whom he played from 1956 to 1962 and then had two seasons in the same league with Long Marston. He switched to the York Senior League in 1965 and made his first appearance in the league records when he made 213 runs for Tadcaster in 1966 at an average of 17.75.

Having played in evening cup games for Sheriff Hutton Bridge for a couple of years, Mick marked his league debut for The Bridge on 6<sup>th</sup> May 1967 at Woodhouse Grange by hammering the home attack for a superb unbeaten 84 which prompted Bridge President Jim Rhodes to hail him as a great addition to the club's batting line-up. Unfortunately this stunning innings was to remain as Mick's best ever score in the league for the remainder of his 27 year league career, although he did reach 8<sup>th</sup> place in the second division batting averages in 1979 when his bowling was hampered by injury. However, it was as a bowler that Mick made his mark and earns his place in the Hall of Fame, although he could also have been considered for a 'Lifetime Achievement' slot as he is extremely active to the present time both at club and league level.

Mick was able to generate a useful pace off a short run and had the ability to produce accurate spells which served him well in league games and was particularly effective in cup games where his economy helped the Bridge lift many trophies in the sixties and seventies. The handbook show that he claimed 994 wickets at only 13.68 runs apiece although his total would be lifted into four figures if records for four missing years were available.

However one of the major factors in Mick's inclusion in the Hall of Fame was his ability to turn in match-winning performances which saw him take eight wickets in an innings on seven occasions with all but one of these being in the top flight, a record un-matched by any other bowler.

In addition Mick is the only bowler to take eight wickets three times in a season in the top division and was the first player to take eight wickets twice in a season against the same first division opposition when he had 8 for 37 and 8 for 53 against Acomb in 1975. This unique feat was repeated two years later when he took 8 for 56 and 8 for 65 against Dunnington and the two doubles remain the only instances of the feat in the top flight.

Mick's bowling was a significant factor in The Bridge's success in the Indoor League and helped them win the competition in five of the first seven seasons. His winter bowling figures in 1988-9 and 1991-2 remain the two most economical bowling returns in the 20 years history of the competition. Mick has toured the west Indies on a number of occasions and played soccer to a good standard in his younger days.

Mick had three highly successful spells as captain of Sheriff Hutton Bridge, covering a total of around 12 seasons and has been club Groundsman since 1977 during which time the club has twice been the Best Marked Ground. In addition his square has been top marked on three occasions and the outfield was the best marked in 2004. He is quite rightly regarded highly as a groundsman and his advice and assistance is sought by a good many clubs.

He took over the Chairmanship of his club in 1991 and has assisted with organising and coaching the club's junior players since 1982. He was elected to the League management Committee in 1981 and established and continues to administer the League's cricket ball bulk buying scheme.

Along with his wife Mary, Mick is the lynchpin at Sheriff Hutton Bridge where both work tirelessly to keep the club in the top bracket. Their daughter Jill was club scorer in the early eighties whilst son Paul has played all his cricket as a junior and senior at the Bridge, apart from his years at University and appears in both the Premier Division list of leading batsmen and bowlers.

Having been involved in many tussles in the National Village Knock-Out Competition, including heart-breaking defeats at both quarter final and semi-final stages in the past four years, Mick's dream of lifting the trophy at Lords was fulfilled in late August last year when the Bridge became the first side to successfully chase a 200+ run target in the final.

AVP

*Photo processed by Sam Lyth (Snappy Snaps)*

### YORK SENIOR LEAGUE RECORDS HELD

- Most eight wicket performances in top division (6)
- Only player to take eight wickets three times in a season in the top division (1977)
- Only player to take eight wickets twice in a season against the same opposition in the top division - (1975 & 1977)
- Only player to concede less than 4 runs per over in an entire Indoor Season (3.80 in 1988-89)
- Became first non wicket keeper to take 10 catches in an Indoor season (1987-88)

