

Hall of Fame



Paul MASON

Ripon 1972 – 1975

Harrogate & Leeds in Yorkshire League 1976 - 1978

Ripon 1979 – 2005

Paul Mason has been the consistent component of the Ripon attack for the best part of three decades and can be justifiably proud of his career record in excess of 1200 wickets. His efforts as a batsman have been somewhat less successful with a modest top score of 43 against Woodhouse Grange in 1999 although he does boast that he scored a deluge of runs whilst sitting in the pavilion. He does, however, recall with pride the fact that he hit the winning runs against Crayke in 1986 which took the League Cup, then known as the Gilmour & Dean Trophy, to Ripon.

Having made his debut for Ripon in 1972, Paul first made his entry into the League's record books in 1974 when, as a sprightly youngster he took 33 wickets at an average of 13.33 in Division Two. He then spent four seasons in the Yorkshire League where he played for both Harrogate and Leeds before returning to Ripon in 1979 where he resumed his career in the York League which continued to the end of last season. He says his participation in 2006 is rather doubtful but has not yet made a firm decision to retire.

One of the major triumphs of his long period with Ripon came in 1982 when his inspired captaincy enabled his side to grab the League Championship title on the last day of the season in a winner takes all clash with Woodhouse Grange. Knowing that an outright win was essential if the league trophy was to winter at Studley Road, Paul declared Ripon's innings after 40 overs with a modest score of 110-9 thus leaving Woodhouse Grange 50 overs to reach their target. Paul's brave decision paid handsome dividends when Woodhouse Grange's final wicket fell in the 49th over to hand Ripon a two point advantage over their defeated opponents in the final league table and leaving the home supporters ecstatic.

Paul's standing as a bowler cannot be understated and his ability to produce outstanding performances is second to none. The handbook shows that he has claimed 1222 wickets at an average of 13.67 in exactly 7000 overs which equates at one wicket per 34 balls throughout a 30 year career. Moreover his rate of 2.41 runs conceded per over ranks with the very best. His seasonal best wicket aggregate was 85 in the first division in 1982 at an average of 10.46.

His record of taking eight wickets on six occasions has only been bettered by six other players with 9 for 30 against Thorp Arch & Boston Spa in 1979 and identical figures against Dringhouses 24 years later in 2002 being his best ever returns. One of his most impressive performances saw him bowl eight maiden overs on the trot at the start of the Duncombe Park innings, taking five wickets in the process. The first runs he conceded were the result of a dropped catch and he went on the record a seven wicket haul. In 1980 he had 7 for 25 which dismissed Heworth for 124, leaving them 3 runs short of Ripon's 127 all out but perhaps his most amazing spell came in the first round of the Edward Readman Trophy in 2004 when his eight over spell included seven maiden overs and a return of one wicket for just one solitary run. This remains the most economical spell recorded in either of the League's cup competitions.

Paul was club captain for numerous years between 1982 and 2003 and a longstanding member of the club committee in which he filled a variety of roles. He comes from a cricketing family with his grandfather serving as club groundsman in the fifties and his father in the sixties. Both his sons came through the junior ranks of the club and one now plays in the first eleven. Son Simon has been a prominent member of the York side in the Yorkshire ECP County Premier League but will be in the Harrogate line-up for 2006. He played for the Yorkshire Cricket Board in the Minor Counties Trophy between 2000 and 2002

AVP

photo supplied by P. Mason

YORK SENIOR LEAGUE RECORDS HELD

- Most Economical Spell in League Cups 8 – 7 – 1 – 1 v Tadcaster Readman Trophy 2004

