

Hall of Fame



G.V. (Val) TOASE

Easingwold 1948 – 1984

Club Captain - 1965

Val Toase was the undisputed number one batsman throughout the 1950s and 1960s and all players of those decades still loudly sing his praises with not only his skill with the willow being remembered but also his high class work in the field. This reputation was born out by the fact that all of the members of the judging panel named the lifelong Easingwold man at the top of their list but virtually everyone else who has made suggestions for the Hall of Fame had his name firmly in focus.

Val started his career with Easingwold and continued playing regularly for his club for 37 years, all but one being in the first division and during which he scored over 16000 first division runs. Val was one of the old school who was committed to playing every Saturday and actually batted 17 or more times in 26 consecutive seasons from 1958 through to 1983

Ironically his best seasons from an average point of view was 1957 when he scored 539 runs at an average of 77.00. In that year he suffered a knee injury and only played in eight games, However in this limited time he became the first player to hit three centuries in a season including what was to be a highest league score of 151 against Bilton.

His highest run aggregate in a season was the 803 runs he made in 1960 at an average of 47.23. Both of these figures were quite remarkable bearing in mind the quality of the wickets of the day which quite clearly were to the bowlers' advantage as is born out by the fact that only six centuries were scored in the first division that year whilst five bowlers took 8 or more wickets. Comparative figures for 2005 were 39 centuries and no eight-wicket hauls in the Premier Division. The bowling superiority of the third quarter of the last century is born out by referring to the best bowling and best batting charts in the league handbook

Left handed batsman Val made 12 first division centuries and one three figure score in a rare outing for the second eleven whilst his personal records show that he made 96 half centuries in the league. Of his 27 career centuries, his highest was 175 not out against Bridlington at Easingwold in 1955 which he followed with another ton in the return fixture the following season. 1960 was his most prominent season when a total of 2105 runs flowed from his bat however he says the highlight of his career was scoring a half century for York Nondescripts who were captained by John Temple against Nottinghamshire Second XI. He also enjoyed playing against the full Yorkshire side who were captained by Brian Close in a county warm-up game at Northallerton in the early 1960s.

Interestingly in a Yorkshire Evening Press interview around 1980 his list of outstanding local players included Brian Flintoff, Des Wynill, Pat Wood and the late Ian Reed who are all fellow recipients of tonight's honours. Val also gave tremendous praise to Tommy Hobson who worked so hard to establish the York Senior League in the 1950s and early 1960s and also praised the standard of umpiring.

Val's prowess extended beyond the game of cricket and saw him reduce his golf handicap to as low as six during his best years. As a member of Easingwold Golf Club he won the Sturdy Cup, the Pearson Bowl and the Wombwell Cup. He was also Easingwold champion at both snooker and billiards.

Val, who in his working days was a TV engineer with Smith Brothers of Easingwold and his wife have raised two daughters, Sally and Tina. Brother Tommy was a member of the League Committee for 10 years.

In the last few days Val has undergone another knee operation but is determined to accept his award personally. No doubt he will be fully fit to take his seat in front of the Easingwold pavilion when the season starts on the last Saturday in April and we hope that his recent operation is as successful as the one in 1957.

AVP

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YORK SENIOR LEAGUE RECORDS HELD

- Only player to be leading run scorer in first division for four consecutive seasons – 1957-1960
- Most times leading run scorer in first division – (7)
- First player to score over 800 runs in the first division
- First player to score three centuries in a season – 1957
- Scorer of most runs in the first division – over 16000 from 1948 to 1984

