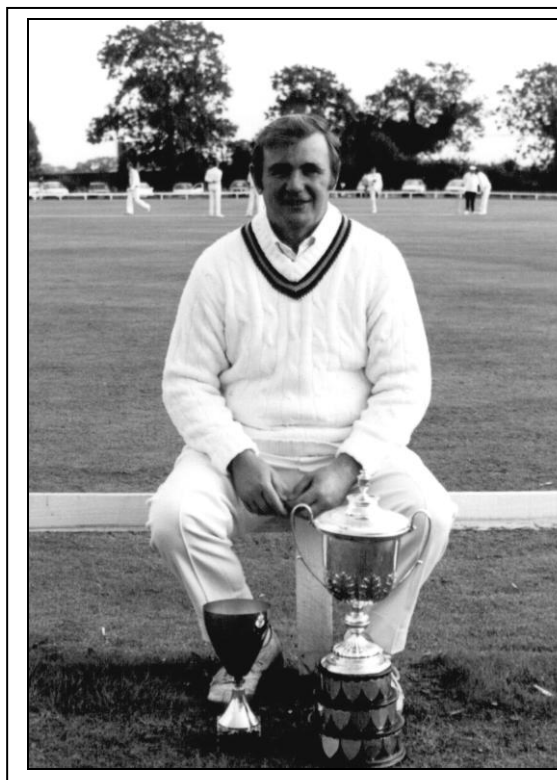


# Hall of Fame



## Brian SHIRLEY

**Sheriff Hutton Bridge 1965 – 1991**

**Yapham C.C. – 1992 - >**

**Neutral Umpire Panel 1993 – 1997**

**League Committee 1994 – 2007**

**York ACU & S Committee 1999 – 2007**

**Brian Shirley** is considered by some to be the best ‘Yorkshire’ wicket keeper to have not played county cricket over the past four decades. Certainly his reputation as a glove man within the York Senior League is second to none with his leg-side work being exceptional – although, it has to be said, that he could have off-days. Nevertheless his undoubted ability enabled him to lift the Yorkshire League wicket keeping trophy ahead of the then Yorkshire County reserve keeper when he made a successful step up to play at York. He then moved into the Bradford League where a successful spell at Eccleshill saw him maintain his record of winning the wicket-keeping award in each league when he lifted the Milton Watmough Wicket Keeping Trophy in 1981 and figure in the winning Priestley Cup Final team a year later.

Brian, whose skill with the gloves ensured he avoided any broken fingers throughout his career, played on three occasions for a Sam Whitbread XI against an England XI where his opponents included John Snow, Jim Parks, Fred Titmus and John Edrich amongst others.

Unfortunately records in respect of wicket keeping and fielding are only available within the York Senior League from season 1988 onwards, thus at least sixteen seasons are missing, but available statistics show that Brian was the leading first division keeper in each of the four seasons up to his somewhat premature retirement when, after captaining Sheriff Hutton Bridge for the first time in 1991 he decided to hang up his boots although he did later assist Yapham on a few occasions. During the four recorded years he claimed 80 catches and made 62 stumpings to average 35 and a half victims a season which has never been matched by any other keeper over a four year period and indicates that his spell as Bridge keeper of around 20 years probably saw him speed up the return to the pavilion of around 500 to 600 batsmen. Indeed his 20 stumpings in 1988 remains a league record for all divisions whilst his total of 40 victims in the top division in 1989 has only been bettered by Richard Sykes’ 44 in the premier division in 2004.

Brian, who was one of a very select band of players from the village of Sheriff Hutton to brave local rivalries and turn out for the Bridge took over the gloves from the highly rated Gerry Grinham and quickly earned his colours. He was a forceful batsman who, in his debut season in the old division one in 1965, made 364 runs at an average of 30.33. He formed a highly effective partnership with Des Wyrill not only in the League but in cup games where the pair provided the backbone of a side which was a very successful force in the knock-out cricket world for many years. He also saved some of his better displays for the National Village stage, where, on at least one occasion he proved to be an extremely effective emergency medium pace bowler whilst on a trip to Cleator in Cumberland, earned the applause of the home crowd when he helped dismiss six of their batsmen. He also represented the York League on a number of occasions. His highest score in the League was his 112 made in 1984 against Bolton Percy which came some 12 years after his unbeaten 103 against Rowntrees and it’s an interesting fact that the Bridge were never out of the first division during the ‘Shirley’ years. He topped 500 runs twice, with 547 in 1972 being his best whilst, on his return from his Bradford involvement in 1984 his 544 runs at 36.27 earned him third place in the first division averages.

After his retirement, Brian was away from the cricket arena for just one season before he joined the York Umpires’ panel in 1993 and embarked on a very successful umpiring career which is still continuing to this day. Brian’s down to earth approach and repartee with the players has seen him maintain a high mark rating throughout his lengthy period as a white coat man. A year after starting umpiring, Brian was elected to the League Committee and remains involved in this way after 14 years. He was elected to the York ACU & S committee in 1999 and thus represents a useful link between the League and the Umpires’ Association.

## BRIAN SHIRLEY – PLAYING RECORD

(NOTE – Statistics relate to years when player qualified for inclusion in league handbook – extra information is included if available)

(Wicket Keeping Records are only available from Season 1988 onwards)

YEAR	DIV.	INN.	N.O.	H.S.	RUNS	AVE	100s	Pos.	Catches	Stumpings	Victims	
<b>Sheriff Hutton Bridge</b>												
1965	1	15	3	57*	364	30.33						
1966	1	17	1	66	289	18.06						
1967	1	20	1	64	431	22.69						
1968	1	20	0	71	431	21.55						
1969	1	dnq										
1970	1	19	3	64*	412	25.75						
1971	1	18	3	96*	415	27.67						
1972	1	19	3	103*	547	34.19	1					
1973	1	20	0	77	490	24.50						
1974	1	19	1	81	499	27.72						
1975	1	22	2	59	406	20.30						
1976	1	21	1	82	425	21.25						
1977	at York in Yorkshire League											
1978	at York in Yorkshire League											
1979	at Eccleshill in Bradford League											
1980	at Eccleshill in Bradford League											
1981	at Eccleshill in Bradford League											
1982	at Eccleshill in Bradford League											
1983	at Eccleshill in Bradford League											
1984	1	17	2	112	544	36.27	1	3 <sup>rd</sup>				
1985	1	20	3	68*	479	28.18						
1986	1	20	3	60*	263	15.47						
1987	1	dnq										
1988	1	14	3	61	250	22.73			15	24	39	
1989	1	15	3	63	327	27.25			27	13	40	
1990	1	16	3	43	214	16.46			18	13	31	
1991	1	16	3	56	236	18.15			20	12	32	
<b>Yapham</b>												
1992	Played occasionally											
1993	Played occasionally											

### Totals

**Centuries** 2

1972	103*	v	Rowntrees	Div. 1
1984	112	v	Bolton Percy	Div. 1

**Leading Batting Averages** 0

**Leading Run Scorer in Division** 0

**500 Runs in a Season** 2

**Most Runs in a Season** 547 1972

**Highest Score** 112 1984

**Eight Wickets in an Innings** 0

**Leading Bowling Averages** 0

**Leading Wicket Taker** 0

**50 Wickets in a Season** 0

**Most Wickets in a Season** 0

**Best Bowling Figures** 0

**Leading Wicket Keeper** 4 1988 1989 1990 1991

**25 Victims in a Season** 4

**Most Victims in a Season** 40 1989

**Number of times qualified for inclusion in averages in League handbook** 22

Batting = 18                      Wicket – Keeping = 4

## YORK SENIOR LEAGUE RECORDS HELD

- Most catches behind the wicket in a season (20) – in 1988 – Division One *since equalled in Div 5*
- Most wicket keeping victims in a season in Division One (40) – 1989 *since beaten in Premier Division*
- Most victims in an Indoor Season (11) – in 1985-86 *since beaten*