

WILF BARBER

Wilf Barber was born in Cleckheaton on 18 April 1901 and died in Bradford on 10 September 1968. He played for Mirfield between 1952 and 1955 – joining from King Cross aged 51 - and was the club's first professional alongside player-coach Tommy Hyland when the club re-formed in 1952. Between 1926 and 1947 he starred for Yorkshire CCC and also played Test cricket.

During his career with Yorkshire he scored 15,315 runs at an average of 34.36. He scored 27 centuries and two double centuries with a top score of 255 against Surrey. He still holds the second-wicket record partnership for Yorkshire, featuring with Maurice Leyland (189) in a stand of 346 against Middlesex in 1932. Wilf scored 162. He played twice for England in 1935, making his debut at Headingley in front of 55,000 against South Africa, scoring 24 and 14. In his second Test, also against South Africa, he scored 44. But this game made him famous for taking a wicket with his last ball in Test cricket which was in fact only his second!

In the first two seasons of the re-formed Mirfield CC, Wilf won the Central Yorkshire League first eleven second division batting award. In 1952 he scored 453 runs at an average of 41.18 and in 1953 scored 413 runs at an average of 45.89. In 1952 he top scored with 99 against Staincliffe in the Heavy Woollen Cup, narrowly missing out on being the first centurion at the club since George Hirst in 1891. He scored eleven half- centuries for the club.