

## Trevor Roydes

Wednesday, 11 April 2012

### TREVOR ROYDES

TREVOR Roydes was Mr Middleton Cricket Club.

As a player he always gave 100 per cent alongside the likes of Roger Clarkson, Dave Thomas, Ken McEntyre, Colin Boucher and Keith Courtney whether he was behind the stumps or batting - and if they decided to throw the ball to him too for a wee stint at either end when the pressure was off!

He was the same x100 as a committee man and behind the scenes helper and adviser when he stepped off the field and into the boardroom, or should that be tea room.

On top of all his work on the Middleton and CLL committees he was always on hand to help and advise anyone at the club.

One of the things I most remember involving Trevor was how he was instrumental in starting the stupendous career of Dave Roberts in a totally innocent way.

Zimbabwe came to play a CLL side in a three-day midweek fixture at Towncroft way back in the dim and distant past - around 1980 or just before I think.

One of their players succumbed to an injury and a Zimbabwe official revealed that they had come without a physiotherapist.

On hearing this Trevor told them that Dave Roberts, a second team fast bowler with Middleton and who just happened to be sitting in front of the pavillion at the time, had recently finished his medical training course at Withington Hospital in Manchester and would look after Zimbabwe while they were at Towncroft.

Dave did and a while later received a call from Zimbabwe informing him that an international touring team were visiting and would he come over to Zimbabwe and look after their players again.

He did and once again one thing led to another. Duncan Fearnley, chairman of Worcestershire County Cricket Club rang Dave and he joined them as their physiotherapist treating the likes of Ian Botham, Graeme Hick and the late Graham Dilley - and bringing them along to the club on Towncroft Avenue too!

Mr Fearnley also happened to be chairman of the England selectors and before long Dave was the England A team physio, quickly moving on to the full England job following the retirement of Laurie Brown of Manchester United fame.

The rest is history and after travelling the world with England on numerous occasions Dave stepped down although still in his early 30s and concentrated on his physiotherapy practices in Middleton, Chadderton, Lostock and other points north, south and west. Word is he is thinking of going global soon as well as retaining his links with two of cricket's bigger names, Ian Botham and Freddie Flintoff.

So, a kind and thoughtful man Trevor. I count it an honour to have known him and benefitted from time to time from his words of wisdom and advice. I doubt whether he will ever be replaced at Towncroft.

STEVE BOTT