



TENDULKAR COMES TO THE MMG – IQBAL KHAN BENEFIT GAME JULY 1992

On Sunday 26th July the Mirfield Memorial Ground held Iqbal Khan's benefit match between a Central Yorkshire League side and an International eleven.

There was great excitement as Iqbal had managed to persuade his great friend and mentor Mohammed Azharuddin to be the captain of the Indian Test team to play. Also Sachin Tendulkar who had become Yorkshire CCC's first overseas signing for over 70 years was able to play as the county had no Sunday game. In 16 championship games in 1992 he scored 1,070 runs for Yorkshire. He scored only one century, at Chester-le-Street, but was out in the 80s three times and the 90s twice. A third Indian test star Sanjay Manjrekar was also available.

The Mirfield Reporter on the 31st July had a brief report, it commented –

"A crowd of 400 supported Iqbal Khan's benefit match at Mirfield on Sunday and were rewarded by the appearance of Indian test trio Sachin Tendulkar, Mohammed Azharuddin and Sanjay Manjrekar.

Those with more local connections stole the show, however with Sammy Dighe and Sulu Kulkarni both scoring delightful 50's and James Pamment crashing his way to 88."

In deed the International X1 scored 225 for 6; Dighe 72, Kulkarni 49, Manjrekar 22, Tendulkar 23, Arothe 18, Iqbal Khan 31 not out, Paranjape 4 (who was caught by Mirfield's very own John Carrington). Lucky Hans took 2 for 65, Steve Foster 2 for 14, Pamment 1 for 24 and Graham Thompson 1 for 13.

Azharuddin played for the League X1 as he arrived late having been driven straight up from Heathrow airport and did look a bit jet lagged as he struggled to 10 before being stumped by Dighe off Arothe.

The League X1 scored 212 for 7 in reply. Mirfield's John Westerby scored 35 before being bowled by N Kulkarni. Andy Tomlinson scored 23, Foster 31, Pamment 88, Thompson 11, Dave Smith 1, Hans 2 not out and John McVeigh 4 not out.

Andy Kaye was club secretary at the time and he has these memories of the day –

"My memories of that date are a bit sketchy but I'll have a go.

First thing I remember is that the game was on the Sunday of a Test match at Headingley [a Graham Gooch England beat Pakistan by 6 wickets]- I remember seeing Tendulkar watching the game on the telly and thinking "he's supposed to be on his way to Mirfield, not sat watching at Headingley!"

When he finally did turn up, Iqbal took me round to meet him in the car park - I was supposed to look after the star players that day - I put my hand out to shake his, and he popped his cricket bag into it! I remember him being sat in the home team changing room with Sanjay Manjrekar and Mohammed Azharuddin - young David Bolt had just been born and Andy Bolt brought him into the changing rooms - Azhar was a young father himself and asked if he could hold young Bolty - sadly no one had a camera to capture the moment!!

Batting wise both Tendulkar and Azhar struggled on the slow Mirf wicket - I remember Manjrekar doing OK though I think - he was the least sociable of the star players though. I also acted as bouncer on the door of the first team changing Room, and had to stop hundreds of Indian cricket fans from trying to get into the room - their excuses were many and varied, but none got past me!"

John Westerby has fond memories of the game -

*"I remember the game well. The crowd on the edge of the field, in particular when Azhar arrived. And I hit three fours in an over off Tendulkar!
But I remember more Andy Tomlinson catching him on the boundary edge, running in and celebrating, when everyone else wished he'd stepped over and given Sachin a six.
Caz opened the bowling, at Sulu Kulkarni, I think."*