

ROBERT ALAN BAKER



When Rob was born on 13 July 1972 in Essex he set a hospital birth weight record of 13lbs 13ozs which lasted over thirty years. The 'Big Bear' as he is affectionately known continued in that vein and has become the most prolific wicket taker in the history of the club. A slow left arm, round the wicket bowler with variation in pace and bounce he has performed consistently over the many seasons since he started in the Youth team in 1986 and was named Young Player of the Year in 1989. A hard hitting lower order right hand batsman, Rob is a great team motivator with a short fuse and the experience of 573

appearances, the third most ever for the club.

Rob was only the second Keyworth player to take a 'hat trick' in a 1st XI League match, on 3 June 2006 versus Nottingham CC and then in a 1st XI Twenty20 Cup quarter final tie against Eastwood Town on 12 June 2012 he became the first KCC player ever to grab a second 'hat trick'.

His career 765 wickets has taken him past the long standing 1st XI record set by William Lane Pike in 1903, for which he was rewarded with Wisden's National Club Cricketer of the Month in October 2010. He has bagged five wickets or more in a match on 25 occasions and his best haul in a season was 45 wickets in 2001.

Generally batting down the order he has amassed 5371 runs, including a record 195 six hits and two centuries, 105 not out against local rivals Plumtree CC II's on June 5th 2004 when with Simon Devaney together they set a club 4th wicket record partnership of 170 which he subsequently beat in making 75 against Southwell CC on 10 August 2019 in tandem with Sam Foster who broke the club record score with 169 not out. On 16 July 2016 at Thrumpton CC he smashed 11 sixes in a match winning innings of 105. Rob also set a

partnership record for the 10th wicket of 75, made in the company of Andy Cowlard against Underwood CC on September 15th 1998 and the 9th wicket record of 141 runs, set with Steve Rendu at Bottesford CC on 28 August 2010.

He captained the 1st XI from 1997 to 2003, stepped down to be vice captain but was captain again for the 2017, 2018 & 2020 seasons. He was the South Notts League Division C Bowler of the Year in 2006 and 2011 and has won the club Bowling Trophy eleven times - 2001, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2010, 2011, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2018 & 2019 and the Fielding Trophy in 1995 and 1999, was first team Player of the Year in 1995, 2014 & 2016, the Frank Palmer Trophy winner for Outstanding Performance in 2004 and the Alan Copson Six Hit Trophy winner in 2003, 2012, 2013 & 2016.



ROB BAKER continued...

A big built guy and about to commence his first over in a Cup match away against Long Eaton on a Sunday afternoon in 2005, the local brass band started up the tune "Nelly the Elephant" and Rob has been linked to 'Nelly' ever since and the tune used to accompany him to the wicket in the annual Twenty20 August Bank Holiday matches each year - the photo above shows him in Twenty20 colours.



Rob's brother, Geoff Baker (Rob left & Geoff right in photo right) also started in the Youth team in 1986 and played at first team level until leaving the village for university and after living and working in London for many years returned to the 1st XI in the 2013 season and took over as Club Chairman to lead the club through the bi-centenary 2015 season, coach some of the Junior teams and captained the 3rd XI through the 2016 & 2017 seasons and 2nd XI in 2018. Geoff has made nearly 237 appearances for the club in total including 81 for the 1st XI. Rob's father, Barry Baker was manager of the youth team from 1986 to 1989 and took over as Club President in 2008 and is the club's historian and statistician and for many years until 2019 coached junior boys and girls as well as women. Rob's daughter Olivia Baker in July 2016 became the first ever Keyworth Girl player to represent Nottinghamshire when she played for the Under 12s against Warwickshire County and has subsequently gone on to



make nearly 30 appearances for the County and captained the KCC Under 11 Girls team in Cup Finals at Trent Bridge & Lords (photo left), both times in front of packed audiences. Olivia was Girl Player of 2017, 2018 & 2019 and Nottinghamshire Under 13s Player of the Year 2019 and selected to attend national fast bowler training in 2019 and leads both the County U15 & KCC Women's 1st XI bowling attack.

Rob, along with Junior Parent's Chairman Roger Wilson was instrumental in setting up the first ever KCC Club Pavilion Bar in the 2014 season, known as 'Bobby's Bar' and is currently

Director of Senior Cricket, jointly for the Women with Jacqui Dakin.

Rob Baker's Keyworth career statistics...

| | Mat | Inns | NO | HS | Runs | Ave | 6's | Ovrs | Mdns | Runs | Wkts | Ave | Ct | St |
|--------------------|------------|------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|--------------|------------|---------------|------------|--------------|------------|--------------|------------|----|
| 1 st XI | 433 | 358 | 46 | 105* | 4603 | 14.75 | 180 | 3803.5 | 523 | 14100 | 787 | 17.92 | 142 | |
| 2 nd XI | 36 | 29 | 5 | 41 | 182 | 7.58 | 2 | 140.2 | 20 | 534 | 37 | 14.43 | 7 | |
| T20 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 82 | 168 | 18.67 | 17 | 35.3 | 1 | 211 | 12 | 17.58 | 3 | |
| Evening | 93 | 60 | 15 | | 367 | 8.15 | | 186 | 2 | 1445 | 65 | 22.23 | 17 | |
| Youth | 26 | 19 | 4 | 32 | 179 | 11.93 | | 57.1 | 3 | 154 | 19 | 8.10 | 6 | |
| CAREER | 598 | 476 | 71 | 105* | 5499 | 13.58 | 199 | 4222.5 | 549 | 16444 | 920 | 17.87 | 175 | |