Roy Gilchrist was the most controversial and probably the fastest of the West Indian bowlers who played in the Lancashire leagues.

T. Je.S. Trede

Born into grinding poverty in Jamaica, Gilchrist never threw off that burden. He was sent home from the West Indies tour to India after clashing with captain Gerry Alexander over his use of beamers and other misdemeanours.

In 1958 he signed for Middleton. On debut he took all ten wickets in 25 balls, after a batsman enraged him by stopping him mid-run and taking out a comb to brush his hair! That year he took 137 wickets, but not without controversy.

League batsmen could not cope with his pace and Gilchrist took 460 wickets in 113 matches at 10.78. He took 10-75 for Bacup against Church in 1962. Two years later playing for Lowerhouse, he captured 10 for 41 against Ramsbottom.

In 1967, Gilchrist received a three-month probation after attacking with his wife during an argument. He stayed in England for 26 years before returning to Jamaica in 1985.

Chester Watson was Wes Hall's fast bowling partner in seven Tests before Church signed him as its professional in 1961.

In his first year Watson took six wickets for five runs agains Nelson, but then was injured in a car crash. The club filled the void with substitute professionals, including Garry Sobers, Frank Worrell and Clairmonte Depeiaza.

Watson's finest season came in 1962: he took 117 wickets (average 7.58) as Church became league champions. Away to Bacup, the Church team was blasted out by Roy Gilchris who took all ten wickets for 75. Watson responded by taking 7-59, including a hat-trick in the first over, as Church edged home by 10 runs.

His smooth, athletic approach to the wicket could be followed by a fearsome vorker, but he rarely bowled bouncers at league batsmen. He took 546 wickets and scored nearly 2 000 runs for Church, later spending six seasons at Royton.

In his post-playing career, he was appointed Chairman of th aican Board of Control for cricket

Calypso originated in 17th century Trinidad, when conversation amongst enslaved Africans on the plantations was banned. It was an important channel of communication to share gossip, news and protest. Kitchener took his stage name as a teenage musician, with 'Lord' being a title his fans later awarded him.

Already a successful Calypsonian in Trinidad, he arrived on the Empire Windrush at Tilbury Docks in 1948. On the Pathé vsreel, he sang his new composition 'London is the Place for Ramadhin and Valentine." Me', articulating the hopes and excitement many passengers felt Kitchener moved to Trafford, briefly owning his own efore arriving in Britain.

LORD

Kitchener chronicled the realities of the Caribbean experience in Britain with calypsos including 'The Cold in Winter', 'If You Brown' and 'My Landlady', which strike a much less optimistic note.

GILCHRIST

When West Indies first won a Test in England, he led cheering fans onto the Lord's pitch and then in procession to Piccadilly, singing the famous 'Victory Calypso' which lauds "Those two little friends of mine

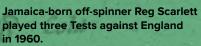
night club while continuing his recording career. He lived at various properties in the Stretford area.

He had further success in 1956 with the 'Manchester Football Double' song, written after City won the FA Cup and United the League.

INDIES CROWDS AT HE TEST MATCH



"WHEN WEST INDIANS COME TO CRICKET WE DON'T SIT STILL. WE MOVE AROUND, WE STAND, WE SING, WE DANCE, WE PLAY MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AND WAVE FLAGS. CRICKET IS THEATRE TO BE ENJOYED."



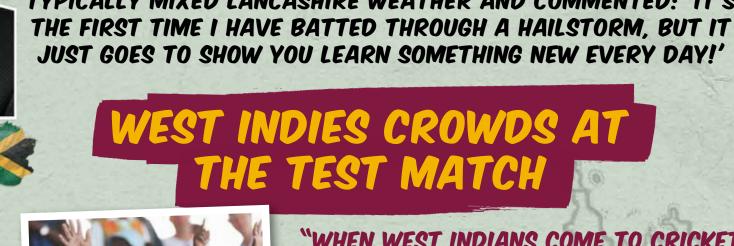
He switched from Stockport to play for Ashton from 1962 to 1966, helping the team to lift the Wood Trophy in 1964 and 1965 as well as to a second-place league finish. Coaching was his particular strength and in the 1970s he returned ome to oversee the youth development amme of the Jamaica Cricket Association

1979 he helped to found the Haringey Cricke College in London, which produced several eading county and Test players, including Mar Allevne, now Head Coach at Gloucestershire. Another Haringey graduate Adrian Rollins (exrbyshire and Northamptonshire) said: "Reg. could be very blatant about what he thought o your game, but he was supportive, and he care e was tough but also...fair and honest.'

In 1996, Scarlett became the first director of coaching of the West Indies Cricket Board (now CWI) and helped establish the Shell Cricket

from his long, smooth run-up. off another bowler.

year he played for Great Harwood.



REG

SCARLETT S





MANNY MARTINDAL

Martindale partnered Constantine in the West Indies Test attack and followed him to Lancashire in 1936 to play for Burnley. He spent the next 28 years in England, with his sons also going on to play in the leagues.

Manny impressed in the 1933 tour to England, taking over 100 wickets on the tour. This included bowling Bodyline against Jardine in one match. Though not tall (5ft 8in) he had powerful shoulders and thighs and could bowl for long periods, generating remarkable pac

For Burnley against Church in 1936, he took nine wickets in an innings and caught the tenth

After the war he was professional at Lowerhouse: his two sons played alongside him in one match. For Norton in Staffordshire, he took 80 wickets as they won the league title. In his 54th

Wisden noted that Martindale "earned much popularity and respect, both on and off the field."

WHEN RISHTON CC SIGNED VIV RICHARDS AS ITS PROFESSIONAL FOR THE 1987 SEASON, HE FAMOUSLY ARRIVED FOR HIS FIRST GAME AGAINST HASLINGDEN BY HELICOPTER, ALIGHTING ON THE CLUB'S BLACKBURN ROAD GROUND. HE EXPERIENCED SOME TYPICALLY MIXED LANCASHIRE WEATHER AND COMMENTED: 'IT'S







KEITH BARKER As Tony Cozier wrote: "Keith Barker was an

nding sportsman...There was never any doubt the sport he would pursue. As with so many of his contemporaries, cricket was the only one that offered a career opportunity."

Barker was Enfield's professional in 1965-66, taking 133 wickets and scoring over 600 runs. He then played for Walsden and in Staffordshire, before a season with Stockport. Returning to Lancashire, he had three seasons at Rishton, which included victory in the 1973 Worsley Cup final.

Coaching, especially coaching juniors, was always a key strength and he undertook coaching roles in South Africa during the 1970s

He played for Great Harwood and Morecambe, later becoming an ECB Advanced Coach and featuring in the Lancashire over

His playing career finally ended at the age of 61. His son, also Keith Barker (whose godfather is Sir Clive Lloyd), has enjoyed a fine 15-year career with Warwickshire and Hampshire.



SIR LEARIE CONSTANTINE

Born the son of a sugar plantation worker in Trinidad, he died a peer of the realm in London. Between lies a story of compassion and dedication in the political field, and an engaging aggressiveness on the cricket field.

In 1929 Constantine was engaged by Nelson and it became his home for the next 20 years. His arrival at the club coincided with the Great Depression and, as many of the cotton mills closed, he saw levels of poverty in Nelson that he had not witnessed in Trinidad. His exploits on a Saturday afternoon at Seedhill were the highlight of the week for many. He gave them value for their sixpence and lifted the town's spirits. He put Nelson on the map.

What Nelson did for Constantine is a larger issue, as he said: "If I had not come if I had remained in my island, I could not have been the person I am today. I am a better person for coming: I am better materially. I am better socially. I have grown more tolerant. I have grown less selfish. I am a better citizen for the time I have spent in Nelson.'

Nelson remains the only club to win the Lancashire League in four successive seasons (1934-37). During those years he set the cricket world on fire with bat, ball and his quicksilver fielding.

In nine seasons Constantine scored 6,363 runs with a highest score of 192 and took 776 wickets at 9.50. He once took all ten wickets for ten runs. He was a genius at fielding in all positions and many who saw him considered him one of the best fielders of all time.

A spectator at Bacup commented: "When Constantine walked down the pavilion steps, the whole crowd rose in a buzz of excitement. He would play the ball through his legs, hook off-breaks and run desperate singles. Everybody loved him. As a cover-point fielder he was panther-quick, sure handed and could rifle the ball into the wicket-keeper's gloves like a bullet."

Apart from mill owners he was among the best paid men in Nelson, doing the job he wanted and could scarcely have dreamed of in Trinidad. Crowds flocked to watch him: his presence in away matches ensured at least an extra £100 for the home club's gate. He was offered over £1,000 to go elsewhere: he declined, but was flattered, as the figure was greater than one guoted to attract

n the mid-1930s representatives from Lancashire CCC twice approached Constantine with view to him joining the club (he was already qualified). But members of the Lancashire Committee and, later, players in the team, opposed the idea of a black man playing for the county. Constantine himself preferred league cricket to what he saw as the negativity and dullness of county cricket.

In 1937 he decided to retire and there were tremendous demonstrations of affection. He was bid farewell everywhere he went. A band played Abide with Me at a match and the Mayor made a personal appeal to him to stay. But he had made up his mind. Constantine continued to live in Meredith Street for another 12 years. As he had shared the Depression with the people of Nelson, so he shared the War. 'My heart is with them now that we know each other.'

Awarded a life peerage in 1969, Baron Constantine of Maraval in Trinidad and Nelson became the first black man in the House of Lords. At his investiture he said "I think it must have been for what I have endeavoured to do to make it possible for people of different colour to know each other better and live well together

He died in 1971 and was awarded Trinidad's highest honour, the Trinity Cross. Later there was memorial service at Westminster Abbev.

AIRMONTE DEPE

Though he only played five Tests, Clairmonte Depeaiza remains a ord-holder for his seventh wicket partnership of 347 with Denis Atkinson against Australia. After he exasperated the bowlers for over a day by pressing forward to meet deliveries with a dead bat, he became known as "the leaning tower Depeiaza".

After first playing league cricket in Scotland, Depeiaza was Heywood's ssional from 1960-64, helping them win the league in 1960 and 1963. "His gregarious personality and off-the-field reputation became legendary," noted the club's website.

Moving to Haslingden, Depejaza took plenty of wickets with his unusual, round arm fast-medium bowling (similar to the later Sri Lankan bowler, Lasith Malinga). In 1966 he took 8-26 against East Lancs. He was the pro at Crompton from 1967 to

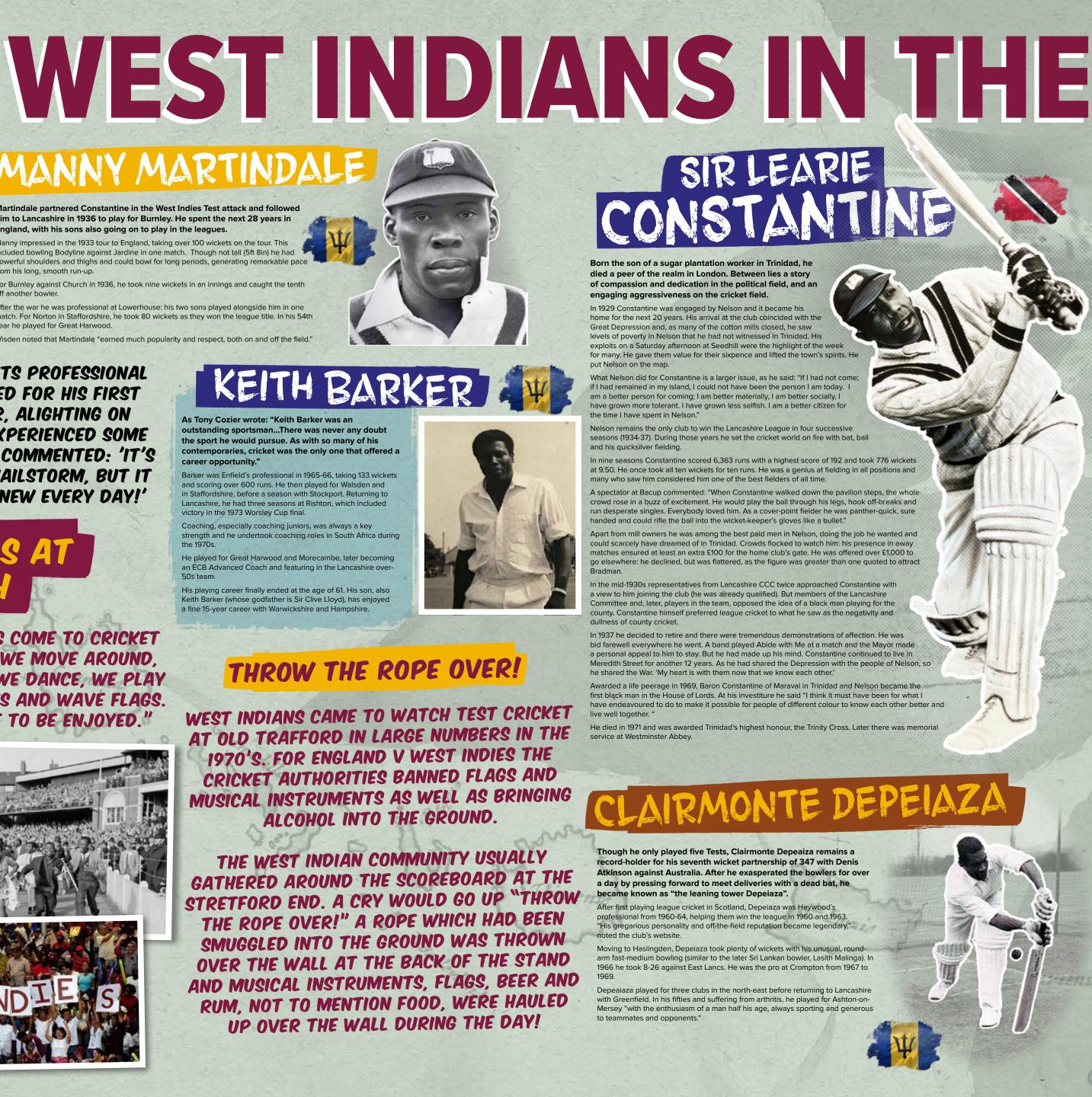
Depeaiaza played for three clubs in the north-east before returning to Lancashire with Greenfield. In his fifties and suffering from arthritis, he played for Ashton-on-Mersey "with the enthusiasm of a man half his age, always sporting and generous to teammates and opponents."



THROW THE ROPE OVER!

WEST INDIANS CAME TO WATCH TEST CRICKET AT OLD TRAFFORD IN LARGE NUMBERS IN THE 1970'S. FOR ENGLAND V WEST INDIES THE CRICKET AUTHORITIES BANNED FLAGS AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AS WELL AS BRINGING ALCOHOL INTO THE GROUND.

THE WEST INDIAN COMMUNITY USUALLY GATHERED AROUND THE SCOREBOARD AT THE STRETFORD END. A CRY WOULD GO UP "THROW THE ROPE OVER!" A ROPE WHICH HAD BEEN SMUGGLED INTO THE GROUND WAS THROWN OVER THE WALL AT THE BACK OF THE STAND AND MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS, FLAGS, BEER AND RUM, NOT TO MENTION FOOD, WERE HAULED UP OVER THE WALL DURING THE DAY!



LANCASHIRE LEAGUES

ROHAN

Rohan Kanhai played at Blackpool for th West Indies in 1957. He returned in 1961 t become professional at Stanley Park after three seasons with Aberdeen.

In his first season for Blackpool, he averaged 65.64, with three centuries. A very occasional bowler, he took 2-13 against Morecambe after hitting an 87-minute century.

In 1962 he led Blackpool to the league title with 1,165 runs at 83.21 including six centuries. The team just missed out on the double, being defeated in the Slater Cup Final, but during the cup run Kanhai's scores were 60, 81 and 52 (out of 98).

After a couple of seasons at Crompton, he played for three seasons at St Annes from 1981, scoring a club record 1.085 runs in 1982.

Rohan Kanhai was inducted into the ICC Hall of Fame in 2009 and, still resident on the Fylde Coast, he is nowadays an avid golfer.



Ramadhin was born in rural Esperance in Trinidad A writer said, "You will look in vain for a cricket pitch; nor will you find a recreation ground." Orphaned at an early age, he was brought up by his grandmother. Nobody seemed to know his forename: he was simply called "Sonny".

From humble origins, Sonny emerged to become one of cricket's finest right-arm spin bowlers. He had a quiet manner, letting the ball do the talking, always with his shirt sleeves buttoned down to his wrists. In the 1950s he mesmerised batsmen from all over the world.

In 1952 he signed for Crompton and in 1954 took 135 wickets at 6.28 as the side became champions. Altogether he took 601 wickets in five seasons.

He took 117 wickets at 5.72 for Radcliffe in 1963, later playing for various league clubs in Yorkshire and Bolton. As a finale, aged 50, he ended his professional career with a hat-trick at Daisy Hill.

Sonny became tenant landlord of a pub in Oldham. His grandson Kyle played for Lancashire. Sonny and his teammate, Alf Valentine, are remembered in the famous 'Victory Calypso':

"Those two little pals of mine, Ramadhin and Valentine"



CLYDE WALCOTT BECAME A MENTOR TO THE YOUNG JACK SIMMONS DURING HIS TIME AS PROFESSIONAL FOR ENFIELD CC IN THE LANCASHIRE LEAGUE. HE WOULD OFTEN VISIT JACK'S AUNTIE BERTHA'S FISH AND CHIP SHOP AND JACK SAYS "IT'S WHERE I GOT A LIKING AND A GOOD GROUNDING FOR FISH AND CHIPS".

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GRANVILLE

(Other names)

AMONG CONSTANTINE'S
PARTY PIECES WAS
TAKING A CATCH AT
SLIP, POCKETING THE
BALL AND LOOKING
BEHIND HIM TO SEE
WHERE 'IT HAD GONE',
OR GETTING UNDER
A SKIER IN THE COVERS
AND CATCHING IT ONE-
ANDED BEHIND HIS BACK.

Growing up in Barbados, the young Joel Garner benefitted from having Wes Hall and Charlie Griffith as coaches. "It was Charlie who made me change my action. I used to deliver round-arm, which he said would not do at all. In a few months I was doing it the correct way."

From 1976 Garner played at Littleborough, taking 110 wickets at under 13 apiece in his first season. Every season after that, his 100-plus wickets cost fewer runs, ranging from 8.54 each to 6.70 He also topped 500 runs, helping Littleborough to two league titles.

In 1977 he agreed a two-year contract with Somerset to play mid-week county cricket. With Garner the county won the Gillette Cup and John Player League in 1979.

Delivering from his great height (6' 8"), Joel Garner could gain sharp lift plus, as Mike Brearley said "his hand delivers over the top of the sightscreen, which makes him impossible to sight early." He could also bowl a fast yorker and in all took 259 Test wickets at less than 21 each.

JOEL

GARNER

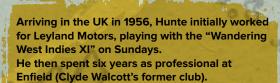
Before his match-winning 86 in the 1979 World Cup Final, King was well-known in Lancashire after two seasons with Nelson.

He had a season as Blackpool's paid man, then was engaged by Colne from 1982 ending his first year as the league's top scorer with 1,362 runs and taking 84 wickets. Against East Lancs, he hit 42 off an over extended to 10 deliveries by two no-balls

King also played county cricket for Glamorgan and Worcestershire. His ternational career was ended by a ban after he took part in two "rebel" ours to South Africa in the early 1980s. Twice he was Westhoughton's essional, either side of several seasons with Natal.

King recorded his 50th hundred in the York and District League in 2013. His captain at Dunnington praised him for his sheer enthusiasm for cricket.

April 2024 he opened the new clubhouse for the Caribbean Cricket Club in Leeds and said he was "hoping to play cricket again this summer" both before and after celebrating his 73rd birthday.



Overlooked for the 1957 tour to England, he scored a century on his Test debut in Pakistan in 1958. For Enfield, Hunte scored over 5,000 runs, often opening the batting with Edward Slinger. In 1960 he topped the batting averages and hit his best league score, 139, at

aphy, Playing to Win, tells how his life changed after he became closely involved with Moral Re-Armament (MRA), a multi-faith organisation pr absolute ethical standards of behaviour

Hunte continued as a mainstay of the Test team before retiring aged 35 to work full-time for MRA, promoting harmonious race relations.

In the 1990s he played a major role in developing ricket in the black townships of South Africa and lso managed the country's women's team

CONRAD HUNTE

A regular in the West Indies middle order during the 1960s, Seymour Nurse astonished the cricketing world by announcing nis retirement from Tests during the 1969 tour to New Zealand in which he averaged over 111. In his final innings he had scored a

Cec Wright arrived from Jamaica in 1959 on the recommendation of fellow Jamaican, Roy Gilchrist. With the aim of eventually pursuing a county career, Wright signed up for Crompton.

"Frank Worrell was my captain back home in Jamaica, then when I came over here it was Garry Sobers in the charity matches. I wish I could have been as good as they were, but I have just enjoyed everything which has come my way in the

Cec reminisces about playing the game as a young boy back in Jamaica: "You could not get a cricket ball – we used fruits, like oranges, you would pick a green ne and wrap them up to make it hard." . MELLA

Wright had a difficult start in England and Crompton did not sign him for a second season. Known for his sheer speed back home, Wright was struggling to make an impact on the damp English pitches. It took advice from Frank Worrell to turn things around. His former skipper told him: 'You're not in Jamaica any more, you know. Up here, you're bowling in the mud.'

"He told me how to go about bowling when it's wet and I never looked back." Wright played for several north-west league clubs as well as Crompton over the years: Colne, Walsden, Astley Bridge and Uppermill.

The closest he came to playing county cricket was when Somerset approached him in the 1970s. "Joel Garner was to sign for them but he hadn't completed the quota of spending 12 months here. I was a local here by then but Walsden didn't let go of me and that's the only regret I have," says Wright.

No one knows how many wickets Wright took in his career, but it is probably more than 4,200. He was still taking wickets – and hitting sixes - well into his ninth decade.

Cec finally called time on playing cricket in 2019, the age of 85. "I came here in 1959, then went home and came back, so after a couple of years thought, 'well I will stop here for a little bit and what it is like', then I just kept going.

The thing I always said I missed most was sunshine."



eight consecutive seasons from 1989 while he was still regularly featuring for West Indies in ODIs.

In 1998 the tall Guyanese off-spinner returned for two further Lancashire League seasons, this time with Nelson. In ten seasons, he scored more than 10,000 runs and took over 800 wickets, allied to his magnificent fielding skills.

At Bacup, a Harper century was key to them lifting the Worsley Cup in 1993, while Nelson won the league in both his seasons at the club.

Given his affinity with Lancashire, it is apt that Old Trafford was where he produced his best bowling figures in Tests, and made his highest score with the bat, in 1984 and 1988 respectively.

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For official us

Harper later coached at the highest level and wa warmly welcomed on a return visit to Bacup in early 2019. He and his family had integrated we into the local community, forming a lasting bond with the town and the cricket club.



COLLIE SMITH

Collie Smith was already a celebrated Test batsman when he signed for Burnley in 1958. He hit centuries against both Australia and England on his debut appearances. Smith's infectious enthusiasm and huge grin showed he was enjoying his cricket enormously. The epitome of the cavalier cricketer, he always tried to hit his first ball for

In 1959, over three evenings, he made the League's highest score of 306 not out in the Worsley Cup against Lowerhouse.

The evening paper on Sep 7th that year broke the tragic news: "Collie Smith, is battling for his life today. He is in Stoke-on-Trent Hospital with a suspected spine fracture received in a car accident. Smith, 25, was travelling with two other West Indian cricketers, Tom Dewdney and Garfield Sobers when their car was in a head-on crash with a cattle wagon near Stone"

Three days later the league was in mourning, as Smith died having never regained

Collie could have been a second Constantine. In Kingston, 60,000 dismayed and disbelieving mourners turned out for his cruelly premature funeral.



THE ARRIVAL OF HMT EMPIRE WINDRUSH

Whit Stennett MBE, former Lord Mayor of Manchester, tells of the influence West Indian cricketers had in north-west England: "My preparation for the 1960 cricket season was at the Roy Collins indoor school in Didsbury. It was the first time in my life I had practised indoors! The club attracted professional players like Garry Sobers, Clairmonte Depeiaza and Reg Scarlett."

In June 1948 the HMT Empire Windrush docked at Tilbury. Britain required skilled and manual workers and West Indians answered the call. Many had served the country in the World

War II and had been here before. Although people from the West Indies were encouraged to come to Britain, many new arrivals endured prejudice, intolerance and racism from sectors of the white society. Racism was a motivating factor in Manchester for the West Indian mmunities to form their own churches, social clubs and sports clubs, such as cricket clubs.

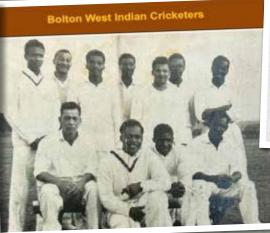
West Indian Cricket Clubs offered a unique opportunity to play or watch cricket and socialise. Many West Indian cricketers across Manchester would play very competitive cricket for their place of work, for example, General Post Office, bus companies, taxis, large Department Stores, newspapers, National Coal Board, LNER, Co-ops, Manchester Docks.

In 1954 the Manchester Colonials Cricket Club was formed and between 1954 and 1998 there were several West Indian Cricket Clubs in Manchester. They played in competitions like The Rohan Kanhai Knock-Out and the Clive Llovd Red Stripe Cup, as well as friendlies against other West Indian cricket clubs across Britain

The established West Indian cricket clubs in Manchester were: Manchester Colonials; Ansor West Indians; Manchester Caribbeans; West Indian Sports and Social Club; St John's CC, Old Trafford; Moss Side Sports and Social Club Young Hulme West Indian CC: Moss Side CC. and Manchester Rovers CC. In 1960, Bolton West Indian CC was formed.













I.des. Tuan GEORGE HEADLEY

"The Black Bradman" had already made six centuries and a double century in Tests by the time he arrived at Haslingden in 1934.

In his first match, Headley faced Constantine – and was run out for a duck! Yet he ended top of the batting averages, scoring nearly 300 runs more than anyone else. In his first Worsley Cup match, he hit 189, over half his team's total.

Headley scored over 5,000 runs in his five seasons in Boca del drago Lancashire before the war.

After the war, he played for Bacup in 1950 and again headed the league batting averages, scoring 145 not out against Haslingden.

In 1951, George moved to Dudley in the Birmingham League. For all he had achieved in cricket, he was ever-willing to help young players and he never missed a net session.

George's son Ron opened the batting for West Indies in 1973 and grandson Dean played 15 Tests for England.

IDELA

TRINIDAD



000 Ichigos

FRANK WORRELL

Frank Worrell impressed everyone who met him, played with or against him, or simply watched him bat. All grace, class and elegance, he seemed to caress the ball, sending it exactly where he wanted. With Barbados he set world record fourth wicket partnerships, first with John Goddard and then Clyde Walcott. He was West Indies' leading batsman in the

momentous 1950 series win in England.

Worrell played seven seasons in league cricket in England, starting with Radcliffe and later at Norton in Staffordshire. He set a new league batting record in his first season at Radcliffe: two years later he broke it, scoring 1,694 runs (7 centuries, average 113).

In 1960, he was the West Indies first black captain in a full series. In the famous "Tied Test", with Australia's final pair needing just one run to win, Worrell said to Wes Hall: "Whatever you do, don't bowl a no-ball. They won't allow you back in West Indies."

Worrell was knighted in 1964 for his services to cricket. In early 1967 he died from leukaemia and was the first-ever cricketer to be honoured with a memorial service at Westminster Abbey.

Marteni

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ENERTON NEERTON NEERSES

Small but stockily built, Everton Weekes hit the ball incredibly hard but rarely in the air. Batting at number four in Tests, after Worrell and before Walcott, he attacked the bowling whenever possible and scored the most runs of the famous "three Ws".

As well as his impact on the cricket fields of the world, Everton Weekes had a lasting impact on a small Lancashire town in the Pennine foothills. For seven seasons in total, starting in 1949, he was Bacup's professional.

He amassed over 9,000 runs for Bacup, with 25 centuries. In 1954 his batting average was 158.25. He helped the team to Cup success in 1956 and to the league championship in 1958, his final season in Lancashire.

In 1958 Weekes became only the second black captain of Barbados and proved an outstanding leader, helping to develop Conrad Hunte and Seymour Nurse into Test players.

He is remembered as "a great cricketer, a great man and a great ambassador for race relations." After Weekes was knighted in 1995, Bacup's Chairman Neal Wilkinson said: "Sir Everton's name is very much etched not only into the history of Bacup Cricket Club but into the town itself."



CLODE NIACOTT

Endellch

Nieves

Aged just 20, Walcott scored 314 not out partnering Frank Worrell in a mammoth, unbroken stand of 574 for Barbados against Trinidad.

As professional for Enfield for four seasons from 1951, he scored nearly 4,000 runs and was the first Lancashire League player to average over 100 in a season. While at Enfield, he became a mentor to the young Jack Simmons.

In late 1954 Walcott moved to British Guiana (now Guyana), working as a cricket coach on the sugar estates. He helped Rohan Kanhai, Basil Butcher and Joe Solomon, who all went on to have fine Test careers.

Walcott managed the West Indies teams that won the Cricket World Cup in 1975 and 1979. He was later President of the West Indies Cricket Board and in 1993, became the first black man to be elected as Chairman of the International Cricket Council (ICC).



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GARRY GOBERRS

Garry Sobers joined Radcliffe in 1958 on the recommendation of Frank Worrell, who was leaving the club. Sobers felt it an honour to follow in the footsteps of such a great cricketer who had hugely influenced his cricket career.

Garry spent five happy seasons at Radcliffe and was an instant success. He scored 1,000 runs in each of his first four seasons and took 100 wickets in each of his last three seasons.

His highest score was a hurricane 186 made against Ashton in 1959. Against Middleton he clean bowled the first three batsmen, including Basil D'Oliveira, for no score in the first over. He helped Radcliffe win the double of the Championship and Wood Cup in 1961.

In 1962 he left Radcliffe, again to follow Frank Worrell, this time to Norton in Staffordshire. There was much sadness at his farewell and Garry was greatly moved by its warmth and sincerity.

Sobers is one of the greatest all-round cricketers the world has ever seen and captained West Indies in the 1960s and 1970s.

IDELA

RINIDAD

It must have been an extraordinary sight: the tall, powerfully built young man, crucifix swinging around his neck, coming off his 30-yard run in the confines of the Thorneyholme Road ground.

In three seasons at Accrington, Wes took 110, 106 and 123 wickets and helped them win the championship in 1961, the club's first title in 45 years.

Wes reflected in his book Pace Like Fire: "Those Saturday afternoon battles turned out to be tougher than anything I was to encounter in Bombay, Brisbane, or The Oval."

He gave David Lloyd (then aged 13) his first bat: "It was broken at the bottom - but it didn't matter, it was my first bat." David made his Accrington debut alongside Wes who, with Roy Gilchrist, took him to his first Test match at Trent Bridge.

After his playing days Wes entered Barbadian politics and was involved in the administration of West Indies. He was later ordained a minister in the Pentecostal Church.

In 2017, Wes came back to Accrington for an evening. Eighty years old and using sticks, he still wanted to mark out his run-up.

Littard



Marteni

CHARLE GREETTH

In 1963 Charlie Griffith cut a swathe through the English batting. Ted Dexter publicly denounced him for throwing and he was no-balled four times by Arthur Fagg against Lancashire. Thus, his signing for Burnley in 1964 was highly controversial.

Griffith terrorised the amateur batsmen in the Lancashire League with the unpredictability of his 'suspect' yorker and bouncer. The yorker was close to unplayable, zooming towards the stumps like a heatseeking missile.

Burnley won the championship and Griffith collected 144 wickets at the incredible average of 5.20. Only once was he tamed, taking 1-49 in the Worsley Cup Final against Rishton. Jack Chew played the innings of his life to score 52 not out. His body a mass of bruises, he was off work the next day.

Griffith returned to Burnley in 1967 but he was never as quick or as deadly again. A return of 57 wickets tells its own story.

His partnership for the West Indies with Wes Hall still goes down as one of the most feared bowling partnerships in Test cricket.

In 1967 Wes Hall recommended Clive to Haslingden. Though shocked by the cold weather and persistent rain, he found the Haslingden people to be warm, friendly and hospitable.

Anduilla

"I think I never went anywhere other than Lancashire because I fitted so nicely in this county. But my decision to stay there for my whole career was also an act of loyalty to the people who made me feel so at home, I couldn't play for anyone else."

He recorded a century in his first game and topped the league averages, scoring 861 runs. He abandoned his looping leg-spin in favour of seam-up: "my fingers were too cold to get any purchase on the ball and I didn't get much turn in the damp."

In his second season he narrowly missed breaking George Headley's club record of 1360 runs, but still achieved the best average in the league (61.30), scoring 300 more runs than any other batsman.

Although other counties offered him better terms, Clive signed for Lancashire. He quickly became a county legend, playing exciting cricket and winning many trophies.

Clive moulded the West Indies into a highly successful team and became one of the great international captains. One of the world's best cricketers, he was knighted by the Queen in 2022.