

*In the spotlight...*

# Anthony Stokes

## Stokes is an all-round talent on the cricket pitch

Anthony Stokes has impressed with both bat and ball this summer and is considered to be a senior island player of the near future, **Matt Lihou** finds out

HIS brother has already cemented his spot in the Guernsey senior team and now, Ant Stokes has been backed to do likewise in the coming years. This year has seen the younger Stokes sibling – two years younger than Matt – become an integral part of the Elizabeth College 1st XI and also star in club cricket with Wanderers. And despite still only being 16, he has provided match-defining contributions with both bat and ball, whether it being batting in the middle order or as a change bowler with his more-than-handful off spin. He is currently in the UK where he is captaining Guernsey under-16s on tour and his coach on that trip is Jason Shambrook, who has worked with Stokes ever since he took up the sport a decade ago. Cricket development officer Shambrook is delighted with the progress that the teenager is making. 'Ever since he started cricket when he was seven he has been a very, very good player in every age group he has been through,' he said. 'For a long time he switched between bowling seam and spin, but he seems to have settled down with his spin now and although he isn't necessarily a huge wicket taker,

he gives very little away and bowls economically. 'He is the kind of bowler that you know will bowl his full quota of 10 overs in a 50-over match and keep things really tight, while also getting one or two crucial wickets along the way. 'With the bat, he is technically very good and I remember a game a couple of years ago in Brighton, he scored a brilliant match-winning hundred for us against a good bowling attack and he was absolutely class that day. 'As he makes the move into senior cricket, he is somebody I see batting in the top four or five and being good enough to score big match-winning hundreds, he is definitely a genuine all-rounder.' Shambrook also sees young Stokes as a senior Guernsey representative player in the next two or three years. 'There is no reason at all why he won't be, assuming he continues to put the work in and improves the way he is. 'When he is around the age his brother is now [18], then he should be looking at trying to break into that senior squad and there is a real chance that both Stokes siblings could be crucial for Guernsey together for years to come.'



Anthony Stokes in action for 2mi Wanderers in Swoffers Weekend Premier League. (10149679)



Anthony Stokes, in his capacity as Guernsey U15 captain, shakes hands with Netherlands skipper, Bas De Leede. (10149681)

**ANTHONY STOKES**

**Age:** 16

**Sport:** Cricket

**Club:** 2mi Wanderers

**Notable achievements:** Captaining Guernsey at under-15 & 16 age-group levels