

Behind Enemy Lines: Illingworth CC

By Dominic Kureen

Despite plying their trade within the Airedale & Wharfedale League, Illingworth Cricket Club have encountered Copley CC on several occasions in the past. Illingworth's Kevin Doherty was kind enough to discuss his views on Copley CC:



Q. What are your main memories of past matches between Illingworth and Copley?

A. From an individual point of view it would be scoring a half-century and also managing some other good scores over the years. From a team point of view it would be when one of our 16-year-olds scored 150-plus not out against them.

Q. If you could take any one player from Copley's current side and add them to Illingworth CC who would it be?

A. Their opening batsman, Nick Pyrah.

Q. How would you say Copley CC is perceived by Illingworth players?

A. Copley is a good ground to play on. From past experience they seem to be a well run club with friendly people and a lot of junior talent.

Q. What positions do you think Copley and Illingworth will finish in the Halifax League in 2007?

A. Copley's 1st team will probably end up third or fourth. Their 2nd XI should come either first or second and their Sunday team might get promoted. Illingworth's third team are the only ones who play in the Halifax League and they are possible champs.

Q. When both Copley and Illingworth have a team in the same league and the fixtures for the season are announced, how highly would you say Copley figure in terms of matches that your players are looking forward to?

A. Somewhere high up the list.

Q. In terms of Illingworth's rivals, how high up the list would you put Copley?

A. We are not really rivals due to our first and second teams playing in different leagues.

Q. Richard Thorpe played for both Copley and Illingworth, how successful was his tenure with Illingworth and can you think of any other players who have played for both clubs?

A. Richard Thorpe's time with Illingworth was highly successful. As far as players who have played for both clubs, Colin Balme was a huge success with Illingworth and John Cliffe also played for both teams.

Q. And finally, in terms of Halifax League cricket grounds, how impressed are you with Copley Lane?

A. I'm very impressed with the ground and for visiting sides it is a game to savour.