

2007 2nd XI Preview

By Russell Eggar

2006 was an outstanding year for the 2nd XI. 2007, however, will not be as straightforward. Having won the league and cup, they now have to become 'the team to beat' in the Halifax League and with the 1st XI losing some key players, there is a fear that the seconds will lose some of their better players to help the cause. The key to success in 2006 was the strength and depth of the squad. The hope, therefore, is that the team will remain more or less the same and retain the mix of experience and youth that bode so well last season.



Jon Russell (above) will continue as captain and is keen to stress that no-one has a safe place in the team. He points out that he won't become complacent and doesn't expect the team to take anything or anyone for granted but, rather, expects everyone to work even harder to retain the league title. The aim for the new season is to focus on the key games and to raise performance levels in the big matches.

The team has good depth in its bowling and this is not necessarily an area that needs improvement...as long as the bowlers maintain their consistency. The batting line-up, meanwhile, has experience and staying power. The middle-order batters have a tremendous ability to attack the bowlers and, more often than not, this has been the key to the team's excellent scoring rate. This should keep the side in the running for the league title again.

The 2nd XI has the possibility to make history in 2007 by becoming the first Mytholmroyd team to win back-to-back league-and-cup doubles. It will be difficult for the seconds to match last season's triumphs but if they stay level-headed and confident there's no doubt that they will continue to thrive.