

BRIDGE DRAWN IN HAIGH POOL FOR 2008 EXAMINER TWENTY/20

By Paul Rai

Last season's inaugural Examiner Twenty/20 was deemed to be a major success. Therefore it is no surprise that the tournament will be back, bigger and better than before. Scholes CC came out as victors in a knockout format last season. However, an alteration to the structure of the competition will mean they have a much harder task on their hands to retain the trophy.



A round-robin league format has been introduced for 2008, which will see teams drawn into six pools consisting of five teams. All teams will play each other once, meaning each team is guaranteed a minimum of four games over a five-week period. Winners of the pools will then progress to the knockout phase of the competition alongside the two best runners-up, in what will then be a quarter-final stage.

Armitage Bridge will go head to head with local rivals Broad Oak in the 'Haigh Pool' where they will also come up against near neighbours Primrose Hill, Hall Bower and Linthwaite. Groups have been drawn on a geographical basis to ease travelling arrangements in the early stages of the tournament. Pool games will commence on 3 June 2008 concluding on 1 July.

The knockout phase will take place just a week after the group stage. Piling on the runs will be on the minds of the batsmen more than usual at the 'Bridge' because the highest run scorers in the early rounds will be given home advantage in the later stages.

The idea of coloured clothing could be an issue raised at future committee meetings at the 'Bridge'. As it looks as though the Examiner Twenty/20 will be around for the foreseeable future, the committee would be safe in the knowledge that the apparel will be used for many years to come. Sides like Holmfirth and Clayton West have already been bitten by the Twenty/20 bug and sported coloured attire in last year's Examiner Twenty/20.

Only in its second year, the Examiner Twenty/20 is being played to a new format, similar to that seen in the ICC World Twenty/20 in South Africa. The new game has gripped the cricketing world with its crash, bang and wallop formula which

excites cricket purists, entices non-cricket lovers and entertains all. 27 July is a date for the diary, when the event will come to a thrilling climax.