

READY TO GO!

2008 Cup Draws and Fixtures by Rob Hardie

As the 2008 cricket season is only a few months away, it's that time of year when fixtures and cup draws start to shape the campaign ahead for many clubs. The draws for the first round of the Heavy Woollen Cup, Sykes Cup and group stages of the Examiner 20/20 trophy have already been made along with full league season fixtures.

The first round of the Heavy Woollen Cup has paired Slaithwaite with JCT 600 Bradford Cricket League side Baildon. Baildon is situated in the metropolitan borough of Bradford, just north of the city itself. Slaithwaite received a boost they were when drawn at home for the tie which is scheduled to be played on 20th April. Despite the home draw, Slaithwaite can still expect a tough game at Hill Top against the Jenny Lane outfit which finished fifth in the Bradford League Division One last season. SCC will be looking to make decent progress in this year's competition – not one of their favourites in terms of how well they usually do - while Baildon have claimed two Heavy Woollen Cup wins, both recently, in 1999 and 2001.



The Heavy Woollen Cup

The Sykes Cup has also seen Slaithwaite drawn at home for the first round as they look to claim their sixth triumph in the competition, the last cup win coming in 1999. However, once again they have been handed a tough draw. This time it's Drakes Premier Division runners-up Skelmanthorpe CC who will be the visitors. Slaithwaite will need to be at their best for the game, but have

history on their side in the tournament with five Sykes Cup wins compared to Skelmanthorpe's two.



Slaithwaite's victorious Sykes Cup-winning team of 1944

In the Examiner 20/20 trophy, the Hill Top side have a tough group to qualify from. They have been drawn in the 'Taylor' group with away fixtures at Premier Division sides Micklehurst and Meltham, with these two fixtures sandwiched between home games against big guns Delph and Dobcross and fellow Conference side Marsden.

In the league, the club will start the new season at Miry Lane, home of Thongsbridge. After the away trip, Slaithwaite are back at Hill Top for consecutive home fixtures. The first home game see last season's basement club Almondbury come calling, followed by Primrose Hill. These early fixtures are crucial for the club as they aim to bounce straight back into the Drakes Premiership at the first attempt after the disappointment of last season. The first match of the season at Thongsbridge is due to take place on Sunday 19th April.

Full fixtures to appear on the website.