

# CRICKET IN THE BLOOD

## Profile of Second XI Captain William Metcalfe by Ian Hodgson

**Bat:** Left-hand bat, number 3

**Bowl:** Left-arm orthodox spin

**Highest score:** 130

**Hundreds:** 2: 2<sup>nd</sup> XI

**Previous clubs:** None

There was only ever one cricket club for William Metcalfe to play for, and that was Broad Oak. Having lived close by all his life it was a natural progression, with Yorkshire in his blood from an early age. As well as being born into a cricketing family, he got his enthusiasm and passion for cricket when his parents took him to watch Yorkshire play at Headingley.

At the age of ten, Metcalfe first played for Broad Oak, for the Under-13s. He continued to play junior-level cricket, for the Under-13s, Under-15s and Under-17s. A game that sticks out in his mind is an Under-13 match he played with his older brother against Leymoor. They batted and bowled in pairs, and took a couple of wickets.

At junior level up to Under-17s, Broad Oak performed reasonably well, reaching two cup semi-finals, but they never managed to win the league. Another memorable match for the juniors, this time at Under-17 level, was against Denby Dale. Metcalfe was the last man, with Peter Mills batting at number ten. They needed 30 runs to win and managed to get them.

Metcalfe also represented Huddersfield at Under-15 and Under-17 level and had two Yorkshire trials. He was a Second XI team player by the age of 15. His first match was away to Lascelles Hall in 1993, when he batted at number eleven and was run out. His fortunes did improve, however, with his first half-century against Huddersfield & Lockwood.

His most memorable match playing for the Second XI came against local rivals Linthwaite last year when he made 130. He has two second-team hundreds to his name. Despite the improvement with the bat in recent years, Metcalfe was primarily a left-arm orthodox spin bowler. His best performance

with the ball saw him take 6-36, which included a hat-trick. He also took six wickets in a match against Thongsbridge.

His most memorable match from a team point of view came playing for the Second XI against Hall Bower. It was a cup match and Bower were in the division above, making it a very tight game but Broad Oak came through to win.

Two and a half years ago Metcalfe became captain of the Second XI. Despite not winning the cup for 12 years, the club have won it more times than anyone else. Unfortunately, William broke his leg at Easter, which ruled him out, but the young players acquitted themselves well. They went unbeaten and played in a cup semi-final. Last season was not the only time he faced spells on the sidelines because of injury. He broke his finger and missed a whole season playing for the Second XI.

The Second XI is a key tool in helping young players progress. Five under-15s played the year they went up, and two of them now represent Yorkshire. Metcalfe had a spell where he was picked for the First XI but didn't get the opportunity to play much part with bat and ball. However, he did score one first-team fifty. Meanwhile for the Second XI he is focusing on pushing for the title, but would one day love to captain the First XI.