

STARS IN THEIR EYES

The 2007 Meltham CC Awards Night

By Rob Hardie

On 5 October 2007 the annual Meltham CC Awards Night take place. Much like any awards event the drink was flowing and the bar packed out. There was even a celebrity element to the evening with former Huddersfield Giants hooker Brad Drew in attendance to support his son who is part of the club's youth set up.

The night began at 7.30 and kicked off with a warm thank you to the members in attendance and to the tea ladies, groundsmen and junior coaches who are essential for the club. Dennis Schofield and Colin Booth also took to the stage to highlight the 200 Club.



The rest of the night did not go as smoothly as planned. As the Under-9s awards were being presented there was an unwelcome technological hitch with the microphone and many of the speakers proved inaudible!

Dave Cocking presented the Under-9, Under-11 and Under-13 awards. A.Jakeman won the batting award and J.Hinchcliffe took the bowling honour, not only for the Under-9s but for the Under-11s also. The rest of the Under-11 honours went to M.Ward, A.Clegg and D.Dyson - for the batting, fielding and most improved player respectively. The Under-13s followed, with W.Fraire taking the batting award, H.Edmonds the bowling, C.Mattimoe the fielding and T.Harwood scooping the most improved player honour.

The night continued with James Moulson taking over to present the awards for the Under-15 section. J.Dixon took the awards for both batting and fielding. J.Moulson completed the section by taking the bowling award.

The presentation of awards then took a backseat. This was for the free supper provided by Mick Pogson and Chris Berry. Despite the event being packed to the rafters - with an excellent turnout for both junior and senior sections - there was still enough food for several thousand people! With the bar kept busy all evening it was a surprise to see that the new Jaques fruit cider

(brought in especially by Mr Pogson) was not selling well at all, even though there were many offers to try it for free and provide advice on its appeal.

After supper the presentation evening continued. Resuming with the Under-17s, Lee McGladdery presented Rob Palmer with a 'double' – both bowling and fielding honours. Tom Garrety completed the section by being awarded the batting honours.

As the evening rolled along it was time for the senior teams to gain recognition for the season just gone. James Moulson returned to the stage for the second time of the night to present the honours for the 2nd XI. Richard Holroyd claimed the batting prize with his average of 46.60 from 14 innings, while the bowling 'gong' was awarded to Jack Holroyd for taking 39 wickets and having the lowest runs/over stats with 3.69. He also bowled 23 maidens over the season. To complete the second eleven awards, Andrew MacLeod took the fielding prize for his eight catches during the season.

For the 1st XI presentations, club president C.E.Robson stepped onto the stage to present the awards. However, the microphone that had been causing grief all night began to cut out. Grant Robinson scooped both the batting and fielding awards with his 11 catches and a batting average of 43.32 from 20 innings and a top score of 127. In the bowling stakes, Dave Cocking was rewarded for taking 23 wickets and for his economy rate of only 2.29, including 38 maidens.

Two special individual awards were also presented at the end of the team awards. Firstly, Will Hinchcliffe was awarded the John Schofield Memorial Trophy for the most improved player under the age of 21. Also, in recognition of his 16 years at Meltham CC and his impending retirement, Ian Swallow was made a special presentation by club president Mr Robson to mark his remarkable service to the club.

Overall the night went extremely well and the club raised a good total of £120 from the raffle that took place over the course of the evening.