

# CROWTHER LOOKS FORWARD TO NEW CHALLENGE

2008 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Preview by Sam Smith

Nick Crowther has been appointed the new Blackley 2<sup>nd</sup> XI captain for the 2008 season, after he beat fellow contender John Stenson by one vote at the Blackley C.C. players meeting. It will be Crowther's first experience of being captain and he is hoping his relaxed attitude towards the players will reap its rewards.

He said: "I'm quite a laid back and relaxed kind of guy. I think if I'm relaxed and not showing a lot of pressure or not on edge then hopefully that can reflect on the rest of the team. If you're relaxed you will enjoy it more and ultimately succeed more. I'm not one to shout and scream at people and I think if we enjoy our cricket we will be successful."



Crowther has played over 25 years of local cricket for various clubs and believes this experience will benefit him in his new captaincy role.

He stated, "I've played under some good captains and not so good captains. I've taken a bit from everyone I've played under so hopefully it will make me into a decent captain."

The all-rounder will be looking to contribute with both bat and ball and doesn't believe the burden of being captain will affect his personal performances.

He said, "We are looking forward to a new season and the expectations are quite high. Obviously if the season doesn't go as well as is hoped, then I will start to

feel a bit of pressure. If and when that does happen it will be a test of character to see how I react to the situation.”

Crowther is aware he will have experienced players at his disposal in the Blackley 2<sup>nd</sup> XI and believes it will be important to take their advice on board.

He explained, “You’ve got to be open-minded as captain, you can’t be on your own and very insular about how you do things or you will create enemies. You’ve got to take advice or let people try and advise you. It will be my job to soak everything in and do what’s best for the team. Some things that people advise you’ll take on board and do and others you probably won’t. It’s just a matter of taking things in and making that ultimate decision yourself, that’s what being the captain is about.”

It will be a new and exciting era for the Blackley 2<sup>nd</sup> team under different leadership and even though Crowther is putting the emphasis on enjoying the game he still has high aspirations for the upcoming season.

He said, “We are in the middle league out of three so the main aim is to get promoted to the top league again. We want to bring the youngsters on and get the best out of them. I want to achieve a good team spirit and get everyone to enjoy what their doing. So hopefully we can have a good season and people will be playing well if they are enjoying it.”