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Q&A: BEN DeARAUGO BY IAN HODGSON

Australian Ben DeAraugo has signed for Broad Oak CC as overseas player for 2008. He is currently playing cricket for his Aussie club but will be over in the UK to play for BOCC in April.

IH: Do you bat/bowl?

BD: I would call myself a bowling all-rounder. I open the bowling over here in Australia and bat down the order at seven or eight. We have a strong side so unfortunately I don't get a lot of opportunities to bat here but hopefully I will get the opportunity to bat a bit with Broad Oak.

IH: Is there a particular game in your life that you've played in that stands out as one that you've performed well in?

BD: My career highlight so far is winning a competition called Country Week where all the leagues from around Victoria play in Melbourne each year. Our league (Bendigo) won the Division One final in 2007 for the first time in 53 years so that was great to be part of.



IH: How did you first get into playing cricket?

BD: I started playing here in Bendigo for the Under-12s with some mates from school and loved it so I've never stopped.

IH: Who have you played for back in Australia? What is the standard like?

BD: I have really only played for my club side, Strathdale. I played from a young age, I came through the juniors and now I'm in my eighth year in the 1st XI here. The league won Country Week last year so I guess that is a good indication that the standard is pretty good. Unfortunately we narrowly missed making the final last week.

IH: Is this the first time you've been over here?

BD: Yes, this is the first time ever that I've been over here.

IH: Have you played overseas before? What was the standard like there?

BD: I've never played anywhere but in Australia.

IH: What previous teams have you played for?

BD: Pretty much only Strathdale CC plus a few other representative sides around the place.

IH: Any particular successes during your career? Any low points as well?

BD: Unfortunately not, other than the rep win last year. At Strathdale, we have lost two grand finals and three semi-finals in my time. Hoping that this year will be our year (we're sitting second with one game to go before the finals)! Low points would be all the final defeats.

IH: What are your hopes for this season? Any personal targets?

BD: I haven't got any real personal targets other than to contribute to a winning team. Obviously Broad Oak are looking to move up into the Premiership so it would be great to be able to contribute to that.