

# KIWI CRUSADER!

Profile of New Signing Leighton Morgan by Rob Hardie



With the 2008 cricket season approaching fast, there is news of a new addition to the Meltham squad. Following on from the success of Grant Robinson in 2007, the club have once again looked to New Zealand in order to acquire an overseas professional.

Leighton Morgan, 26, who hails from the Kiwi capital, Wellington, will join up with the rest of the team in time for the first game of the season away to Barkisland at Scammondon Road on 19<sup>th</sup> April. Like fellow Kiwi Robinson before him, Morgan is a talented batsman and should prove to be a great asset as an opener for the club. As well as his batting prowess, Morgan is also a useful bowler. With his slow left-arm orthodox bowling style, he will be a top addition to the squad in all departments.

The move for Morgan was linked to the fact that his partner hails from Halifax, and so Meltham is close by. With three campaigns of English cricket firmly under his belt, the seasoned batsman knows exactly what to expect from the season ahead and in particular the atmosphere in the local leagues, which he's looking forward to, "I really enjoy the English way of cricket, the support and the passion," he tells me. And that's not all he is relishing: "I love the fact that there is real club atmosphere in the UK. Something we miss here [New Zealand], I feel."

On the field the player is looking to give 100% to the cause and hopefully help Meltham towards a highly successful season and is looking forward to meeting his new teammates and everyone involved at the club. As he explains: "I'm aiming to contribute as much as I can on and off the field and hopefully the results will go our way. I'm really looking forward to meeting everyone. To me that is one of the greatest aspects of this, the chance to meet new people and make new friends that you will have forever."

As you would expect, the patriotic Kiwi follows the national cricket side, the Black Caps, but is also a big fan of most of the national sports of New Zealand. Outside cricket, Morgan supports the All Blacks rugby union side as well as the Hurricanes in the Super 14 competition. In rugby league, the NZ Warriors are Morgan's preferred team of choice, once again staying firmly

loyal to his New Zealand roots. But it's another 'small ball' sport that he enjoys when he isn't taking to the cricket field: "I love all sport really but I guess golf would be my first pick outside of cricket," he says. "I love my golf!"

To date, Morgan has appeared for major New Zealand side Wellington and current club Otago Volts. So far in his first class career, he has racked up 13 innings and in these he has accumulated over 300 runs at an average of 24.61, his highest score being a creditable 81. He was named captain of Otago in 2006 and led the 'A' team to victory in the New Zealand provincial 'A' tournament, being named Otago 'A' player of the year in the same season.