

# LOOKING FORWARD TO THE NEW SEASON

2008 Preview by Paul Rai

Armitage Bridge first eleven will be challenging on four different fronts in 2008. The Bridge will be competing in the Frank Platt Conference 1, the Sykes Cup, the Npower Village Knockout Cup and the Examiner Twenty20 Cup. Their campaign will stretch over six different months of the year, beginning in April and culminating in September.



In 2007 the Bridge finished a respectable fifth in the league which can be deemed a relatively successful season. The 2007 campaign helped ABCC banish all memories of a nightmare 2006 season, when the club finished rock bottom of the league and only won two games. First team skipper Rick Lunn has set his sights on 'finishing third or fourth' this season and he openly admits that the club 'haven't got the money to get promoted'.

Saturday April 19<sup>th</sup> is the date when the long awaited cricket campaign will begin, away at Rastrick. ABCC will be hoping to repeat their start to last season when they began with a 9-wicket victory away at Paddock. Rick Lunn's men will have good memories of playing at Rastrick. Last year they piled on the runs, scoring 238 for the loss of six wickets, and then managed to reduce Rastrick to 148 for 9.

Four league matches involving Armitage Bridge in 2007 were abandoned, resulting in a loss of potential points for the club. No doubt this season the Bridge will be praying for better weather than last time around. Drakes League chairman Roger France acknowledged the effect inclement weather had last year when he said: "As far as the weather went, last summer was certainly not one that we will recall with too much pleasure. In total we lost 88 first eleven games. Some of those that were completed were not finished in the best of conditions. Also many clubs are reliant on revenue from their home matches."

Dates to put in the diary for ABCC fans in 2008 include May 10<sup>th</sup> when they play close rivals Broad Oak at home in the league. Also victory on May 18<sup>th</sup> away at Carlton in the Npower Village Cup will put them one step closer to Lord's. And the Examiner Twenty20 kicks-off on 3<sup>rd</sup> June against who else but local foes Broad Oak! France thinks "the inaugural season of the Twenty/20 Competition was well received", as a result he added that "this year the first round has been extended into a round robin format."

Preparation for this season began late in 2007 with winter nets at Newsome High School and an undoubtedly exciting cricket season awaits the team in 2008. Hopefully the sun will shine on Armitage Bridge.

Club fixtures:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Opponents</b>	<b>Venue</b>
Sat Apr 19	Rastrick	Away
Sat April 26	Kexborough	Home
Sat May 3	Kirkheaton	Away
Sun May 4	Golcar (Sykes Cup 1 <sup>st</sup> Round)	Home
Sat May 10	Broad Oak	Home
Sat May 17	Linthwaite	Away
Sun May 18	Carlton (Village KO)	Away
Sat May 24	Scholes	Home
Mon May 26	Paddock	Away
Sat May 31	Almondbury	Away
Tue Jun 3	Broad Oak (20 20 Cup)	Home
Sat Jun 7	Slaithwaite	Home
Tue June 10	Primrose Hill (20 20 Cup)	Away
Sat Jun 14	Thongsbridge	Home
Tue June 17	Hall Bower (20 20 Cup)	Home
Sat Jun 21	Kirkburton	Away
Sat Jun 28	Lepton Highlanders	Away
Tue July 1	Linthwaite (20 20 Cup)	Away
Sat Jul 5	Primrose Hill	Away
Sat Jul 12	Hall Bower	Away
Sat Jul 19	Rastrick	Home
Sat Jul 26	Kirkheaton	Home
Sat Aug 2	Broad Oak	Away
Sat Aug 9	Linthwaite	Home
Sat Aug 16	Scholes	Away
Sat Aug 23	Kexborough	Away
Sat Aug 30	Paddock	Home
Sat Sep 6	Marsden	Home