

## Player Profile: Amit Kaushik

### By Jon O'Shea

Last summer was the first in what Amit Kaushik hopes will be a long and fruitful career with Northowram Hedge Top CC, as he made an instant impact out on the square and learned a lot about his new team-mates. Amit, a dentist by profession, lives just around the corner from the ground, and was encouraged by a neighbour to make his way down to the Club to see if he could get a game. Fortunately, the Club were able to take him on, and he soon found himself turning out for the first XI, having impressed in the nets.

Coming to the club from India as an all-rounder, similarly skilled with both bat and ball, Amit was thrown into first team action down the order (generally at 8 or 9); concentrating on getting results from his dangerous off-spin. His finest moment for the first XI to date must surely be his admirable figures of 13-1-61-4 in a dramatic last-ball Halifax League defeat at Mytholmroyd, one of thirteen appearances in his debut season. Amit's season average (21.47, with an economy rate of 5.03) certainly impressed the senior members at Northowram, but they were mostly taken by both his first-class attitude to the game and his always-friendly demeanour.



**Amit, far left, enjoying the hospitality of the pavilion bar!**

Having joined up after playing briefly with another local club, Amit has so far found things at Hedge Top Lane much more to his – and his young family's – liking. Although he admits he was somewhat apprehensive about joining a new team, he found himself accepted by the members almost straight off the bat. Amit now says that he is delighted to have the opportunity to play for such a "friendly, family-orientated club", where the members "show each other a lot of respect". At least when they aren't ribbing each other about a dodgy throw or a dopey run-out that is!

Although he has played alongside many fine cricketers back in India, Amit also feels that he can learn something from the current Hedge Top playing staff. In particular, he admires the left-arm magic of skipper Andrew Gardner and the explosive batting style of both Ben and Neil Harvey. He also looks forward to the prospect of getting

involved with the 20/20 side this year, as it will hopefully give him an opportunity to swing the bat more freely.

However, as a spin bowler, he realises that the most shortened form of the game can also mean taking some severe punishment from the Halifax League's big hitters. In fact, that's the only problem Amit has encountered at Hedge Top Lane so far. He says of the Club's ground: "That's my only complaint; it's a small ground for a spinner!"

Amit's hopes for the 2007 season are to keep improving the consistency of his spin bowling, to establish himself a little higher up the batting order, and, hopefully, to score a first half-century for the first team. He also has a good friend living in the village who he hopes he'll be able to persuade to turn out for Northowram (if available), and has plans to "actively engage" more with everyday events at the Club, now that he is more familiar with plenty of Hedge Top folk.

Certainly, if he can emulate the values of his cricketing hero; the Little Master, Sachin Tendulkar, which he so admires – "he handles pressure so well and is very level-headed both on and off the field" – then Northowram Hedge Top will surely have a fine cricketer on their hands in Amit Kaushik.