

MR VERSATILE!

Profile of Craig Ruscoe by Ian Hodgson

Name: Craig Ruscoe

Position within the club: First-teamer

Bat/Bowl: I do both, I'm an all-rounder. I either open the bowling or I'm first change and I bat between three and five.

Bowling characteristics: I'm Mr Versatile - I can do a bit of everything. If the pitch does a bit I can get a bit of movement and pitch it up and I can also bowl short if needs be. However, I'm not as fast as I once was, I've slowed it down a bit.

Strengths as a batsman: Very attacking and aggressive - I can play off both front and back foot and have a variety of shots.

Most memorable batting innings: I've got two: one was when I scored 144 in about 17 overs at Clayton West where I got run out by Gareth Durdin. I also got 106 to get us into the play-offs.

Other teams you've played for: I played for Golcar from junior level until two years ago when I fancied a change so I came here and I've really enjoyed it - they're a great bunch of lads here.



Best team performance: Kirkheaton away (above): we had a 25-over match and we were all out for about 80, but we managed to bowl them out for less than that, which was quite unexpected. We bowled well, took a few good catches and it went our way.

How you got into cricket: I played with my granddad in the driveway from the age of about seven. He was a very good cricketer and I've followed in his footsteps.

Targets for this year: Off the pitch, to abuse Tom McCreadie as much as possible because there's not much going for him (tongue in cheek). In cricketing terms, the target is just to have as much success as we can on the pitch and hopefully get promoted.

Lows: I broke my knee playing cricket for Golcar! I was batting against Barkisland, facing an Australian quickie, and I just missed it and it hit my knee. Then playing for Broad Oak I managed to top edge a ball into my eye, which gave me a nice black eye that was very painful. Then Rush's (Stephen Rushworth's) mum ran on the field towards me with a towel.

Future for yourself: Just playing as high a level as possible, for as long as I can and to just enjoy it.

Promotion chances: We've got a strong side this year with great juniors coming through and we've got to give them a chance, otherwise they'll leave and go and play elsewhere.

Inside the dressing-room: Tom McCreadie always wears white socks; he is a poor drinker and he has a distinct lack of women. Tom gets used and abused here, he's the one everyone picks on. I once managed to get him out when I was playing against him when he missed the ball completely!