

FIGHTING FOR PROMOTION

Shelf CC in 2009

By David Brenchley

History:

Although their badge proclaims 'est. 1903', cricket had been played in the village of Shelf for over 50 years before then and Shelf Victoria are accounted to have been playing in 1856. Furthermore the club's first appearance in the Parish Cup was in 1896 before winning the tournament a year later. This was, in the main, down to the efforts of controversial figure Mr J. Shaw, whose professionalism was called into question by Southowram St. Annes. Despite this, Shaw picked up the 'batting prize' in the first two rounds and the 'bowling prize' in the semi-final. Shelf played in the Bradford and Central League from its formation until 2006. They went out on a high by lifting the title for only the second time in their history before joining the Halifax Central League the following season and, thus far, failing to exit the lowest tier of the league.



Last Season: League Position – 7th (107 points)

“Last year we should have been up there fighting for promotion - inconsistency was our biggest problem. One week we beat Premier side Bradshaw in the cup, the following week we lost to Stainland at the bottom of our division. What was more disappointing was that, apart from losing to Greetland twice, we beat all the other teams in the division and beat Bridgeholme, the eventual champions, convincingly twice. Our 2nd team, after gaining promotion the year before, did exceptionally well to stay in their division and we saw many of our talented youngsters perform outstandingly.”
(Andy Dimpleby)

This Season:

“The 1st XI should be fighting for promotion. We have recruited a couple of players who should strengthen both teams. The 1st XI this year is very strong

in the batting department, batting down to number 8. We have a new opening bowler this year who should be among the top bowlers in the division so we have a very attacking batting and bowling line-up this year.” (Andy Dimbleby)

Key Players:

Dave Maloney: “He is a new signing from Bradford League outfit Brighouse. He is our opening bowler and a very big-hitting middle-order batter. We are expecting lots of runs and wickets from Dave.” (Andy Dimbleby)

Nick Patefield: “Another former Bradford League player who played all of last year in our 2nd team because he had not played for three seasons. He won last year’s 2nd division 2nd team bowling averages and is a very good batter. He will be moving into our 1st team this year.” (Andy Dimbleby)

Alex O’Keefe: “Alex will also be promoted into our 1st team this year. He is a very talented young batter who hopefully will score many runs this year.” (Andy Dimbleby)

Previous 1st XI Meetings:

May 10 2008 - Shelf 162-10 (3 pts); Outlane (10 pts) 163-4. Outlane win by 7 wickets

July 19 2008 – Outlane 162-9 (4 pts); Shelf 146-7 (8 pts). Shelf win by 3 wickets (D/L)