

# PLAYING TO WIN!

Stones CC in 2009

By David Brenchley

History:

Stones were formed in 1884 and joined the Halifax and District Amateur Cricket League in 1906. Having been closed down during the First World War their first piece of silverware was won in 1919 in an extraordinary game. Having seen their opponents, Rishworth, arrive very confidently and then being bowled out for just 34, Stones seemingly needed a miracle to get something out of the match. However, they managed to bowl Rishworth out for 24 and win the game by 10 runs. Their first ground was on Rochdale Road, near Stones Methodist Church, and they moved to Swift Cross after their re-formation in 1919. Both first and second teams brought a plethora of trophies back to Stones during the 1920s and 1930s and have won other competitions since. Their most recent victory was the second team's Division Two triumph in 1996, a year after their pavilion was refurbished, costing £25,000, of which £14,000 was made up of grants.



Last Season: League Position – 4th (119 points)

“We finished fourth last season and, like many other teams, we missed out because of the weather and we didn’t have the same eleven out each week. We lost to a lot of lesser sides due to playing a weaker team.” (Club captain Matt Bowler-Jones)

This Season:

“We have made three new signings, the Whipp brothers (Karl and Chris) from Luddenden Foot as well as re-signing wicketkeeper John Bridge. These players should help us to field as strong a team as possible week in, week out

and we should finish high again. We play quite similar to Outlane, we have a lot of sportsmanship but are also competitive and play to win.” (Club captain Matt Bowler-Jones)

#### Key Players:

“We have Mick Taylor, who is an all-rounder and bats at number six. A very good spinner in Ben Watkins, in addition to the Whipp brothers who will give us something else. There is also a guy called David Mobbs, who is a bowler, but availability is always an issue with him.” (Club captain Matt Bowler-Jones)

#### Previous 1st XI Meetings:

June 3 2006 – Outlane 178-10 (4 pts); Stones 182-7 (10 pts); Stones won by 3 wickets

August 19 2006 – Outlane 98-5 (2 pts) – Match Abandoned due to weather

May 17 2008 – Outlane 62-3 – Match Abandoned

July 26 2008 – Stones 204-10 (10 pts); Outlane 188-10 (6 pts); Stones won by 16 runs