

Captain and Vice-Captain to travel world together

By Samantha Shilton

Upper Hopton C.C has been dealt a massive blow this season following the revelation that Craig Gardner and Robert Holdsworth will be leaving the squad in June to travel the world.

"They will only be able to play about six or seven games before they leave in the middle of June" said Russell Laycock, Second team vice-captain. "It's unfortunate because this was Craig's year to step up and do the business for us, but I'm sure they'll be back once they're done travelling and have many more chances to play for us".

Gardner and Holdsworth, First team captain and vice-captain respectively, will be travelling for around ten months, which luckily for Upper Hopton means that they will be back in time for the 2010 season.

"We'll be coming back to play for Hopton next year, most definitely" said Holdsworth, 23. "It's just something we've always wanted to do and have spoken about for some time. The timing couldn't be better, well for me anyway, as I stopped getting work around mid-February".

Holdsworth is a qualified electrician, and has been hit hard by the current economic recession. "I spoke to Craig and said that we needed to get something sorted, and we had it booked by the middle of March. It made sense for us because we're both single and we can both afford it".

Gardner, also 23, added: "I've always wanted to go, I should have gone straight after I finished University but I couldn't afford to. So I've been working for two years and saving up my money, and we've just decided that now is a good time to get off, because we're getting a bit old now!"

After finishing University, Gardner secured a graduate job with a kitchen company in Dewsbury, and admits that it was a tough decision to leave this job. "I'm giving up a good job really, but if I don't go now I'll never go, I'll end up getting settled and that's not what I want".

When asked about whether the two friends will be able to spend ten months together without falling out, Holdsworth was keen to quash any negative thoughts. "I'm sure we'll be fine, for the first few months at least. We won't be spending every day together because I'm sure that at some point we will want to do different things. As long as we get the odd day here and there to get some space I don't see there being many problems".

And at least there won't be a chance for boredom to set in. The two men will be travelling to India first of all, on the 15th June, and spending a month there, followed by two months in South East Asia, three months in Australia, one month in New Zealand and whatever time is left in South America.