

# STAR MAN!

## Richard Gould by Zak Data

Two years ago, Gomersal star batsman Richard Gould raised a few eyebrows when he decided to terminate his seven-year stay at East Bierley Cricket Club and drop a division to play for Gomersal Cricket Club.



However, many Gomersal fans would say it was a stroke of genius to bring Gould to the club as the 33-year-old's experience and prolific batting performances helped gain Gomersal promotion back into the first division at the end of last season.

Gould, who in his second season at Gomersal hit an amazing 1,000-plus runs for the club, stated that his initial aim was to make Gomersal into a good second division team and then move them back into the first division, something which they haven't accomplished since 2003.

However, currently in a mid-table position, Gomersal have found the jump from second to first division a little challenging this season. Gould explains, "I expected it to be tough and it has been tough. You have to graft more for your runs. After playing for five to ten years against the same bowlers, you get used to them and they get used to you. It has been nice to have that change."

On his decision to leave Bierley, Gould said: "It was a tough decision to leave Bierley. It is an unbelievable club but I couldn't give them 100% commitment. I love the club and I still do some coaching there with the juniors."

Gould had three or four offers from other first division clubs but he said: "My position meant I was likely to miss half a dozen games, which meant it was difficult to commit to the other clubs. As soon as you mention that, it's not what some clubs are wanting. Speaking to Mick, and the people around Gomersal I knew this would be the right move. I wanted a new challenge and I certainly got one."

Gomersal were able to offer a terrific deal to Gould. The contract gives him the freedom to pursue his accountancy studies and at the same time allow him to work in the healthcare industry.

However, Gould hasn't dismissed the idea of him returning to his former club, "You never know, I might end up back there in the future, maybe not as a player but as a coach."

Gould has a Priestley Cup winners' medal from his time at East Bierley but is regretful that the club did not win the first division league title while he was there, something he believes he is capable of doing with Gomersal.