

# So solid crew!

## Indian quick can help Barkisland make an immediate return



■ **GOING BACK:** all-rounder Max Freeland is returning to Broad Oak after spells with Slaithwaite and Kirkburton (2493-13-08)

**DRAKES LEAGUE** cricket returns on Saturday. In the first of three features to launch the 2007 season, cricket writer **DAVID LOCKWOOD** assesses the prospects of clubs in the Frank Platt Conference. Watch out tomorrow for his preview of the Cedar Court Conference



**RELEGATED** from the top flight last season, **Barkisland** look strong contenders for the Frank Platt title and immediate promotion this summer.

A major clear-out during the winter sees several new faces arriving at the Scammonden Road ground, although it is the familiar face of Paul Winrow, who will skipper the new-look side and no doubt add to his already-considerable collection of runs in Huddersfield League cricket.

Joining Winrow is Indian quick bowler Chandrasekhar Atram from Vidarbha, and wicketkeeper/batsman Jacob Travis from Lightcliffe in the Bradford League.

Top order batsman Simon Wheelwright joins from Mytholmroyd, and Yorkshire Under 16 Niall Lockley from Bradshaw, while Ben Wells is back from Southwram, and Sean Mee has moved the short distance from Elland.

Like Barkisland, **Kirkheaton** were another club to suffer the drop last September, and they too are aiming for a quick return, pinning their hopes on a mixture of youth and experience, plus an Aussie all-rounder.

Twenty-five-year-old Keith Perumal is a Grade A opening bat and medium pacer from the Hawthorn-Monash University club in Melbourne.

The experience comes in the shape of Dale Winterbottom, who again skips the side, Craig Whitehead and Ibrar Younas.

The youth element comes from new signings Luke Webster, the 17-year-old leg spinner/batsman from Elland, 18-year-old off-spinner Greg Wadsworth, from Lepton, Alex Slack, from Old Almondsburians, and Scott Hibbett, from Mexborough.

**Broad Oak** were always in with a shout of the play-offs last season, but just missed out in the final analysis.

Whether they go that one step further this year remains to be seen, and much will depend on overseas player, Aussie Tark Williamson, a quick bowler who plays first grade in Adelaide.

One of the club's former junior players Max Freeland is also moving back to the Colne Valley club after spells with Slaithwaite and Kirkburton.

On the downside, the Oak



■ **SPEED MERCHANT:** Joe-Lumb Cup-winning spinner Greg Wadsworth has joined Kirkheaton while Sean Mee (inset) is likely to open the bowling at Barkisland. (3543-481-09)

have lost two of their up-coming younger players, in bowler Adam France, who has jumped at a chance in the Premiership with Golcar, and Dale Brooke, while opening bowler Tahir Mahmood is not expected back.

**Rastrick** are another of the Frank Platt club's to pin their hopes on an Aussie this time.

Elliott Lawrie is a 21-year-old quick bowler who plays with the East Fremantle club in Perth.

He has represented his League side and has played for the Western Australia Association from Under 13 level.

Lawrie is also a useful middle-order batsman who has been recruited to replace Javed Iqbal, but is mainly expected to open the bowling with Ijaz Shah, who bagged 46 wickets last term.

Mohammed Taj again looks after the affairs of **Primrose Hill** and will again be calling on the all-round talents of Indian Sachin Shoor as the club's amateur overseas player.

Shoor, who hails from Jalandhar, and has played with India's A team, will be over for his fourth season at Cross Lane.

The 23-year-old scored 548 in only 14 games last season, including two centuries and formed several useful partnerships with Taj's son Mohammed Usman.

Elsewhere the team will be very similar to last year's.

**Linthwaite** have a new overseas player this season in

Malik Aftab, an all-rounder, who played with Bowling Old Lane in the Bradford League, last season.

An opening bowler and No3 batsman, Aftab will be joined by Imran Malik, from Rainhill in the Liverpool League, who is an early order bat and off-spinner, while Dale Brooke and Rob Campbell have moved the short distance from Broad Oak, and are expected to open the batting.

**Paddock** skipper Mark Turner welcomes another Australian as their overseas player with the arrival of

Melbourne's Gavin Moore.

A left-handed top-four batsman, Moore represents his league side and averaged 45 with the bat during his domestic season. The club will also hope his bowling is an improvement on Luke Jury's (last year's overseas).

After a year out on a placement from University, Kesri Singh is back to bolster the batting and bowl some off-spin, while Marcus Tinsley may be available most of the season, and 17-year-old Waqas Rafiq is one of the club's young players offering much promise.

**Armitage Bridge** will be skipped by Rick Lunn, who will start his second year with the Holme Valley club, who had to seek re-election as the League's bottom club!

They are pursuing a Pakistani-based cricketer, whose brother plays in Bradford.

Definitely arriving is Scholes' second teamer Paul Hertzberg and Ben Hill's brother Josh, who, like Hertzberg, is an all-rounder.

On the downside, the Bridge have lost batsman Chris Bullock, who is reportedly joining Halifax side Blackley.

## REGISTRATIONS

**Armitage Bridge** - Josh Hill.

**Barkisland** - Tom Booth, Robert Dixon, William Samuel Gregory, Thomas Holt, Niall Lockley, Sean Mee (ex Elland), David Nelson, Stuart Nelson, Matthew Raven, Ben Reinsch, Matthew Walker, Ben Wells, Simon Wheelwright.

**Broad Oak** - Martin Caulfield (ex Paddock), Max Freeland (ex Kirkburton), Andrew Healey.

**Clayton West** - Paul Van Den Berg Non EU.

**Golcar** - Oral Blackford, Gary Colman (ex Barkisland), Adam France (ex Oak), Paulo Girardi, Mitchell O'Connor (Non EU), Ashley Pamment (ex Scholes), James Sykes.

**Hall Bower** - Martin Sykes, Holmfirth - Javed Iqbal.

**Kexborough** - Michael Burgess, Peter Haslam, Robert James, Ben Potter, Adam Wiles.

**Kirkburton** - Adam Carter, John Eason (ex Birchcliffe), Chris Flanagan (ex Birchcliffe), Darren Hinchliffe (ex Birchcliffe), Jimmy Lodge, Joe Nixon, Andrew Smith (ex Cumberworth).

**Kirkheaton** - Jason Dawson (ex Lascelles Hall), Scott Hibbett, Keith Perumal (Non EU), Luke Webster (ex Elland), Alexander Slack (ex Old Almondsburians).

**Lascelles Hall** - Gurman Randhawa (ex Almondsbury West), Nash Stone, Keith Simpson, Matthew Simpson.

**Lepton** - Richard Haynes, Daniel Pauley, Chamel Perera (Non EU), Simon Robinson, Richard Stocker, Sean Wienand (ex Lascelles Hall).

**Linthwaite** - Malik Aftab (Non EU), Dale Brooke (ex Broad Oak), Rob Campbell (ex Broad Oak), Imran Malik.

**Maradon** - Danny Clea, Tom Fleming, Sam Hall, Neil Daniel, Liam Morris (ex Shepley), Gary Smith.

**Primrose Hill** - Yasir Iqbal Azam.

**Rastrick** - Chris Dennison, Tom Owen, Daniel Thaxter.

**Scholes** - Nick Sharp (ex-Clayton West).

**Shelley** - Steve Sullivan (ex Shepley), Gareth Wakefield (ex Scholes).

**Skelmanthorpe** - Thomas Barber, Jordan Greaves, Jamie Jagger, Ryan Jagger, Richard Parker, Dominic Storey.

**Slaithwaite** - Graham Holroyd (ex Linthwaite), Andrew Keeling (ex Broad Oak), Jason Longmore (ex Marsden), John Morris (ex Delph & Dobcross).

**Thongbridge** - Gareth Myers (ex Scholes), Chris Sanderson, Sanjinder Pal Singh (ex Almondsbury Non EU).

### OPENING FIXTURES

Kirkheaton v Barkisland, Paddock v Armitage Bridge, Primrose Hill v Linthwaite, Rastrick v Broad Oak

Start 1.30