



PUTTING THEIR SHIRTS ON THE TEAM: Broad Oak cricketers have been supplied with new shirts to mark 125 years this season — and chairman Andy Roebuck is seen here (centre front) with sponsors Craig McCreadie (left) and Bob McCreadie, along with skipper Stephen Rushworth (back second left) and some of their teammates and helpers

Picture by Paul Welch

(1406-1-05)

Oak make net profit in 125th celebration

BROAD OAK Cricket Club are celebrating 125 years at the Gilroyd Lane ground this year.

And to mark the milestone the club are constructing brand new all-weather nets as they continue to improve their facilities — which includes new windows in the clubhouse.

"The club have raised much of the money themselves, but have also been boosted by sponsorship from former player Craig McCreadie's McTurf company (see picture) and from Richard Gledhill's Sunrise Windows company in Milnsbridge, who were responsible for installing the windows," said chairman Andy Roebuck.

"The all-weather nets will be a big bonus for our junior players, as well as the rest of the club, and we shall also have Huddersfield New College's Academy team playing at Broad Oak this season."

One man which Oak fans will be delighted to welcome back this summer is Pakistani batsman Saleem Mughal who set the Conference alight last season when he finished at the top of the averages.

The 27-year-old from Sheikhupura, who skippers the Sui Gas Corporation side in Punjab, hammered 1,516 runs, for an average of 89.18 in his first spell in the Drakes League.

In that total, he included eight centuries, and remarkably, he was also dismissed three times while in the nineties!

Mughal will certainly be a major player in the Conference again this season, as he and skipper Stephen Rushworth try to steer the Oak to success in the Cedar Court section.

Youth to fore



■ **WATCHING:** Simon Hoyle watches this delivery safely past the off-stump, watched by umpire Rod Bull (2353-7-05)

Mughal's important role as Valley club chalk up 125 years

BROAD OAK are already starting to see their investment and commitment to youth paying fruit with no fewer than **FIVE** of their juniors breaking into the county ranks.

Daniel Rushworth (son of first team skipper Stephen) and Eddie Wilson have both just been selected for Yorkshire's Under 11s.

Charlie Roebuck (son of Oak chairman Andy) has been awarded a place in the county's Under 14 squad, while Jack Hargreaves has already played for West Yorkshire and is currently undergoing final trials for the full county Under 13 side.

And on top of that, the Gillroyd Lane club can also boast about the achievements of Sarah Ford, a member of their Under 15s who is now playing for Yorkshire Ladies' Under 15s.

And for good measure they also have representatives in both the Huddersfield League junior representative sides, with Adam France a member of the White Rose team and Sean Mee and James Anderson selected for the Joe Lumb Cup team.

So irrespective of what happens at senior level this season, Broad Oak will have something to cheer about in their 125th year.

And the juniors' success is something which chairman



By **DAVID LOCKWOOD**
Sports Reporter

Andy Roebuck is keen to highlight.

"We have deliberately spent a great deal of time and effort into getting youngsters and their parents involved, which we see as an investment in the club's future.

"With help from our sponsors we were able to install a double bay of practice nets at the club during March and we already have plenty of young players using them, although we could do with a few more.

"We want as many as we can get, and anyone who wants to turn up on Friday nights will be more than welcome, and we would like a few more girls to go alongside Sarah.

"Unfortunately, at senior level, we simply don't have the funds to compete with the big boys, and we are not as strong as the likes of Micklehurst and Shelley in the Conference.

"We were delighted to get Saleem Mughal back again this year, after a terrific season from him last year, and we are obviously relying heavily on him again.

"Saleem knows we have largely a young and inexperienced side and he is trying to help bring them on, but he's also helped us recruit Tahir

as Rushworth leads new challenge

as Oak build!



■ CEDAR COURT HOPEFULS: Broad Oak are banking on their own talent, plus that of overseas all-rounder Saleem Mughal, who plays with Pakistan's WAPDA side and the Sui Gas Co-operation. Broad Oak are pictured (back row, from left): Daniel Rushworth (Yorkshire Under 11), Sean Mee, Richard Metcalfe, Adam France, Tahir Mahmood, Ian Hirst, Kayleigh Hallas (scorer). Front: Tom McCreadie, Gareth Durdin, Stephen Rushworth, Rob Campbell, Simon Hoyle, Saleem Mughal. (2353-16-05)

Mahmood, who is a mate of his and who previously played with Saltaire in the Bradford League.

"It was Tahir's six-wicket haul at Almondbury which won us the game there a couple of weeks ago and his batting should help stiffen up the middle order.

"We're also looking for another big season from Rusby (skipper Steve Rushworth) and we've got Simon Hoyle back this time after he missed all of last season with a badly broken finger.

"Si's had a good start opening the batting, and the break from cricket seems to have done him the world of good, and he's also

back behind the stumps. Gareth Durdin and Richard Metcalfe are now established first teamers and need to play a bigger role (which Metcalfe did last week against Shelley when he made a breezy 44 not out with some big sixes off the bowling of Graeme Hurlbutt.

"And then we have our younger end with Adam France, of whom we are hoping for big things in his first full season out of the juniors, Jimmy Anderson and Dale Brooke, who are both on the fringe of the first team, and Sean Mee, who is another of our players selected for the Joe Lumb squad.

"Sean is a quick bowler who

just needs to settle on his line and length, but he's certainly one of our most promising players, and we're just hoping they all press on for a regular first team slot."

The club are aiming to celebrate their 125th anniversary with a number of events, among which will be a sportsman's evening, hopefully in September, when they already have a former England Test player pencilled in as guest speaker.

There has already been a big investment on refurbishing the bar and lounge, which is already paying dividends with greatly increased usage.

"Linthwaite footballers used

the club as their base during the winter, we are now a well-supported family club and with more attractive surroundings, we are seeing a bigger influx of people calling in for a drink," added chairman Roebuck.

"Now we just need to find some consistency on the field. Last season we beat all the better sides, winning twice against Kexborough and once against Slithwaite, both of whom were promoted, but we were unable to do it on a regular basis.

"Hopefully our young players will only improve, given the chance to play against the better sides in the first team."

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Last 4 weekends only, 1.00pm start

(These fixtures are the copyright of
the Huddersfield Cricket League)

1st Eleven Fixtures
Cedar Court Conference

APRIL

16 HOLMFIRTH H

23 Paddock A

30 Kirkheaton A

MAY

1 SHEPLEY (Sykes Cup 1st Round) H

7 LEPTON HIGHLANDERS H

14 Almondbury A

21 SHELLEY H

28 Linthwaite A

30 Marsden A

JUNE

4 HALL BOWER H

11 Primrose Hill A

18 THONGSBRIDGE H

25 Emley Clarence A

JULY

2 ARMITAGE BRIDGE H

9 Rastrick A

16 MICKLEHURST H

23 ALMONDBURY H

30 Lepton Highlanders A

AUGUST

6 KIRKHEATON H

13 Holmfirth A

20 Shelley A

27 LINTHWAITE H

SEPTEMBER

3 PADDOCK H

10 Free Date

2nd Eleven Fixtures
Cedar Court Conference Two

APRIL

16 Holmfirth A

23 PADDOCK H

30 KEXBOROUGH H

MAY

1 Thongsbridge (Paddock Shield 1st Rd) A

7 Lepton Highlanders A

14 ALMONDBURY H

21 Clayton West A

28 LINTHWAITE H

30 MARSDEN H

JUNE

4 Kirkburton A

11 GOLCAR H

18 Thongsbridge A

25 EMLEY CLARENCE H

JULY

2 Armitage Bridge A

9 RASTRICK H

16 Micklehurst A

23 Almondbury A

30 LEPTON HIGHLANDERS H

AUGUST

6 Kexborough A

13 HOLMFIRTH H

20 CLAYTON WEST H

27 Linthwaite A

SEPTEMBER

3 Paddock A

10 Free Date

