

CLECKHEATON'S PLAYING SQUAD - SEASON 2004.

There have made many changes to our side since last year. In his second season as captain is Ian Austin who did well to steer us into 5th place last term. Austin, born in Haslingden on 30th May 1966, played his first Lancashire League game for his local side as a 16-year old in 1982 where he played until joining the Lancashire team in 1986. Whilst with Haslingden he scored an unbeaten 149 in a record 3rd wicket partnership of 268 runs with John Entwistle against Church.



After joining Lancashire his bowling developed to the extent that he soon became an integral part of their one-day team often being asked to bowl "at the death". It was however, still a major surprise to most people when selected on 1998 to play for England's one-day team. He made his debut for the national side at Lords against Sri Lanka in the Emirates Triangular Tournament. His last game for England was at Canterbury in the 1999 World Cup against Kenya.

His all-round ability was a key factor in Lancashire's one-day double in 1998. Following his elevation to the national side, Matthew Engle, Wisden's editor, selected him as one of his "Cricketers of the Year" in 1999. He said, to quote, "His build might suggest a certain lack of pace in the field, but this is more than offset by a safe pair of hands and a strong arm."

When he was released by Lancashire at the end of the 2000 season he joined Minor Counties side Cumberland and returned to Lancashire League cricket with Haslingden where he enjoyed two successful seasons with both bat and ball, but he was not offered terms for the 2003 season. The rest is history; looking for new challenges he decided to play his cricket in the Bradford League with Cleckheaton.

After looking for an early order batsman for most of the winter, suddenly Ismail Dawood became available after deciding it was time to leave his present club Hanging Heaton, and he was pleased to join us. "Ishy" who will be 28 during the season has a first class career spanning 10 years. His county clubs include Northants, Worcester, and Glamorgan. He also played for England at Youth and Under 19's level between 1993/1995.



Keeping wicket for Glamorgan against Lancashire at Blackpool in 1999, a match in which Ian Austin played, he set a County Championship record beating Colin Metson's record for the most number of runs being scored without any byes being conceded. He kept a "clean sheet" as Lancs reached 556-6 dec, passing the previous highest of 536-8 dec by Yorkshire at Sophia Gardens in 1997. We all know that he will do a good job for Cleckheaton.

Staying with us for a further season is eighteen year old opener Adam Patel. Joining us last year from Baildon his 597 runs was better than we anticipated and the expectation is for even more runs this season. One of his happiest cricketing moments was to appear for a North of England representative side, and he is now currently playing for the Leeds/Bradford University team. Adam, born on Christmas Day 1985, rates the most memorable game in which he has played as the Priestley Cup Final in 2001 when Baildon were victors over Yeadon.

Returning for a third season is 6ft 7ins fast bowler Faisal Irfan whose team back home WAPDA finished top of Pool A of the Patron's Trophy. Playing in the same team were Woodland's Safraz Ahmed and Pudsey Cong's Naveed ul Hassan. Although Faisal did not play in all the matches he finished with an average of 18.75 and an economy rate of just 1.70 runs conceded per over.



By his own admission the first half of last season was disappointing, but in the second half he discovered both his best bowling and batting form. In particular the performance that gained us a tie at East Bierley when he took 23 runs off Rob Burton's last over will be a memory that will stay with us all for many years.



We are happy to welcome two young South African born brothers from Bradford and Bingley. Both will play for our 1st team this season.

The elder brother 18-year old Sarfaraaz Mahomed has already played for the North of England under 15 & Yorkshire under 17. His favourite cricketers are the South African duo of Jacques Kallis and Shaun Pollock.

Younger brother Uzair, only 16 years old has also played for Yorkshire at junior level. Last summer he toured along with our young wicketkeeper Anthony Daniells who is also staying with us. Uzair an avid reader of the Guardian says the major influence on this career has been his father.

Our bowling strength has been improved by the addition of left arm fast bowler Craig Paul Wiseman from the Yorkshire Academy, and John Cairns, a right arm medium pacer from Lancashire League club Haslingden.



Craig, 18 years old in July, was released by the Academy at the end of last season means to make a mark with us this year opening with overseas man Faisal.

John, after taking a year out of cricket last season due to his studies, is hoping this season to get back into the groove. The 21 year old is looking forward to the challenge of Bradford League cricket, but Ian Austin who recommended him to the Club has now doubts about his pedigree.



Opener Andy Gale is looking forward to an even better season this term even though he scored 784 runs at an average of almost 33. He is currently in the second year of a Yorkshire 2nd team contract, & we know he will be a force in their 1st team before much longer.



Rhys Jowett, a squad member, will be hoping to have a good run in the senior team after an impressive score opening with Gale in our pre-season friendly with Lancashire Northern Premier League club St Annes.