

THE MOORENDER

SEASON 2005

CLECKHEATON CRICKET CLUB



SOME OF OUR SUCCESSFUL JUNIOR CRICKETERS - SEASON 2004

SDS

1st DIVISION

BRADFORD CRICKET LEAGUE

Adults £2.00 Children/Senior Citizens £1.00

www.cleckheatoncricketclub.com



THE THOUGHTS OF CHAIRMAN DAVE

A warm welcome to Moorend to everyone. Here's to a warm sunny day, some excellent positive cricket, a big crowd, and a Cleck win!!

On behalf of our players and committee I would like to say a big thanks to our sponsors; our 1st Team Sponsor Gaggia, our Programme Sponsor the "Hunsworth Brewer's Fayre", our Training Kit Sponsor "Connectingu" & Match Sponsor "Automint". On top of this we have to thank our Ground & Programme advertisers, Match Ball Sponsors, Lottery Players, everyone who buys a Program or Raffle Ticket, and those who regularly attend one of our Fund Raising Activities.

From a personal point of view my thanks go to all the groundstaff, and everyone who gets involved in preparing food, and my fellow committee people.

This year could be a big year for our game, the "Aussies" are coming and if we perform against them then there will be a surge of interest from youngsters wanting to be Freddie or Michael Vaughan. We would like to take that enthusiasm and give them an introduction to the enjoyment and camaraderie of playing the game. We run Summer Academies under the leadership of Tony Pickersgill, and by contacting the schools, and through local press we hope to help in the development of more young cricketers.

During the 2003 season we introduced coloured clothing to the Bradford League. We played one game at Bankfoot in the Priestley Cup which we lost (anyone want to buy some green and red gear). However, despite playing only one game and allowing for a £15.00 registration fee !!, we still made a profit. Everyone else apart from Bob Shackleton then voted it out the next season. We wouldn't have introduced it without consulting with our players first; they were so enthusiastic we just had to go ahead.

We did ask them to give us feedback from the lads they played against each week and it was soon pretty obvious that if the players rather than the club reps had voted, it would have been voted in overwhelmingly. It won't go away. My limited investigations haven't been able to find anywhere where it has failed. Wouldn't it be fantastic if our League became the first in the county to do it, because if we don't, and soon, someone else will.

Enjoy the game.

CLECKHEATON CRICKET CLUB

Main Sponsor:

GAGGIA UNITED KINGDOM LTD

OFFICIALS 2005

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1st Team Captain. 2nd Team Captain.

John Wood.

Neil Shackleton.

Committee.

Martyn Evans + David Porritt + Mark Robinson + Alan Gale + Ian Fearnley
Kevin Mitchell + Marcus Walmsley + Maxine Speight + Harriett Williamson

Email: cleckcricket@lineone.net

Visit our websites:

www.cleckheatoncricketclub.com

www.cleckheatonsportsclub.com

SPECIALIST DUCTING SUPPLIES BRADFORD CRICKET LEAGUE

1st TEAM FIXTURES - SEASON 2005

Sat,	16th	APRIL	-	PUDSEY ST LAWRENCE		(A)
Sun,	17th	APRIL	-	MOORLANDS. (HWC)	(1st Rnd)	(H)
Sat,	23th	APRIL	-	SALTAIRE		(H)
Sat,	30th	APRIL	-	PUDSEY CONGS		(H)
Sun,	1st	MAY	-	PRIESTLEY CUP.	(1st Rnd)	Bye
Sat,	7th	MAY	-	IDLE		(A)
Sun,	8th	MAY	-	EAST BIERLEY		(H)
Sat,	14th	MAY	-	FARSLEY		(A)
Sun,	15th	MAY	-	HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP.	(2nd Rnd)	(H)
Sat,	21st	MAY	-	BANKFOOT		(H)
Sun,	22nd	MAY	-	PRIESTLEY CUP.	(2nd Rnd)	
Sat,	28th	MAY	-	BRADFORD & BINGLEY		(A)
Mon,	30th	MAY	-	MORLEY		(H)
Sat,	4th	JUNE	-	BAILDON		(A)
Sat,	11th	JUNE	-	SPEN VICTORIA		(A)
Sun,	12th	JUNE	-	HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP.	(3rd Rnd)	(H)
Sat,	18th	JUNE	-	WOODLANDS		(H)
Sun,	19th	JUNE	-	PRIESTLEY CUP.	(3rd Rnd)	
Sat,	25th	JUNE	-	HANGING HEATON		(A)
Sun,	26th	JUNE	-	HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP.	(4th Rnd)	
Sat,	2nd	JULY	-	PUDSEY ST LAWRENCE		(H)
Sat,	9th	JULY	-	SALTAIRE		(A)
Sun,	10th	JULY	-	PRIESTLEY CUP.	(Semi-Final)	
Sat,	16th	JULY	-	PUDSEY CONGS		(A)
Sun,	17th	JULY	-	HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP.	(Semi-Final)	
Sat,	23rd	JULY	-	IDLE		(H)
Sun,	24th	JULY	-	EAST BIERLEY		(A)
Sat,	30th	JULY	-	FARSLEY		(H)
Sat,	6th	AUGUST	-	BANKFOOT		(A)
Sun,	7th	AUGUST	-	PRIESTLEY SHIELD.	(Final)	
Sat,	13th	AUGUST	-	BRADFORD & BINGLEY		(H)
Sat,	20th	AUGUST	-	MORLEY		(A)
Sat,	27th	AUGUST	-	BAILDON		(H)
Sun,	28th	AUGUST	-	PRIESTLEY CUP.	(Final)	
Mon,	29th	AUGUST	-	HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP.	(Final)	
Sat,	3rd	SEPT	-	SPEN VICTORIA		(H)
Sat,	10th	SEPT	-	WOODLANDS		(A)
Sat,	17th	SEPT	-	HANGING HEATON		(H)

CLECKHEATON'S PLAYING SQUAD

SEASON 2005

There have been some changes from last season's line-up. Ian Austin, after captaining the team for two successful years has decided it is now time to return to Lancashire as Director of Cricket at St Annes. John Cairns whom Ian brought to the Club will also play his cricket this year on the other side of the Pennines. We are sure to miss Ian, but we think we have found an admirable replacement in John Wood, the former Durham and Lancashire all rounder. He, like Ian, will certainly lead from the front.



John is expected to open the bowling, and bat high in the order. It was rather surprising that Ian Austin and not John won the Bradford League's All-Rounder prize last season. Because of Lancashire commitments he played only 15 innings for Spen but still scored 503 runs at an average of 38.69. With the ball he captured 32 wickets at an average of 17.41 finishing just 3 places below our bowler Faisal Irfan in 6th place.

Faisal, after three good years with our club, has moved to Pudsey St Lawrence. With Austin injured for most of last season's second half, bowling responsibility was firmly laid on Faisal's shoulders. This season our bowling has much more depth. Joining John from Spen Victoria is his brother Ian Wood, and Kez Ahmed, who will share much of the bowling with the new skipper.

Lancashire's Gary Keedy has also signed, and will play for Cleckheaton when his county duties allow. 29 year old Yorkshire born Gary Keedy, made his debut for Lancashire in 1995, and for him, 2004 was a memorable year. The left arm spin bowler captured Lancashire's LBM "Player of the Season" Trophy. He ran away with the award after a superb season in which he claimed 72 wickets. Despite a hernia problem for much of the season he played in every championship game sending down 640 overs which was more than any other English bowler



Ishy Dawood, although now contracted to Yorkshire also remains signed on with the Club, and although not expected to make too many starts, he will be a welcome addition to the side if he does get the chance to play.

Anthony Daniells has departed bound for the Yorkshire Academy. He had enjoyed his two seasons with us and was sorry to have to leave us. We have replaced him with last season's 2nd Division leading wicket keeper Richard Soulsby who took 45 victims for Morley. The 17 stumpings he collected also won him the Stan Longbottom "Safe Hands" Trophy.





New Keeper Richard Soulsby

The batting which was our strength last season has got even more options this term. Our opening pair of Adam Patel and Andrew Gale remain with us. Both have gained valuable experience over the past few seasons and expected to improve even more this term. Andrew will be encouraged after having been awarded his Yorkshire 2nd's cap.

Cleckheaton have further strengthened their bowling attack with the addition of experienced Indian right arm off-spinner Faisal Sheikh. A quality slow bowler is something that the club has lacked in recent years, & the capture of Goa's front line spin bowler is seen as a bit of a coup.



The 27 year old Faisal Shaikh made his debut with top-club Bombay (Mumbai) in the 1997/98 season, but in order to further his career he joined nearby Goa at the start of the 2002/2003 season. His move paid quick dividends as he finished top wicket taker in the Ranji Trophy with 35 wickets in 5 ties. He was helped by a match analysis of 9 for 29 against Service in Delhi. His success in narrowly pushing Narendra Hirwani into 2nd place was responsible for a resurgence in Goa's fortunes.



Andrew Gale



Adam Patel



Sarfaraaz Mahomed



Uzair Mahomed

The quartet of young batsmen pictured above, along with overseas man Faisal Sheikh, who is useful with the bat, promise to make Cleckheaton a formidable batting line up.

Left arm fast medium bowler, Craig Wiseman is pictured on the right with Adam Patel, Uzair & Sarfaraaz Mahomed enjoying a convivial evening at the Clubhouse.

Follow the Club's progress each week, by logging onto the Club's website:

www.cleckheatoncricketclub.com



THE AUSTIN ALMANACS

SEASONS 2003 & 2004



After an exodus of players, particularly at the end of the 2002 season when we finished in a relegation spot, only to be "rerieved at the last second", we looked in a very vulnerable position for 2003. At the beginning of December 2002 we had no captain and only half a team. There was even talk among some committee members that we should go "all amateur" for the 2003 season and let ourselves be relegated. It seemed a good idea to some, but to those around the Club who had worked hard for four years to maintain Bradford League 1st Division standards the idea was abhorrent. For the first time since joining the League in 1976 we were, at long last, regarded as a 1st Division side with 1st Division players, facilities, and aspirations. We reasoned that a successful side would bring the sponsorship needed to upgrade the ground.

Fortunately for us, youngsters Adam Patel from Baildon, and Anthony Daniells from Castleford had decided to join us, and James Stansfield, out injured for much of the 2002 season and Chris Siddall had decided not to "desert the sinking ship". We agreed terms with Faisal Irfan who had wanted to remain with us for a further season. It still looked a little light, and we were still looking for a captain, and at least one more top line batsman. Everything then seemed to gel. Ian Austin was asked to skipper the side and he was happy to come on board. He was completely undaunted at the prospect of leading such an inexperienced side into the Bradford League arena.

Mark Bagley, known to Ian, and a member of the Worcester Academy, currently studying at Leeds University was persuaded to join us, and then just before the season was due to start Andrew Gale was released by the Yorkshire Academy and offered a Yorkshire contract that made it possible for him to play with us again.

Our biggest worry, as the season neared, was whether Irfan would start the season. Because of the Iraqi problem only one British Embassy capable of issuing visas was still open in Pakistan. The national press was pessimistically predicting that it could be ten weeks into the season before the overseas contingent arrived. Perhaps we were lucky, or it was the bombardment of faxes and phone calls, together with the help of letters from our local MP Mike Wood, but Irfan did arrive just in time to play in the first match.

And so the season began. From match one when we suffered a 10 wicket defeat against the current champions Pudsey Congs the limitations of the senior team, and the ramifications for the 2nd's soon became apparent. The season-long player shortage in the 2nd team almost spelled out relegation for them at the end of the season. The Congs match apart the season started well with three victories from the first seven games, two other matches were curtailed by rain whilst in winning positions, and a further match a against neighbours Woodlands was a total washout. The half-season was reached with five victories against our name and comfortably in the top half of the table, but we had already lost Bagley who had been recalled to the Worcester Academy, and our problems were about to start.

The second half of the season started badly. We were unable to win any of our first six games. In fact during this period we gained just 3 points from a possible 36 available, and suddenly we were only just above a relegation spot. It didn't look as though we were going to win another game, particularly with both Stansfield and Siddall now having been recalled to play football. A week later, change bowler Iftexhar Ahmed started a new job which prevented him from playing any further matches. Our tight squad was suddenly a further three players light, but between 16th August and 13th September we won 5 of the 6 matches we played, taking 4 points from the remaining fixture. This added to a total of 34 points from a possible 36. The previous 6 matches had been worth just 3 points to us. What a change of fortune.

The second team was also winning matches, and with one game still to play they had reached a position of safety. The senior side went into their last game needing to beat Baildon to finish in third spot, but it was a game too far, especially now that Faisal Irfan had had to return to Pakistan. Even though a score of 200+ was posted, the bowling strength was unable to contain the opposition.

I don't know who waved the magic wand, or whether somebody up there just liked us, but suddenly our seriously depleted team couldn't stop winning games. With our 2nd's also in serious danger of relegation, we had to look at which players we should pull into the senior side, and with due respect some of those players we imported would have struggled to maintain a place in a full strength 2nd team. Despite their apparent lack of ability it certainly didn't show and without exception every player we selected made a contribution in the last month of the season.

To finish 5th in a season of such contrasting fortunes, and with a such a young squad of inexperienced players was magnificent. Austin had come up trumps. No captain in the top division could have done as much operating with such limited resources; and without complaint. All his players, without exception, were prepared to play for him and give him at least 110% effort. A tangible reward for his efforts saw him capture the Sir Learie Constantine Trophy with 726 runs at an average of 40.33 runs per innings, and 59 wickets at 12.92 each.

And so to 2004 with optimism. Austin was still with us and with a useful set of players. Of last season's players only Chris Siddall, James Stansfield and Iftekhar Ahmed had left, but new players had come along including Ismael Dawood from Hanging Heaton, brothers Sarfaraaz and Uzair Mahomed from Bradford & Bingley, left arm pace bowler Craig Wiseman from the Yorkshire Academy, and John Cairns from Lancashire League club Haslingden.

We finally thought that we had put all the pieces of the jigsaw in the right places, and early season form seemed to echo our hopes. At one stage we looked almost unbeatable, despite an early season trouncing by Spen. In beating Baildon on the 8th of May, whilst Pudsey Congs were rained off, we moved into top spot of the League, and a further four pointer against Undercliffe the following day cemented our position at the top. We continued to win games until the end of May when the wheels came off at Spring Bank against both Bankfoot and Hanging Heaton, but we recovered the following week to hand out a rare defeat to Pudsey Congs. We were still very much in the title race as July dawned, winning some games and losing others; but as July gave way to August, three body blows virtually put paid to any title pretensions we were harbouring. Andrew Gale following some good 2nd's performances found himself in Yorkshire's 1st team; and trying to overcome their wicket-keeping crisis, Ishy Dawood was also called upon. Whilst it was extremely good news for the players concerned, and they went with our best wishes, it certainly dented our ambitions. At the same time skipper Ian Austin was injured, and from the 7th August to the end of the season was only able to bowl a further 32 overs.

In a difficult run-in we conceded 297 runs against Baildon, 299 runs against Idle, 287 runs against Hanging Heaton, 286 runs against Pudsey Congs, and 312 runs against Woodlands, as our depleted young bowling attack found problems in containing quality batsmen. On the debit side, Idle's 299 was not enough to give them a victory as Austin took all the points with an undefeated 146. In an opposite vein, Pudsey Congs overhauled our total of 283 for 1. In this match Austin again batting, but not bowling, scored the League's highest total of the season, a score of 163 not out. Even though the Congs won, it was disappointing for their two leading batsmen on the day, both Andy Bethel and Andrew Birstow being dismissed for 98 by Sarfaraaz Mahomed.

In the end, the team had to settle for 6th place in the League, a full 42 points behind eventual winners Pudsey Congs, but on the individual front we had a remarkable season with a table full of trophies at the League Dinner in November. Andrew Gale was named Bradford League "Young Player of the Year", and Austin again won the Sir Learie Constantine "All Rounders" Trophy he had collected the previous year along with the W H Foster Jubilee Trophy for best average, and the Pennine Trophy for the season's highest individual score. Youngsters Adam Patel (728 runs at 33.09) and Sarfaraaz Mahomed (433 runs at 30.93) completed a quartet of Cleckheaton players who finished high in the League's Batting Averages.

However, pride of place, at the end of the season, must go to stalwart Keith Johnstone. He was presented with the Bradford League's most prestigious award, the "Sir Leonard Hutton Trophy" presented to a person who has rendered valuable service to Bradford League cricket and has displayed outstanding qualities of leadership and personality.

Cleckheaton Cricket Club 1st Team resplendent in their Coloured Cricket Kit sponsored by "Thwaites"



PRIESTLEY CUP TIE vs BANKFOOT. SEASON 2003.

Back: James Stansfield, Liam Evans, Adam Patel, Faisal Irfan, Iftekhar Ahmed, Andrew Gale, Mark Bagley
Front: Anthony Daniell's, Ian Austin (Captain), Chris Siddall, Warren Stephenson

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