



Spen Victoria Cricket Club

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Club Directory - Cleckheaton

CLECKHEATON

Ground: Moorside
Joined League: 1976

Cleckheaton joined the Bradford League in 1976 and were Division Two champions in 1983, 1994 and 1998. They have fluctuated between the league's two divisions during their 28 years but are now establishing themselves in the top flight under the inspirational leadership of former Lancashire and England one-day international all-rounder Ian Austin.

He joined the club on a three-year deal in 2003 and his performances with both bat and ball have illustrated just why Cleckheaton wanted him at the helm.

It was Austin who helped the club create history in the Bradford League's centenary year when he secured a deal for the club to wear coloured clothing in their Sovereign Healthcare Priestley Cup tie at Bankfoot which they lost.

They were the first team ever to wear coloured clothing in the competition and it has certainly caused a few raised eyebrows and heated words.

It was a bold initiative which certainly put Cleckheaton in the media spotlight and underlined the club's desire to be anything but run of the mill under their new skipper.

Austin was the club's third new captain in three years following former Spen Victoria favourite Chris Pickles - the only man to score 1,000 Bradford League runs in a season five times - and former Warwickshire slow bowler Paul Booth.

Cleckheaton have yet to win a major honour, but their ambition to succeed is reflected on and off the field.

Ground factfile.

Moorend with its adjoining cricket and rugby pitches nestles in the middle of an ever expanding industrial estate close to the bustling M62 motorway.

Car parking: The ground has a large car park on the changing rooms side.

Viewing: You can view the action from all points of the boundary but vehicular access is limited.

Clubhouse: The clubhouse is shared with the rugby and bowls clubs and it is possible to view the action while having a drink in the bar. It is well appointed and furnished.

Teas: Spectators can find plenty to eat in the club's function room.

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