

## April 2007 – Q&A with Kevin Bell

Recently appointed chairman of the cricket sub-committee, Kevin Bell speaks to James Norbury about all things cricket, including the upcoming season at Mirfield, his new role at the club and the Ashes.



### *1. How have you spent your time during the weekend break?*

Really mainly just working on my website business. I've had a couple of winter golf holidays in Spain and of course since January I have been involved in organising the cricket committee to get prepared in readiness for the 2007 season.

### *2. What did you make of England's performances in the Ashes?*

I wasn't really surprised. I was probably one of the few that thought they knew that they were sending in a weakened team. A lot was made of the Ashes series from the previous year, but in reality they really only scraped home then.

### *3. Were there any positives that can be drawn?*

I think the only positive that you would get out of the tour would be the preparation that they got in the one-day series before the World Cup. They came through with a good team spirit and managed to win that tournament, which should have stood them in good stead for the World Cup.

### *4. So what do you think led to their downfall?*

Well, as I said previously, we took a weakened team. I seem to recall we had no Trescothick, we didn't have Michael Vaughan playing, Simon Jones certainly didn't go and the more senior players just didn't seem to perform on the day.

### *5. Who do you think was the stand-out player in the series?*

For me, I would certainly go for Ricky Ponting. He seemed to captain the side well and get the best out of his players and he did score a considerable amount of runs, usually at the right time.

**6. *Moving on to Mirfield now, what did you make of the team's first performance of the season?***

I thought the first performance was excellent. The team spirit was absolutely fantastic and everybody played for each other, and all the new players that have signed on this year have made a good impact, so it all goes well for the coming season.

**7. *How do you see the rest of the season going?***

I'm very optimistic for the first team. I think our major strength in the side is that we've got a very strong and varied bowling attack and, typically, that tends to decide games.

**8. *So who do you will be the most important player in the team?***

The most important player for me, I would say, is skipper Pat Neal. The way that he captains the side will be important and, opening the batting as he does, he scores runs quickly and I think that can get us off to a good start and put us in some strong and commanding positions. So I would definitely say Pat Neal.

**9. *How can you see Mirfield doing in the cup competitions?***

That's difficult to say. Of course in a cup competition it always depends on the draw. There are some very strong premier division teams, but it would be good experience for us to test ourselves against them.

**10. *You have been made chairman of the cricket sub-committee recently - what does that involve?***

Well, effectively that sub-committee is responsible for organising all cricket-related matters from ensuring the ground is prepared, attending to league matters, insurance, contributing to the junior section, So generally all matters that involve cricket.

**11. *So how are you finding the job?***

Well, I have to say that I'm finding the job very easy. The reason for this is that we have a group of people on the cricket sub-committee who are very committed and that commitment makes my job very, very easy. All jobs seem to get done on time and in the correct matter so, as I say, I haven't found it a challenge as yet.

**12. *What are your hopes for the future of Mirfield Cricket Club?***

I would say that I've got a few hopes, I would say that the first one is that we retain an amateur-status club and I then want us – the first eleven – to become an established premier league side and, of course, for the second eleven to progress as well. But more importantly, I want us to improve the strength of the junior section, with a view to them feeding into the first and second teams.