

Golcar Squad 2007 - Pen Pix

By Peter Redding

Ashley Pamment (Captain) RHB, RM: Among the new signings at Swallow Lane this season, Ashley has plenty of captaincy experience having led Scholes to the Premiership title in 2001. He has also tasted success in the league with Laschelles Hall; his knowledge of what it takes to get over the line should stand the Lilies in good stead this season. Ashley is a laid-back captain who stresses the importance of enjoying the game and always giving 100 percent.



Steve Whitwam (Vice-Captain) LHB, OS: Has not looked back since his return to the club from Scholes in 2005, picking up the league's best all-rounder title for the past two seasons and achieving the double of 1,000 runs and 50 wickets in both seasons. He is an aggressive left-handed opener and a frontline off-spin bowler who has turned out for Northants Second XI. His contributions will be the key to deciding where the Lilies finish this season.

James Sykes LHB: New opening batsman from Castleford, James has proved he is a player for the big occasion having scored a century in the Sykes Cup final for Hall Bower. He brings with him a wealth of experience despite being only 29 and this should rub off on the younger players at the club. He is targeting a top-five finish and a good cup run this season.

Mitchell O'Connor RHB, LS: New overseas signing from New South Wales, Mitchell is an aggressive top-order batsman and a handy leg-spin bowler. He has a tough act to follow in replacing Jeremy Brown but has set his sights high, aiming to reach 1,000 runs for the season and 30 wickets. Mitch is used to tough competition, having worked his way into the 1st Grade of the University of New South Wales cricket team.

Darren Robinson LHB, RM: Hard-hitting middle-order batsman who also carries a lot of responsibility within the bowling attack. Darren is in his fourth season at the club and his highlight was smashing 186 against Rastrick in the

promotion-winning season of 2004. He is targeting a top-four finish and is aiming for 600 runs and 30 wickets this season to help the Lilies achieve this.

Micky Illingworth RHB: Aggressive middle-order batsman who has graduated through the ranks at Golcar having played for the under-13s, -15s and -17s sides. He made his debut for the first team at the age of just 13. Micky is an excellent cover-point fielder, displaying the kind of agility he used when he kept wicket at the club, prior to the arrival of Dave Robinson. He is a self-confessed ladies' man and is looking to continue to improve his performances both on and off the field.

Gary Coleman RHB, OS: Joined the club in the close season from Barkisland, where he had spent 15 years before their relegation last season. Gary was impressed with the set-up at Golcar and wanted to remain in the Premier Division. His middle-order batting and off-spin bowling make him a genuine all-rounder and he is looking to impress in his first season at the club, striving for a top-four finish.

Paolo Girardi RHB, LS: Playing in his first season at Swallow Lane, having been prevented from joining the club last season. Paolo is an Italian-born leg-spinner who played in the Under-19 European Championships. He learnt much of his cricket in South Africa, turning out for University of North West and considers Jacques Kallis as his cricketing hero and, unsurprisingly, Paulo Rossi as his sporting hero. Paolo is looking to impress at Golcar and enjoy a long stay at the club.

Gareth Crowther RHB: Represented the club through under-13s, -15s and -17s level before breaking into the first team in the 2004 season. He is a hard-hitting lower middle-order batsman whose excellent fielding skills make him a valuable asset to the Lilies' line-up. Gareth plays the Michael Bevan role as the finisher of the Lilies innings and is also a keen footballer.

Rizwan Haider RHB, OS: An important utility player in the Golcar line-up. Rizwan arrived at the club from Elland after the 2005 season and has been somewhat of a go-to man with his off-spin bowling. His well organised middle-order batting make him another valuable all-rounder in the Lilies' squad.

Chris Fawcett RHB: A product of the youth team, Chris is a committed cricketer who is always someone to turn to in a crisis. He is a middle-order batsman who returned to Swallow Lane at the start of the 2006 season having spent a few seasons at Leymoor.

Dave Robinson RHB, WKT Keeper: The most experienced member of the side, Dave has the opportunity to concentrate on wicketkeeping this year, having given up the captaincy in the close season. He is looking to ensure that the club progress and improve on the top-six positions of the previous two seasons.

Chris Bishop RHB, WKT Keeper: Still only 20, Chris is looking to announce himself this season and secure a regular place in the first team. He has turned

out for Rastrick, Barkisland and more notably Yorkshire Under-19s. 'Bish' considers Alec Stewart to be his cricketing hero and is aiming for 30 dismissals in what will be his second season at the club.

Gareth Pearson RHB, RMF: Another of the youth-team graduates, Gareth has enjoyed success throughout the age groups, winning leagues and cups with the under-13s, -15s and -17s. Nicknamed 'Elvis', he is looking to cement a regular place in the first eleven with some eye-catching performances this season with his right-arm seam. Another who claims to be a ladies man and, more worryingly, a serial stalker.

Adam France RHB, RMF: Close-season acquisition from Broad Oak, Adam will be vital to the fortunes of Golcar this season in a squad that could be short of bowlers following the no-show of Jamaican Orrell Blackford. He picked up 32 wickets last season and also clubbed an unbeaten 154 for Roteballe in the Evening League, displaying his potential with the bat.