

Shepley Cricket Club – 2007 Season Preview

By Dave Wooding

Shepley Cricket Club start the 2007 season in good spirits following the signing of 21-year-old Australian star Trent Copeland.

The 1st XI will again be captained by all-rounder Phil Heaton, who is optimistic ahead of the new campaign.

He said: “Everyone around the club is pretty excited following the signing of Trent. He has a lot of pedigree having just broken into the New South Wales side.”



However, the team will have to cope with the loss of influential batsman Tim Rees, who is plying his trade closer to his Lancashire home this season. This is something skipper Heaton is only too aware of.

“The downside to this season is losing Tim. It has been disappointing that we haven’t been able to sign a replacement as yet.

“If we did have Tim this year, I think we would have been looking to go close to winning the league.

“Hopefully, though, we can get a good cup run. A reasonable first round draw would mean we can get going in that competition and then I think we could do well.”

Also missing from the Marsh Lane outfit this season is wicketkeeper Steve Sullivan, who has joined neighbouring Shelley.

This will give youngster Sam Haigh the chance to cement his pace in the team behind the stumps. Other youngsters - Tom Denton along with Danny and Craig Glover - will also be looking to build on successful 2006 seasons.

The season starts with a trip to Micklehurst CC in Mossley, while the first home game of the season will come the following week, with Honley travelling to Marsh Lane.

Meanwhile the 2nd XI will once again be competing in the 2nd XI Drakes Premiership, having finished in 3rd place last season, picking up nine wins and two winning draws along the way. Their season will commence at Marsh Lane, where they welcome Micklehurst 2nd XI.