

SKELMANTHORPE CC

SHAT FOLK

TOMMY LODGE



Tommy Lodge grew up in Skelmanthorpe and began his education by playing in the village streets. By his early teens he was playing men's cricket for Skelmanthorpe C.C., then in the Huddersfield Central League.

TREVOR HEELEY

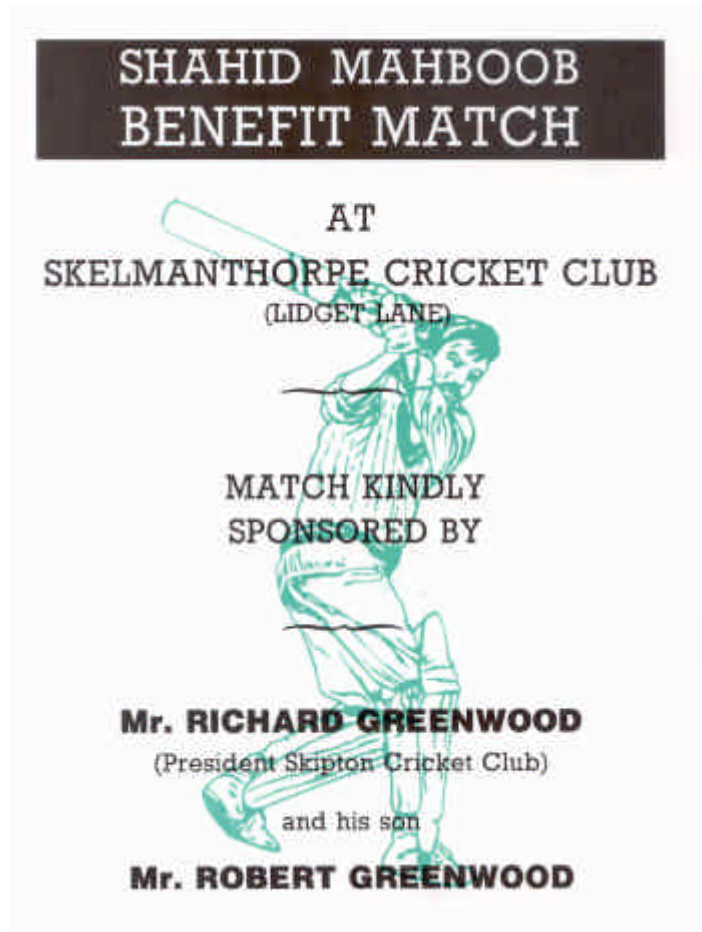


A former player, Trevor Heeley has also given sterling service to the Club as an administrator. He was secretary of the Club for 37 years and his efforts were fittingly recognised by both the Huddersfield League and Skelmanthorpe C.C..

The scoreboard at Lidgett Lane bears a plaque with the inscription: 'This building dedicated to Trevor Healey 37 years Sec', while in 1999 he was awarded the F.R. Stallard Cup for his 'long and distinguished service to the Club, the league and the game in general'.

SHAHID MAHBOOB

Man of the match in the 1990 Sykes Cup final.



Pakistan star Shahid Mahboob signed for Skelmanthorpe in the 1988 season, as the 1st XI made its bow in the top flight of the Drakes Huddersfield League. He scored 631 runs that season, at an average of 24.27, and bagged 92 wickets at 19.83 each.

But his greatest moment with the Club came in 1990 when he was awarded the Joe Robinson award as man of the match in the Sykes Cup final.

RONNIE IRANI

All-rounder Irani to boost trophy chase

By DOUGLAS THOMSON

SKELMANTHORPE Cricket Club are hoping that the arrival of Lancashire all-rounder Ronnie Irani will help bring the silverware back to Lidgett Lane.

Teenage Australian spinner Darren Bull is another new recruit to a side which will be skippered by Graham Higgins following Graeme Hurlbutt's decision to relinquish the captaincy because of work commitments.

Shahid Mahboob, the club's professional for the last three seasons, has not been re-engaged, while experienced campaigner Mick Saville has announced his retirement, although club officials are still trying to persuade him to continue his career.

Leigh-born Irani, 20, is a right-hand batsman and medium pace bowler who has played second team cricket for Lancashire since 1988 and made his first team debut against the Zimbabweans at Old Trafford in 1990.

A six footer who has played

for the North of England at basketball, Irani will be among the Lancashire party which flies out to South Africa for a pre-season tour later this month.

Irani is likely to bat in the middle order, and along with 18-year-old left armer Bull, will join forces with Hurlbutt, Higgins and Ian Glover in what should be a well-balanced attack.

Meanwhile Higgins, who captained the Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League's representative side last term, is the obvious successor to Hurlbutt, who skippered Skelmanthorpe to the league and Hills Supplies Sykes Cup double in 1990.

"Graeme has just had promotion at work, and will be travelling more than ever before. He's not sure if he'll be able to get to practice regularly, and being the type of player he is, didn't want to continue as captain if he was unable to give 100% to the job," explained club chairman Richard Greaves.

Former Honley man Higgins will be looking to repeat his batting form of last year, when he made 1,103 runs at 44.10, while opening pair Darren Hinchliffe (754 at 26.00 and Michael Bridge



Graham Higgins — new Skelmanthorpe skipper

(712 at 25.40) will both be seeking an improvement.

Richard Crosland, Steve Gummerson, Phil Redgwick and wicketkeeper Jason Tyas will also figure in the first team again.

Ronnie Irani signed to play for the Club in 1992, when the future international was still to make his first-class breakthrough. He was still with his native Lancashire at this time and he had made only a handful of 1st XI appearances. Irani has since gone on to play in three Test Matches and 31 One Day Internationals for England. He is currently captain of Essex.

MARGARET DOLLIVE & BEVERLEY CROSSLAND



Margaret Dollive and Beverley Crossland made history in 1998 when they became Chair and Vice- Chair at Skelmanthorpe Cricket Club.

Margaret, who became Chair, has a long association with the Club. Her father was a player, as are both her husband and sons. She and Beverley began to get more involved with the Club via their fundraising efforts to help renovate the clubhouse. They were then part of the working party that decorated the premises.

TOMMY SPRING & DAVID TYAS



Tommy Spring and David Tyas received special awards in 1958.

The long-serving Tommy Spring received a plaque from the Club, while David Tyas was awarded a mounted ball after taking 103 wickets that season and so winning the Huddersfield Central League bowling award. In all, he took 593 wickets for the Club.

WILF BOOTH



Wilf Booth was professional with the Club in the 1950s. He captained the successful 1955 Huddersfield Central League championship-winning side and took 106 wickets in the 1951 season.

It was a great shock to the Club when he left at the end of the decade to take up a position as steward of the General Engineering Club in Radcliffe.