

GET A THIRD MAN IN !

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WANTED URGENTLY: RUN MACHINE - ANY CONDITION

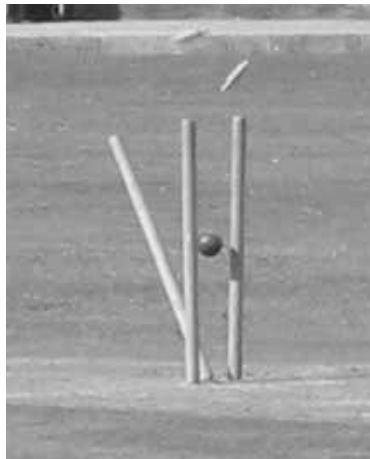
BY ANDREW PEARSON

Observant members will have noticed the disappearance of the mounds of planings near the bottom of the access road. Resurfacing was done on the morning of Sunday July 27th and thanks are due to all those who were involved, not least 'Boxer' who operated the JCB and without whose assistance nothing could have been accomplished. Club members who shovelled, rolled and raked also gave periodic demonstrations of passive observation in the best traditions of British road gangs but their labours ought to ensure that the road is in a better condition for the immediate future.

The next task is work on the pavilion with the roof a priority before autumn is here. In the long term the whole structure is in need of attention and any thoughts about fundraising, access to grants and the donation of labour would be welcome. Our social facilities are still as good as any in the league, as is the playing area but I feel that changing accommodation is no longer up there with the best. Refurbishing is essential for the benefit of our own members and also necessary if we are to be considered for the staging of important league events.

It was gratifying to receive a letter of thanks from Westborough CC about our staging of the Allsop Cup semi-final which we took on at short notice. The game itself was closely contested and Emley were, perhaps, a little fortunate to sneak a narrow victory. Their success set up a clash with Cumberworth and so the current runaway league leaders and their nearest if rather distant pursuers will contest the final here on Sunday August 17th (start 1.30). It is hoped that the usual help is available for the necessary work associated with this important date in the league calendar.

Congratulations are due to the Under 15 team who reached the final of the Armitage Cup which until this season was contested by Under 17 teams in the Huddersfield Central League. A report on events will be found under their section in another part of the newsletter.



Junior members have played a significant role in the senior teams this year and in the first team against Woolley Kris Thackray (20) and Sam Oldham (23) had the highest stand so far in 2003 for the sixth wicket as they raised the score from an anaemic 40 for 5 to 77 before Sam was unlucky to be given out caught behind.

The second team has also seen promising contributions from juniors with Matthew Gummerson and Greg Holmes batting well against Heckmondwike & Carlinghow. Another century from David Oldham, the grandfather if not quite the godfather figure, helped the second team to a second successive victory at the end of July at Bradley & Colne and consolidate their league position just below halfway in the table.

(PTO)

Fixtures

1st Team

09-Aug-03
Cumberworth (H)

16-Aug-03
Birkby Nuffield (A)

23-Aug-03
Higham (H)

30-Aug-03
Green Moor (A)

07-Sep-03
Hoylandswaine (H)

14-Sep-03
Emley (A)

21-Sep-03
Cawthorne (H)

2nd Team

09-Aug-03
Holmbridge B (A)

16-Aug-03
Cumberworth B (H)

23-Aug-03
Flockton A (A)

30-Aug-03
Almondbury Wes. B (H)

07-Sep-03
Leymoor B (A)

14-Sep-03
Emley B (H)

21-Sep-03
Penistone C&S B (A)

Sponsors

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DISPENSE TECH SERVICES
JOYCE BOOTH
CLOTHIERS ARMS
WOODMAN INN
BRANSTON ROOFING
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Forthcoming Events

Sunday 17 August - Allsop Cup Final (Emley v Cumberworth)

Sunday 24th August - Thurstonland CC Twenty20 Cup & BBQ - Sponsored by Wilf Holland

Monday 25th August - Walker Cup Final

Wednesday 27th August - 2nd TCC Open Golf Day

If you have any articles or ideas you would like to see in this newsletter, please let me know using one of the following methods. These can be related to the cricket club or the village in general.

Lee Booth - 31 Town Moor Lane, Thurstonland - 662348 - lee@thurstonlandcc.com

One of the season's puzzles has been the lack of consistent form of batsmen in the first team. It is very unusual to reach the beginning of August with only three players having scored over 100 runs and surely we are due for a late season surge of form to set matters right. Bowlers need reasonable targets to defend and it is this factor which has been responsible for the inconsistent results this year.

Apart from Cumberworth who are coasting to the championship most other teams are capable of beating each other on the day. At the very least a top half finish ought to be the aim but the visit of Cumberworth will provide a good test and a first visit to Green Moor will also be a challenge as they have done very well in their first season in the top flight. We will also be the last Central League visitors to Emley on September 14th before they leave for the Drakes League in 2004.

There are several social events in the run up to the end of the season and just beyond so look out for notices in the club and have a glance at the events column in the newsletter so you keep up to date with what is going on.

There is just space to thank all those who took part in the sponsored run scoring event organised by Steve Adler. Eddie Haigh had the top score with 27 and raised most money whilst Kris Thackray, Ashley Armitage and Under 13 Tom Dobson were amongst the other top speedsters.

Under 13's

Five of the six teams in our section are quite evenly matched so the end of July record of three wins and four defeats is a respectable one. We have needed to take one or two more wickets in close games and it has been frustrating to see several excellent deliveries just miss the stumps and potential catches just going out of range of fielders. The failure of Upperthong to let us know they were unable to raise a team for our July 27th game led to wasted journeys for everyone involved and prevented Benji Philpott and Oliver Bailey from making their debuts.

Josh Booth acquitted himself well on his first appearance at Scholes and the signs are that in 2004 a virtually new team will have plenty of enthusiasm and the traditional Thurstonland team spirit on the evidence of the two friendly games against a Rastrick CC A team.

As the season goes into its final stages Josh Ainsworth is the leading wicket taker with 9, including a hat-trick after taking wickets with his last two balls at Holmbridge and then with his first delivery at home to Upperthong. Josh Denton and Angus Cox have both scored over 150 runs with Jack Oldham over the 100 mark. Jack can also be pleased with his performances in the second team with two scores of over 20 to his name.



Josh Ainsworth - hat-trick

Under 15's

As the U15 season nears the end we are still in a position to win something. Undeclared in the 2nd half of the league season means that a win at Shepley in the final game of the season would see us finish top of the section.

There's also been an excellent run in the Armitage cup with wins over Azaard, Cumberworth and Almondbury Wes, only spoilt by a narrow defeat against Penistone in the final.

The leading run scorer continues to be Adam Thackray but Tom Sykes, Liam Walton and David Gaunt have all contributed more regularly. Wickets have been taken in most matches by Robert Flockton, Ashley Armitage, Greg Holmes and Ben Dobson, helped by some excellent fielding. All the hard work put in at practice on Thursday evening is beginning to pay off.



T.Sharrock in cup final action

Under 17's

The U17s finished the season with three consecutive wins including a good win over previously unbeaten Crigglestone who will be back at Thurstonland to contest the Walker cup final on Bank holiday Monday.

These victories have ensured a respectable mid table finish and leave much hope for next season as the majority of the side will still be eligible to play, with only Mark Rishton and Ian Short too old for junior cricket.

There have been many good individual performances and it is certainly good to see juniors such as Sam Oldham, Kris Thackray and Adam Thackray among others beginning to transfer some of their junior success to the senior teams.



S.Oldham runs against Thongsbridge