

GET A THIRD MAN IN!

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You Win Some And You Win Some...

BY ANDREW PEARSON

Starting with the final game of the 2003 season, the first team has now had five outright victories in a row, the first such run since 1996 when the latter included two cup wins. The senior side's only season in the third section in 1973 saw an amazing campaign opening eleven wins in a row, two of them in the cup. The nine complete triumphs in the 1973 league programme remain a record which will take some beating.

Scores have so far been relatively low and it was disappointing that the tense four run win at defending champions Cumberworth counted for nothing as it was the only game finished in the Premier section that day when there have to be two results out of the six games for points to count.

After scores of 34 and 69 not out, John Eastwood went on an early season holiday and Kris Thackray made the most of his chance at batting in the No. 3 spot with two patient innings of 22 and 32 at Cumberworth and at home to Woolley. Mick Ingledow's four visits to the crease have already brought him 152 runs taking him past 5000 in the first team. Along with John Eastwood, he should soon also pass the 200 appearance mark. David Rishton wasted no time in taking the two wickets needed for 800 victims in the first team in the 2004 opener at Hoylandswaine and the game at Green Moor brought up his 500th game since his debut in 1983. Full first team match reports appear on the club website.

The youthful second eleven has started with two wins from five matches whilst gaining two more points from the fixtures actually played and one from the rained off game. David Oldham continues to encourage them and there is plenty of promise for the future. Mark Hill, another of the few players in the second team to have left teenage years behind him, has scored useful runs and it was good to see James Adler, another 'veteran' in this company, weighing in with 60 at Nortonthorpe which helped to win the game.



John Eastwood - Club record 147 N/O V's Heckmondwike

Matthew Gummerson has shown great promise in his first team appearances whilst Greg Holmes made his debut at 15 against Woodfield Park after a six wicket haul in the seconds. Although not fifteen until mid season, Ashley Armitage has mesmerised opposition batsmen with his beguiling off spin and his calm and thoughtful approach to bowling has led to seven victims so far. David Johnson and Mark Rishton have also been amongst the wickets.

The Child Protection meeting on April 22nd was quite well attended and the relevant forms are now being returned from families. Lee Booth is the club's officially appointed Child Welfare Officer.

Fixtures

1st Team

Sat May 29
Cawthorne (H)

Sat Jun 5
Crossbank Methodists (A)

Sat Jun 12
Edgerton (H)

Sat Jun 19
Old Almondburians (A)

Sun Jun 20
Azaad (A) Allsop 2nd Rnd

Sat Jun 26
Denby Dale (H)

Sat Jul 03
Nuffield Hospital (A)

2nd Team

Sat May 29
Heckmondwike (A)

Sat Jun 05
Flockton (H)

Sat Jun 12
Cawthorne (A)

Sat Jun 19
Holmbridge (H)

Sun Jun 20
Holmbridge (A) Tinker 2nd Rnd

Sat Jun 26
Leymoor (A)

Sat Jul 03
No Game Gala

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Forthcoming Events

Sunday 13th June - Bag Packing (Morrison's)
Saturday 26th June - Casino Night
Saturday 03rd July - Thurstonland Gala
Saturday 10th July - Former Players Reunion
TCC Golf Day - TBC
Twenty20 Re-match - TBC

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

Yet again, a grant application was turned down. New mowers for the outfield and square are urgently needed so fund raising is, as ever, of importance. On Sunday June 13th from 10.30 to 12.00 and then from 1.30 to 3.00 junior members are being invited to take part in a bag packing session at Morrison's at Waterloo. The supermarket's support is most welcome. Senior players and officials, as well as parents, will also be needed to supervise and to help as necessary. Letters requesting help have been sent to junior members and seniors will be contacted shortly.

Help will also be asked for, probably by Trevor Peace, in selling the National Cricket Association Draw tickets. They cost £1 each and every ticket sold brings the full £1 to the club with no outlay or effort on our part, other than selling the tickets. The NCA request a small donation but that is the only expense and even that is not compulsory. Please make every effort to support this. The deadline for the return of ticket stubs is early August. Club Life Membership at £100 is still available although the offer at present rates closes on September 30th 2004, the end of the current financial year.

Letters will be going out in the week before Spring Bank Holiday to former players for whom we have contact addresses. These will invite them to a reunion at the club on July 10th, the date of the return fixture with Hoylandswaine. This event, having been started in 1985, takes place every five years and the last one, during our 125th anniversary year in 1999, saw about twenty-five enjoying renewing acquaintances.

Under 13's

The season began with the youngest team for several years and the loss to Nortonthorpe in the first game was to a much more experienced outfit. Batting was, understandably, a little hesitant. The bowling looked respectable once the rash of wides was out of the system with Josh Booth (2), Matthew Spriggs and Jonathan Mudd the wicket takers. Two excellent catches by John Hoyle at cover and one off his own bowling by Josh would have been worthy of any level of cricket and this was encouraging to see.

The second scheduled game at Shelley fell victim to the weather. In contrast, conditions were like mid summer in the cup game against Augustinians at Laund Hill and, although beaten, the team was competitive throughout. Ashley Blore and Felix Lee both batted forcefully with the latter playing his first game. Debuts were also given to Sam Wright and Tom Broom and confidence will grow with more experience. Josh Booth was again the most consistent bowler although promise was shown by all the others.

An influx of new players at the last two practice sessions has been most welcome and their progress will be monitored in the weeks ahead with places available for several of them in the team on a rota basis.

Fixtures

**Sun Jun 6
Lepton (H)**

**Sun Jun 13
Nortonthorpe (A)**

**Sun Jun 20
Flockton (H)**

**Sun Jun 27
Shepley (H)**

Under 15's

The Under 15s have made a brilliant start to the season with 5 wins plus a tie at Shepley in the first 6 games. Some promising cricket has been played by a group of young players who get on well together and who are led well by captain Greg Holmes.

Jack Oldham, David Gaunt, Greg Holmes, Angus Cox & Russell Mottram have all had maximum scores, 30 at Under 15 level with David Gaunt currently leading the runs with 135 so far.

Bowlers have generally bowled tightly, Ashley Armitage leading with 10 wickets. The bowlers have also been backed up by some good ground fielding & safe catching and confidence is high for a trophy winning season !!

Fixtures

**Tue Jun 1
Lascelles Hall (H)**

**Mon Jun 7
Holmbridge (A)**

**Mon Jun 14
Clayton West (H)**

**Mon Jun 21
Crigglestone (A)**

Under 17's

A solid start to the season has seen two victories from the opening three encounters, with the other scheduled match falling foul of the weather. The first match of the season saw defeat at home to Kirkburton in a game that slipped away from Thurstonland, after taking early wickets some loose bowling allowed the visitors to post a total of over 100 when 70-80 seemed a more likely score, Thurstonland in reply fell some 30 runs short.

Maximum points were achieved at Emley with Greg Holmes taking 5-8 and Matthew Gummerson reaching an unbeaten half century. Most recently a relatively comfortable win over Lepton was gained with Matthew Gummerson again in the action with 4 wicket and Kris Thackary unbeaten on 47.

It is looking like as strong an under 17 side as the club has seen for several seasons and with many of the players regularly playing in both senior teams one that should get stronger and more difficult to beat as the season progresses.

Fixtures

**Wed Jun 2
Denby Dale (H)**

**Wed Jun 9
Denby (A)**

**Fri Jun 11
Cup Rd. 2**

**Wed Jun 16
Skelmanthorpe (H)**