

GET A THIRD MAN IN !

● The Monthly Newsletter For Thurstonland CC

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TCC SCOOPS THE AWARDS

by Andrew Pearson

Perhaps it is as well that the awards in question are not the Baftas or the Oscars as Lee Booth, John Eastwood and David Rishton might not relish playing the role of 'luvvies' in the theatrical world. The reference is, of course, to their work during the close season in piloting two successful grant applications through their various stages.

The club received £3643 from the West Yorkshire Local Network Fund for Children and Young People. The new practice net and a range of coaching aids for young players have all been financed from this money with a little left over to fund attendance at coaching courses for those interested in learning how to pass on their cricketing knowledge to junior members.

JUNIOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT

It is the aim to create an Under 11 team for 2007 and, hopefully, to play a couple of friendly games during this season. That age group continues with the familiar eight a side format although from next April all the Under 13 teams will play under 'proper cricket rules' so that a dismissal is final and not just resulting in the loss of eight runs whilst continuing to bat for the allocated time. We have enough players, just, to put out an Under 11 team from those currently attending practices but it is important that we look at ways of encouraging new junior players in the next few months.

We have enjoyed something of a boom in junior player numbers in the last six or seven years but that influx is now at Under 17 and Under 15 level. It is not that we have suddenly fallen out of

favour but rather that potential players in the village and surrounding area are fewer in number. Our youngest players look very promising but we need to keep trying to boost their numbers a little if our desirable objectives are to be met.

Just before writing these notes I had a phone call from the Head at Thurstonland First School saying that, regrettably, they would not be able to come up with eight youngsters to play in the Under 9 tournaments entered at Shelley on June 3rd (9.00 to 12.00) and Upperthong on June 24th (9.00 to 14.00). We have four players who qualify for that age group but important decisions will have been taken about these events by the time this is read. The school was very apologetic about the situation but they have a small intake meaning that numbers are relatively limited and some of those qualified already had other commitments on the mornings in question.

This will not affect our own proposed Under 9 festival which will be held on a mid week afternoon and which Lee Booth is organising. The strength of our junior section in terms of numbers must not be taken for granted and I hope that everyone who reads this needs no reminding of how vital a contribution this section of the club has made in the last twenty years or so.

Fixtures

1st Team

- Sat May 20
Holmbridge (H)
- Sun May 21
Woodfield Park (Cup Rd 1) (H)
- Sat May 27
Nuffield Hospitals (A)
- Sat Jun 03
Hoylandswaine (H)
- Sat Jun 10
Azaad (A)
- Sat Jun 17
Woolley (H)

2nd Team

- Sat May 20
Leymoor (A)
- Sat May 27
Holmbridge (H)
- Sat Jun 03
Nuffield Hospitals (A)
- Sun Jun 04
Flockton (Cup Rd 1) (A)
- Sat Jun 10
Calder Grove (H)
- Sat Jun 17
Upperthong (A)

Websites

- CLUB SITE
www.thurstonlandcc.com
- LEAGUE SITE
www.hccl.org.uk
- JUNIOR LEAGUE SITE
www.hjcl.org.uk
- HERITAGE SITE
www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk

Forthcoming Events

- Friday May 26th - Twenty20 First Round at Birchencliffe
- From June - World Cup 2006 Competition
- June / July - Exact Date to be announced - TCC under 9s Festival

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.

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SIGHTSCREENS

The second grant was for £2105 from Awards for All and the purchase of new sightscreens was the result. No longer is there any excuse for a batsman blaming a dull background for a dismissal. The new equipment enhances the ground and both screens are relatively easy to move.

It is appropriate to place on record our thanks to both awarding bodies for the grants we have received. Also our recently acquired status as a Community Amateur Sports Club means that we have received the mandatory 80% rate relief from Kirklees and further discretionary discount. The CASC initiative means that local clubs are recognised for the work they do in communities in fostering sporting skills and providing important social outlets for people of all ages.

ON FIELD ACTION

Taken overall the opening three weeks of the season have seen good weather, much needed after the seemingly never ending extended cold spell which lasted well into April. The only irony has been that the inevitable showers and more extended periods of rain have come on two of the three weekends. Both the first and second team games against Green Moor were early victims of the elements on May 13th whilst the previous weekend the first team was fortunate to get through its game with Cumberworth without interruption with the seconds finishing their fixture away to Flockton's senior side after a delay for heavy rain near the tea interval.

Two good wins against Old Almondburians and Birchencliffe, who did the double against us in 2005, got the first team off to a good start but defeat to Cumberworth in a game where both sides were on top at different stages meant that the early league table has us in sixth place although it is mid June before significant patterns begin to emerge.

David Rishton has seized the chance given to him to bat higher up the order by scoring 62* in the first game and reaching 102 runs for only one dismissal in his three innings so far. John Eastwood has narrowly missed out on a half century in two of his appearances at the crease whilst Kris Thackray with 25 in the opening game looked in good touch although he will not be available again until the end of term at Bath University in June. Sam Robson has joined from Lepton and has made useful contributions in the two games he has played so far.

David Rishton has six wickets so far, taking his career total to 880, and Greg Holmes has looked as consistent as anyone with his bowling as the season gradually gets into full swing.

The second team has already used a remarkable 22 players in its opening games because of unavailability. The younger players have played a full part in those games, illustrating yet again how important it is to keep developing that area of the club. A good win over Birchencliffe was helped by the appearance of Lee Booth whose evening celebrations of his recent marriage to Linda in Las Vegas meant that he needed to play at home. David Howarth scored a stalwart fifty at Flockton to win a hard earned point for not being bowled out.

The unexpected cameo, however, came in the game at Almondbury Wesleyans, when fourteen year old Ashley Blore scored 7 not out at No. 10 and was partnered for the last ten balls of the innings by grandad Trevor Peace. He remained undefeated on nought and there are some good pictures, taken by Avril, on the club website which record the occasion for posterity.

UNDER 13s

With the second game of the season falling victim to the weather, there is only one fixture to report on. This brought victory over Shepley on a damp morning where credit goes to both teams for their efforts in the conditions. Josh Booth, who has attended area net sessions during the winter, captained the side. A batsmen made good contributions with five reaching double figures in their allotted time at the crease. The bowling was consistent with newcomer Josh Brown from Farnley Tyas making his debut and delivering the ball in a style reminiscent of Muralitharan but without any of the controversy which often accompanies the Sri Lankan.

U13 Fixtures

Sun May 21
Cumberworth (Cup Rnd 1) (H)

Sun May 28
Almondbury Wes (H)

Sun Jun 04
Emley (A)

Sun Jun 11
Kirkburton A (H)

Sun Jun 18
Upper Hopton (A)

U15 Fixtures

Fri May 19
Cup 2nd Rnd

Mon May 22
Meltham (A)

Tue May 30
Thongsbridge (H)

Mon Jun 05
Holmbridge (H)

Mon Jun 12
Shepley (A)

U17 Fixtures

Wed May 17
Cumberworth (A)

Wed May 24
Skelmanthorpe (H)

Wed May 31
Lascelles Hall (A)

Wed Jun 07
Kexborough (H)

Wed Jun 14
Shepley (A)