

GET A THIRD MAN IN!

● The Monthly Newsletter For Thurstonland CC

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A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL

by ANDREW PEARSON

Sam Oldham's fifty at Denby Dale on August 20th made him the seventh player to reach that landmark this season. He is the third, along with Kris Thackray and Jack Oldham, who are still under nineteen years of age. The batting strength has been a feature of 2005 and promises well for next time although it is possible that Kris will miss the early part of 2006 as he starts his studies.

The young members of the second team have continued to make their mark and the cancellation of two first team matches because of rain gave an opportunity to see them in action as their games went ahead. David Johnson has taken 45 wickets in 2005, easily his best return since he joined us. Joe Law's 5 for 38 at Denby Dale included the early dismissal of Ashley Amos who managed 73 against the senior side just a couple of weeks later. Ashley Armitage's off spin has brought him 28 victims this campaign whilst Angus Cox's left arm medium pace has brought him success in the second half of the season with a total of 14 wickets.

The second team have easily ensured that they will stay in Section C for 2006 with a run of three successive wins, only broken by a narrow defeat at the hands of Flockton when Mark Hill was run out as he and Tom Sykes looked likely to complete an excellent fightback after early wickets had gone cheaply. A final fourth place position was a good effort.

Cawthorne and Birchencliffe probably deserved to finish first and second respectively in the Premier Section but our third place was a good achievement. The match against Cawthorne at Thurstonland was a victim of the weather but our game on their ground was a close one until the eventual champions just clinched victory. Both games against Birchencliffe were close affairs



although both results went their way so the possibility of an even higher finish was there. We will have to see what happens in 2006.

RADIO FOUR

The Open Country programme featuring the club duly went out on July 2nd at 6.10 am and those amongst us of an anorak tendency listened to it. Sadly, the regular repeat slot at 1.30 pm on Thursday July 7th was cancelled because of extended news coverage following the bombs in London.

A CD was sent to us as a souvenir and a token of thanks by the BBC and copies were on sale at £2. If anyone would still like to purchase one please have a word with Lee Booth. Those appearing in the programme are coping well with their new found fame.

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Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 08th November 2005 - AGM

Saturday 19th November 2005 - Annual Dinner

Sunday 25th April - First League Match

HOSTS WITH THE MOST

Several cricket events not involving our first and second teams have taken place on the ground since the last newsletter. The under 15s were defeated by Thongsbridge in the league cup final. Jack Oldham scored a fine fifty before his compulsory retirement under age group rules. For once the rest of the batting did not quite do itself justice and Thongsbridge won thanks mainly to an excellent innings by Ben Raven-Hill assisted late on by some dogged lower order support.

Cawthorne beat Mirfield on July 17th in the Allsop Cup semi-final and then on August 21st we staged the inaugural finals day of the league's Twenty/20 competition. Cumberworth beat Azaad in an exciting final with Crossbank Methodists and Denby Dale the beaten semi-finalists.

Thanks are due to willing helpers who make these occasions go well and for which much praise is received from participating teams and from league officials. The catering was as excellent as ever, the barbecue was well patronised and sold out in record time and raffle ticket sellers brought in welcome revenue. The bar service was friendly and efficient throughout busy sessions and the wicket and ground in general were in excellent condition.

Voluntary help is always much appreciated and we are always looking for others to help spread the load a little. The work done by all the ladies with catering throughout the season must never be taken for granted and their commitment must be recognised and never taken for granted.

SHY RETIRING TYPES

I am not sure which people at the club would qualify for that assessment, probably not David Oldham and Mick Ingledow. As most are aware it is likely that the end of the season will see both of them finish playing.

Mick has completed ten years with us since joining from Hoylandswaine and has scored an average of nearly 600 runs per season. During that time he has had few extended lean spells and he has often provided a platform for the innings, always selling his wicket dearly. Apart from holidays, he has hardly missed a game in all that time. His contributions have been of great benefit and we hope to see him as often as possible as a spectator in the future.

David has played for the club since his days as a junior in the mid 1960s, apart from a short spell at Thongsbridge and when he had a year or two in Australia. Always very competitive but always fair in his approach, his first team record of just short of 10,000 runs and 648 wickets speaks for itself. He was captain of the first team from 1982 to 1998 and was an astute tactician.

His recent role as second team captain has seen many young players blossom under his encouragement and his efforts have, I am sure, been appreciated by them with the evidence seen in their growing confidence. It is important that his lead has followed in the years ahead and his commitment to the club in so many ways is an example to us all.

END OF SEASON EVENTS

The junior social and presentation on September 1st was very enjoyable and very well attended. It is good to see such enthusiasm from the younger members and this has to be fostered in the years ahead. Help with coaching on a Thursday evening is always welcome even if it is on a rota basis. It goes without saying that a good junior set up is the lifeblood of any club.

Andy Thackray again did the honours as auctioneer at the Harvest Home and the best attendance for quite a while saw over £500 being raised.

The Pie & Peas evening for players and committee on Friday September 30th (8.00 onwards) was, as ever, well attended with the annual stats being available for consultation. Thanks go to Grace Rishton for her catering at both these events.

U13s

Their season ended with a seventh successive win, at Clayton West, on August 21st to ensure that they ended the season in joint third position in their section.

Whilst winning is not the be all and end all at this age their increased confidence and determination should serve them well in future years.

It has been a genuine team effort and on any given day different individuals have made significant contributions with several less promising positions retrieved by a refusal to give in. Deklan Womersley and Ashley Blore took three singles off each of the last balls of the game against Shepley to see us home by a solitary run.

Josh Booth has bowled accurately all year and Benji Philpott has done well with both bat and ball. Tom Broom's bowling has occasionally been a little unpredictable but he has easily taken the most wickets and at his best his left arm style caused many problems for opposing batsmen.