



# SILLY POINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF SBCI CC  
End of Season Edition 2023



**Crossley Shield Winners 2023**

## Editorial Licence

It would be remiss of me not to start this editorial by congratulating the history making second team on their Crossley Shield success in 2023. So nearly the Premier second division champions of 2022 they put behind them the disappointment of blowing the opportunity at Blackley to win the second team's first piece of silverware since joining the Halifax League in 1959. The final gets plenty of coverage in this edition but what a great day for the team and club in general. A thoroughly deserved triumph by a great bunch of lads who play the game in the right spirit.

In the league a very credible third place finish was also a top effort just falling short of strong Illingworth and Blackley sides.

The first team continue to be somewhat of an enigma with a good first half of the season only to not quite maintain it in the second. More than capable on their day of securing victories over strong opposition they are often hampered by player availability (no change there in the 15 plus years of Silly Point!) and a lack of strength in depth in the squad. A couple of new additions could turn them into challengers at the top of the table but as a club we continue to struggle to attract new first team level talent.

A couple of years ago concerns were raised at our ability to put out a team on Sundays – how times have changed! Selection is now all about who to rotate and once again they have managed to retain their Division 2 status without reliance on other teams points deductions.

Friday evenings and junior training nights are attracting lots of children and thirsty parents taking advantage of the bar and we have been able to field teams at Under 9, 11 and 13 age groups. It's great to see some of the juniors now contributing to the senior sides on a regular basis.

Please enjoy the winter break as pre-season nets will soon be here. Do support our sponsors where possible and don't forget to tell them it's because they help with the smooth running of SBCI CC.

**Jonathan Hyland**

## First XI



Back Row L-R D Brown, T Wood, S Wood (Cptn), L Firth, D Evans  
Middle Row L-R Arun CK, A Fawcett, J Summerscales, A Scholefield  
Front Row L-R D Sykes, B Holt, P Earle

What felt like a season of two halves, turned out on further inspection to be a fairly even season. Traditionally by the half way point we are usually looking over our shoulders however this time around we were in an healthy league position and were looking up rather than down. Conversations in the dressing room were about trying to break into the Top 3 and chase down Bradshaw who were at that point somewhere in the region of 10 points in front of us. Unfortunately this never materialised, we couldn't build any momentum and the season just sort of petered out with us finishing a respectable 6th place (2 places higher than 2022) however well below the target we'd set ourselves. The reason I say it felt like a season of two halves is because we seemed to win far more league games in the first half than the second but in reality the difference was only one, with us winning five and four respectively.

In my notes last year I remember talking about what represents a good season and whilst we've finished 2 places better than in 2022 and our points per game was higher than last season it still feels like another season of frustration and what could have been. We're arguably a stronger side than we have been for a number of years, with the addition of Jamie over the winter and yes the loss of Brad to injury before a ball had been bowled robbed us of a very good all-rounder, but there was still enough quality there. It would be very easy to point the finger at selection, and whilst using a total of 29 players isn't a great statistic, this

was despite nine 1st team players playing over three quarters of the games. To me the stand out statistic and on reflection where I think we've fallen short is the fact that only one of our batters managed to score over 500 runs. Coupled with the fact that in the 10 games where we were batting 2nd we only managed to win four, two of those were chasing totals in the 80's and 1 was against Outlane of the bottom division in the PC first round. We need to get more consistent with bat in hand, both individually and collectively to stand any chance of challenging for honours.

It hasn't all been doom and gloom though, the return of Jamie has been a real positive both on the pitch with his performances, in the dressing room with his experience and his contributions to the fines pot after games! We had to wait a long time but we finally got to see Brad pull on a first team shirt this year. It was great to see him return from injury and at least get some overs in before the season closed. Also the way Lewis stepped up with the new ball, taking his opportunity and delivering just short of 40 wickets was a massive plus for us. And finally Dylan and Albie making positive first team appearances towards the end of the season and gaining further experience means we are developing the younger talent coming through at the club.

Thank you to Adam for his support as vice-captain both on and off the field, to Olivia for taking on first team scoring duties, big shoes to fill but you've done an excellent job in your first season.

Thanks once again to my dad for preparing the wicket each week, to Philip for the countless hours of rolling he's done and for everyone involved in making the ground and surroundings look as good as they do. There's been a lot more wet weather around this year but once again they've managed to produce us a consistently good playing surface throughout the season.

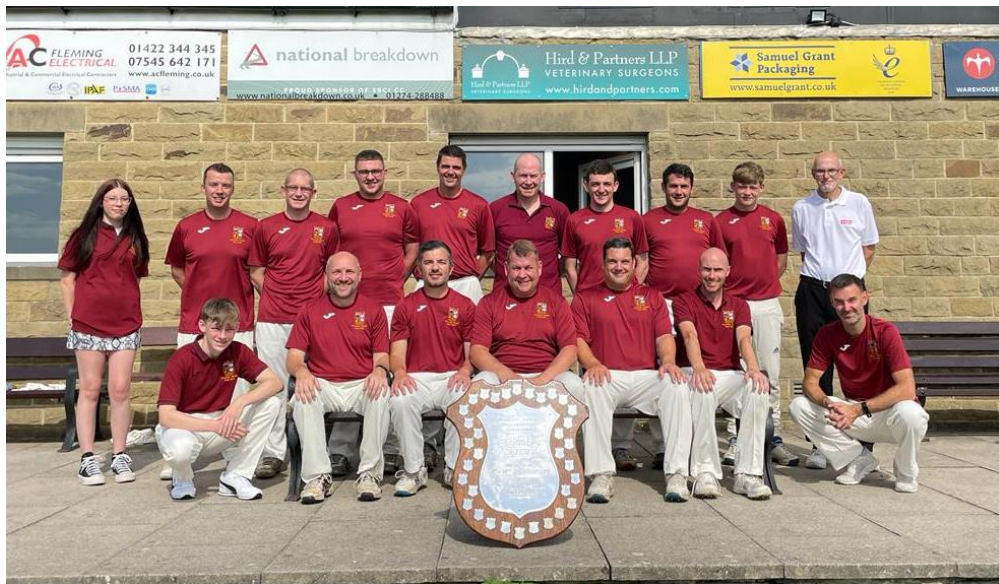
Thanks to everyone who's part of the "Monday Club" that keeps the club clean and tidy and working as it should do.

Congratulations to all the prize winners and finally thanks for everyone's continued support, I hope you all have a great winter and see you again in 2024.

Month by month reviews available at [www.sbcicc.co.uk](http://www.sbcicc.co.uk)

**Simon Wood**

## Second XI



Back Row L-R L Hampshire (scorer) D Brown, T Kirby, B Holt, R Larkin, J Hampshire, D Evans, T Illingworth, A Earle, J Hyland (Umpire/Psychologist)  
Front Row L-R J Fellows, M Fellows, M Keast, S Hampshire (Cptn), C Darby, M Veitch, J Greenwood

### **Third time lucky for 2<sup>nd</sup> team as “scooter boy” returns to banish last season’s demons!**

Following 2022’s last day disappointment the team returned refreshed and revitalised to lift the League’s premier second team trophy, the Crossley Shield, for the first time in the club’s history. A strong third place finish in the league has left the appetite strong to go again next year with some of the older heads in the team already investing in new kit!

Unlike last year, the season got off to a damp start with the first two fixtures of the season against Bridgeholme and Blackley, both being lost to the weather.

We started our playing season away at Great Horton Park Chapel where Dollars put down a marker for the season with a top score of 76 and Albie introduced himself to the 2’s with a more than useful 21 not out. A few less notable performances with the bat were also observed but the less said about them the better. Ikhy with figures of 3 for 3 off seven overs took the plaudits with the ball. A comfortable 50 run win for starters.



This kicked off a run of six wins on the bounce including three 200+ scores batting first against Mytholmroyd (who'd be sick of us by the end of the season), Sowerby Bridge and Bradshaw with the top order all making significant contributions. This run also saw us set up a Crossley Shield quarter final tie against Mytholmroyd and included a strong debut from Waqas, who went onto to take valuable wickets throughout the season, with Tyson and Rob the other bowlers taking large volumes of wickets.

Our first loss of the season came at home against early title favourites and newly promoted Illingworth. Missing Mark and Tyson was never going to help our cause and they were duly added to the wheel! Alongside a solid 52 from Greeny, only Rob and Matty added runs and 172 for 8 always looked 30 runs short. Despite 4 for 18 off 14 overs from yours truly, Illingworth got over the line with 11 balls to spare, 6 wickets down. This kicked off a poor period of results losing two of the next three games. Against Warley we failed to defend 248 at home and at Greetland away failed to chase 172 finishing 160 for 9. Only a heated victory over Booth, chasing 251, gave us cause for optimism. A swashbuckling innings of 71 from Dylan alongside 62 at a strike rate of 200 from TK saw us over the line. We avoided retirements and suspensions over pram gate so all was not lost!

Up next to restore our resolve as a team were Mytholmroyd in the quarter finals of the cup. We again posted 200+ with Mark and Dollars achieving 50 and Mike a late order 34. Rain interrupted play and at 9pm we agreed to return the next week to finish the game. The match was in the balance with Mytholmroyd needing somewhere between 35 and 45, depending on which scorecard you looked at, with 4 wickets in hand. Worry not though as the next Sunday morning we had things mopped up pretty quickly with super sub, Simon Wood hanging on to two catches (no one more relieved than Jonathan Hampshire who he filled in for) as we secured a 29 run win and a place in the semi-finals. Celebrations went on long that day including takeaway Sunday lunch in the pavilion which cemented our desire to enjoy the ride as a team however far we went.

Two more regulation wins against, Sowerby and Bridgtholme saw us pass the halfway stage and still in contention for the league and cup double. Blackley away halted our plans, yet again, having bowled them out for 143 a dismal batting display saw us rolled for 99. The less said the better and onto the cup semi-final. Having cleaned up Thornton for 101, Rob to the fore once again with 5 wickets, we secured a 6 wicket victory that definitely felt more nerve wracking than it needed to be. So into the final where we were up against Warley and a chance for revenge following our loss in the 2016 final.

Three more league victories took us to cup final weekend. GHPC by 3 wickets, Mytholmroyd by 112 runs, with a very impressive opening stand of 245, Mark 140 No and Greeny 97 No and 3 wickets for the much missed Brad who returned to action after recovering from a stag do Scooter accident! Bradshaw were beaten by 9 wickets with 5 wickets for Dollars. Sandwiched in between was a washed-out game against Sowerby Bridge due to their low water table and nothing to do with a lack of somebody covering the wicket!

So onto the cup final weekend. Saturday saw a top of the table clash with Illingworth and Sunday a repeat of the 2016 Crossley Shield final. We'll sweep past the Saturday but safe to say bowling out the opposition for 92 should have delivered a different result. Four LBWs from the home umpire in our innings didn't help, but like our title challenge I'll leave it there.

Sunday was the club's third appearance in the Crossley Shield final, so hopefully third time lucky for both the club and me, the lone survivor of the 1986 final vs Blackley at Barkisland, yes I know I don't look that old. Greeny and Keasty the other survivors of the 2016 final vs. Warley at Mytholmroyd. A squad of 12, missing a few faces due to poorly timed holiday bookings, met early at the club and travelled to Sowerby St Peters to face our local rivals. Let's say the weather hadn't been kind to the pitch and losing the toss certainly didn't appear to help. We were bowled out for 116 Chris Darby 😊 top scored with 41, making amends for an early mix up with Albie and then a defiant 34 from Brad took us to 116 all out. Put it this way we weren't favourites at teatime, but with the boisterous maroon and gold wall behind us anything was possible. My best decision of the day was to remove myself from the bowling attack after Dollars had removed the dangerous Jimmy Sarwar for 0. At 41 for 3 the game was beginning to get away from us, but never a more determined set of lads could you ask to play with, cheered on by the constant popping of corks from the ever expectant crowd. Enter Tyson and Brad who in a devastating spell removed the last eight Warley wicket for the addition of just 41 runs, leaving us winners by 34 runs. With 34 runs and 4 for 18 Brad was very deservedly named player of the match. The celebrations lasted well into the next week, and if you listen carefully you can still hear Greeny asking passersby if they've ever won the Crossley Shield or just turned up for a free tea. The result has cemented this year's team in SBCI's history and hopefully we won't need to wait as long for the next piece of silverware.

We finished the season with a rain affected abandonment against Booth and three further wins, inflicting defeat on Warley again, revenge against Greetland and a close 2 wicket win at Sowerby, who beat us to the title last year, cementing their relegation to the middle division.

There are loads of people to thank and apologies if I miss anyone. First the ground staff who made it a pleasure to play at home. Lucy, Verity and Adrian our scorers, Jonathan our trusty umpire, who gave us the few home truths we occasionally needed to get over the line and John who stood in for him when he had more important things to do. Everyone who did teas, it's one of the hardest things to organise and a thankless task and cost me a fortune in prosecco on finals day for all the Sunday games but worth every penny, you are all absolute stars.

To the lads, we had some testing times on and off the field, and it's probably the one thing I'd look back on and try and change. But when I've needed you each and everyone has stood up and delivered at some point this season and for that I thank you. And finally my vice captain, Matty Keast, you've been my rock, the sanity when required and the joker when I've needed cheering up, I would have not got through this season without you, you make the cricket field a better place to be and not bad in the bar either.

Winter well, one and all and I'll see you at the Stute sometime next year!

**Simon Hampshire**





## Sunday Section



Back Row L-R L Grundy (scorer) R Singh, W Suffyan, A Desari, C Parker, P Collins, M Rose, J Conway  
Front Row L-R B Nawaz, G Boocock, D Grundy (Cptn) D Brown, R Conway



Back Row L-R G Boocock, S Saeed, L Wring, P Collins, S Sharma, K Major  
Front Row L-R C Wesenraft, J Greenwood, D Grundy (Cptn), P Earle, R Conway

The key aim for 2023 was to stay up without having to rely on other sides having points deductions as we have for the past couple of years. We'll circle back to that but this season has been a difficult one but for positive reasons.

For the first time in many years we had too many players and selection has been hard each week as having to leave players out despite being available isn't something we'd like to do but this has meant we've been able to help the Saturday sides out rather than asking people to double up each week.

We have welcomed some new younger players to the club - Sameer winning the unofficial most attendance at Tues nets award, and along with Lewis, Fin and the returning Charlie ensured we had at least two juniors playing in most matches. We also had a few new players join us this season with many returning to competitive cricket after some time away, Chris, Rohit, Mark P, Baasit, Waqas and others all playing games alongside some of the 'regulars'. We started the season with a defeat at Queensbury in a low scoring game. Our 68 all out was never enough but Greg and Sud taking 6 wickets between them made it competitive. The week after against Outlane 118, which from 25-4 could have been worse without 26 from Charlie, was another low score. They were 77-4 in reply but wickets from Sameer and Greg and Pedro taking the winning wicket changed the game with 4 runs to spare.

May saw two heavy losses in the cup to teams in higher divisions in Barkisland and Copley and a 'dead rubber' game forfeited by our opponents as they went off to watch FC Halifax Town at Wembley.

June started in similar style with a heavy defeat at Illingworth despite a good 37 from Rohit batting first and a couple of wickets from Sud having them 34-4 it wasn't enough. The week after still gives the captain and vice-captain nightmares on a Nasser Hussain at Brisbane level talking ourselves into putting Great Horton in first seemed like a good idea but despite Mark Pottinger's 52 we only lost by the odd 185 runs....

The week after vs Stones we made a better decision and Dave B batting throughout the innings for 43 not out, Ken's 21 and Ajay's 39 and a late quick 40 for Pedro, including a huge straight six, made a competitive 178. Early wickets from Greg and Rich got us off to a good start and our all-rounders Pedro's 2 and spin king Dave B's 3 for 5 saw us take the maximum points. A rain effected game at Low Moor the week after saw a loss despite Waqas 53 not out and Rohit's 45 batting first but tricky conditions with a wet ball whilst bowling allowed the home side to knock them off.

Almondbury's 274, despite 4-32 from Ajay with the ball was always going to be an uphill climb, especially at 38-4 in reply but David G and Charlie's 'dig in' efforts as we waited for the rain to come saw us take 8 points from the game. Having the next two weeks rained off meant a 'rusty' 101 in the game against Illingworth, with 47 not out from Dave B, was never going to be enough, despite a couple of wickets from Greg.

August was short of matches with the League's cup finals taking place on the Sunday (many of the Sunday regulars enjoyed their afternoon at the Crossley Shield...) and a late cancellation by the opposition of the Bank Holiday Sunday game meant only one game - but what a game. 102 at Great Horton Park Chapel led by Phil E's 26 and Dylan E's 19 wasn't a huge score but with Greg and Waqas taking 9-25 between them it was more than enough for the 20 points!

So, to our last two games and needing those all-important points to stay up. Possibly our best performance of the season was at home against Champions elect Low Moor as we had them 14-4 and they needed a couple of partnerships to get to 145 all out with 5-37 for Greg. In reply a top score of 31 from Chris P and other contributions meant the Matt R and Greg last wicket partnership of 35 nearly got us home...

The final match at Almondbury and we still needed those few points to ensure safety. A good toss to win and we choose to bowl and get the necessary points. We had them 58-4 and 80-6 (which was all we needed) but once the points were assured, we probably lost focus and allowed too many runs and didn't do much with the bat, apart from 17 from Rich C, but hey... We played the top three teams in the league twice, had games rained off against teams around us and still stayed up. We will be competitive again next season with a great squad of players many of whom were returning to competitive cricket after some time away this season and ready to go for 2024. With more juniors coming through to play adult cricket the future is bright for the Sunday side which is not something we were saying a couple of seasons ago. Thanks to all those who ensured we got a game on, preparing wickets and ground, umpired, scored, made teas and helped in any way.

**Dave Grundy**



## T20 Review

Back in June, a T20 side made the trip to Thornton for a T20 Trophy 'Group Day' against Thornton and Triangle. As in the 2022 season, the format was a 3-team round-robin which you had to win outright to progress to finals day. We were well beaten in the first match against the hosts, by the large margin of 143 runs. We lost the toss and were asked to bowl and despite having Thornton 148/7 they rebounded to finish on 206/8. Aqeel Taj's 3 for 26 was the pick of the bowling. Our response started poorly with both Tom Wood and Gnamam back in the hut with the score on 29, and it got even worse as we lost our remaining 8 wickets for just 34 runs. The margin of defeat, though we were mathematically still in it, left us in all likelihood exiting the competition at the end of the day.

You have to play the remaining games though, of course, and we fared much better in our next one. Once again our opponents won the toss and chose to bat, but thanks to Arun CK's 3 for 20 and some tight overs from Sameer Saeed and Sudhanshu Sharma towards the end of the innings, we managed to restrict Triangle to a chaseable 145/9.

Gnamam (18) got us off to a fast start in the response, but was out with the score on 23. Tom (32) picked up where his opening partner had left off, before he too departed with the score at 63. Lewis Firth top scored with 35, but when he was seventh man out with 12 still required, the game was still in the balance. A calamitous run out further tested our nerves but Dave Brown and Sudhanshu managed to hold their nerve, with the latter hitting two fours to secure victory, and second place in the group.

Thanks to all those who were able to make themselves available, to Verity for scoring and to all who supported.

### Lewis Firth



## Appearances – 2023

	1XI	2XI	3XI	Total
Dylan Evans	1	26	3	30
Chris Dalby	0	26	0	26
John Greenwood	0	24	1	25
Simon Hampshire	0	25	0	25
Matthew Keast	0	24	0	24
Simon Wood	24	0	0	24
Tony Kirby	1	23	0	24
Rob Larkin	1	22	0	23
David Brown	5	8	9	22
Lewis Firth	22	0	0	22
Tom Wood	22	0	0	22
Alex Scholefield	21	0	0	21
Jamie Summerscales	21	0	0	21
Jonathan Hampshire	0	21	0	21
Tyson Illingworth	1	20	0	21
Arun CK	19	0	0	19
Mark Fellows	2	17	0	19
Sam Hinchliffe	19	0	0	19
Adam Fawcett	18	0	0	18
Gnanam Arjun	18	0	0	18
Greg Boocock	1	4	13	18
Waqas Sufyan	2	12	4	18
Ajay Desari	0	1	14	15
Rohit Singh	0	1	14	15
Albie Earle	2	12	0	14
Sameer Saeed	0	1	13	14
Aqeel Taj	11	2	0	13
Dan Sykes	13	0	0	13
Ikhlaq Ahmed	11	2	0	13



	<b>1XI</b>	<b>2XI</b>	<b>3XI</b>	<b>Total</b>
Richard Conway	0	0	13	13
Dave Grundy	0	1	12	13
Chris Parker	0	0	11	11
Ken Major	0	0	11	11
Mike Veitch	4	6	1	11
Brad Holt	5	5	0	10
Baasit Nawaz	0	3	7	10
Charlie Wesencraft	0	0	10	10
Phil Earle	1	3	6	10
Paul Collins	0	0	9	9
Satyam Sadasivam	0	0	9	9
Bash Shaffiq	0	0	8	8
Robin Hanson	7	1	0	8
Sudanshu Sharma	0	0	8	8
Matt Rose	4	1	1	6
Lewis Wring	0	0	4	4
Mark Pottinger	2	0	2	4
Rishav Tandon	4	0	0	4
Tom Smith	1	3	0	4
Abeel Muhmmad	0	1	1	2
Fin Evans	0	1	1	2
Daniel Keighley	1	0	0	1
Jack Fellows	0	1	0	1
SBCC loan	0	0	1	1

Appearances include where selected but game abandoned before play.

# Club Prize Winners 2023

## Senior Prize Winners

### First Team

Batting – Jamie Summerscales 19 innings, 3 not out, 537 runs @ 33.56 (HS 107\*)  
Bowling – Dan Sykes 84.2 overs, 14 maidens, 33 wickets, 314 runs @ 9.52  
Fielding – Gnanam Arjun – 4 marks

### Second team

Batting – Mark Fellows 16 innings, 3 not out, 795 runs @ 61.15 (HS 140\*)  
Bowling – Chris Dalby 73.5 overs, 25 maidens, 21 wickets, 225 runs @ 10.71  
Fielding – M Keast – 7.5 marks

### Sunday Team

Batting – Dave Brown 6 innings, 2 not out, 148 runs @ 37.0 (HS 47\*)  
Bowling – Greg Boocock 88.3 overs, 12 maidens, 23 wickets, 354 runs @ 15.39  
Fielding – Charlie Wesencraft – 3.5 marks

**Alan Sutcliffe Trophy** (most senior runs league & cup only) Chris Dalby 844 @ 52.75

**Campbell Cup** (most senior wickets league & cup only) Tyson Illingworth 49 wickets @ 13.79

## Halifax Cricket League Prize Winners

Premier First X1 Wicket keeping – S Wood  
Laurie Plumb Trophy – S Wood (most wicket keeping dismissals across all divisions won for the third year running)

Second X1 – Crossley Shield winners  
B Holt – Player of the match

Premier Second X1 Batting – M Fellows

Premier Second X1 Fielding – M Keast

Premier Second X1 Wicket keeping – J Greenwood

## *Under 13's*



## *2023 players*

J Kola, L Parker, S Scholefield, L Fellows, I Frankland, N Gould, S Uren, L Veitch, H Alam, J Fellows, M Copping, S Arokiyaraj, B Langhorn, M Grundy, D Larkin. D Brown (Coach)

How ironic that we started the cricket season- via indoor training in the cold and dark, we finished the season away at Greetland, in conditions that more lent themselves to the football/ rugby season towards the end of the match. The junior end of season presentation however took place on the most balmy September evening some three weeks after the season has finished with most people in attendance wearing t-shirt and shorts with the temperature having been in the mid-20's during the week in the lead up to presentation evening.

On the subject of weather- Queensbury away on May 4<sup>th</sup> this season is about as cold as I have ever been in my entire life – despite having at least five layers on including a heated gilet. Alex, Mike, Yvonne, Richard and any other spectator who braved the match will testify just how cold it was. Despite the awful conditions that blighted us for much of the summer, it was only that one Queensbury match that was called off.

We somehow managed to get full games in for the rest of the season except for two games where either ourselves or the opposition failed to raise a side, but in the main, I was always able to select from at least 13/14 players each week meaning that the younger players in this side were rotated around on a weekly basis.

As has been well documented in previous end of season reports, our cricket club at a junior level is all about giving kids a fair crack at both batting and bowling when (sometimes) the easiest thing in the world would be to let the better batters bat high up every week, and the more skilled bowlers to bowl at the beginning of an innings.

Whilst that might have brought us a couple of extra wins, it wouldn't have done anything for the lads and lasses who might not have had a bat or a bowl. Some weeks I got it wrong, and I'll hold my hand up to those mistakes, but generally, everyone this year has either got a bat or a bowl, and in most instances, everyone got to do both. If someone didn't bat one week, then they'd generally get a go in the top four the following week. In a twenty over game, we ensured that the ten players not wearing the keeping gloves (thanks to Dylan and mid-season signing Mason for doing a fine job over the season) got to bowl 2 overs to do things and (hopefully) will keep these talented youngsters interested until such a time they are wanting to graduate to senior cricket.

Additionally, it's not all about training on a Friday night to play on a Thursday- sometimes its about giving youngsters a pathway into a sport they've never tried before and building their confidence over the training sessions they attend to get better and make new friends as the weeks progress. Step forward Thomas who had only played a limited amount of cricket before he came to us at the end of April and whilst not quite ready to put his whites on just yet in 2023, the improvement in his bowling, fielding and catching between April and August is fantastic and great to see.

Highlights of the season for me – in no particular order.

First win of the season against a very strong Mytholmroyd side – Jack and Libby seeing us over the line scoring 38 of the 59 runs required.

Matthew Grundy standing up to some very quick bowling (again against Mytholmroyd) the following week and being totally unphased and panicked by it all. He also had two runouts in the same game.

As a team – chasing down 96 runs against Low Moor for the loss of only three wickets – Noah and Jack both retiring.

Lucas putting his hand up to open the bowling each and every single week.  
Jaden and Sachin both taking their first wickets at Under 13 level against Low Moor.

Haaris taking 3 for 8 against Elland as we so nearly pulled off a great victory.  
Sam, Dylan, Mason, Freddie, Ben, Sol & Idris all putting their hands up to play cricket one age group above where they currently play their cricket. Each and every single one of them did fantastically well when called upon and are a credit to their families as well as our cricket club. Our Under 13 side for 2024 looks amazing.

Beating Clayton away despite being 7 for 3 and then 20 for 4 chasing 86 to win. A true team effort.

Isaac so nearly reaching the magical score of 25 to retire in the game against King Cross.

Sol, Jaden and Idris taking 5 wickets between them for 14 runs against Outlane.  
Libby opening the batting most weeks of the season and being utterly fearless. Great to see.

Liam Parker taking some outstanding catches in the field. Not too sure where he gets his fielding ability from given what I saw last weekend (sorry Chris!!!)  
And last, but by no means least, in my end of season report from 2022, I wrote the following "I certainly hope that by the time I write the 2023 end of season report, I'll be able to record that we've had some of this side make their senior debut for the club".  
Well, we've had just the one player graduate to the senior side in 2023 with Jack Fellows playing for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Team in their Crossley Shield first round fixture – a competition that we went onto win. Well done, Jack.

Overall, a great season, all things considered. A big thank you to everyone who has helped out with coaching on a Friday night (or running the bar), to umpiring and scoring on a match night. Simply put, this season wouldn't have happened without the goodwill and generous donation of their free time by many people from our cricket club, whether directly or indirectly connected to SBCI.

Already looking forward to seeing everyone Winter/ Early Spring 2024 for some indoor training.

**Dave Brown**



## Under 11's

Cricket was again the winner, u11's is about playing the game the right way and giving everyone a chance not the results. I'll not go through week by week, but we certainly won more than we lost this season.

We welcomed back some experienced players, added some new players and some played their first games in pads and helmets, some played their first ever games. The season was mixed as you might expect for an u11's side. At times we looked amazing, bowling, fielding, catching, backing up one week then the next, not so much...we are still far too quiet and almost embarrassed to celebrate taking wickets sometimes...!

Everyone got to play, bat, bowl, and field and they have all improved which is the key aim. As a side we just need to stay switched on throughout. Not always easy when its cold, and we have had our share of cold games...!

Many of the u11's stepped up to play hard ball at u13's and those moving up to that age group next season are ready for the challenge. Some of the u9's played for us this season and will be ready for a full season at u11's next year.

More importantly we've played the game in the right spirit, supported each other and enjoyed it. Thanks to all the parents, helpers, scorers, bar and tuck shop helpers, groundstaff and anyone else who has supported the u11's in 2023.

**Dave Grundy**

## Under 9's

Another successful season for the u9s. Success is measured in seeing kids enjoy the game, develop their skills and smile. With this in mind I thought I would take a different approach to my report and highlight what I am most pleased about with each player rather than talk scores. But for those who are keen to talk results, we won some, we lost some, but overall, as the u9s know, 'Cricket was the winner!'

We had a few who played their first ever competitive game of cricket:

Hugo Hanson with tremendous enthusiasm and great technique; both with the ball and the bat and is a very bright prospect for the future.

Joe Collins takes the prize for having a passion for cricket, every practice and match presents his parents with a challenge to get him to stop so they can go home, often long after the sessions are finished. That passion and dedication is certainly showing in his already blossoming cricket skills.

Noah Fellows looks a natural for the cricket field already with a lovely batting technique.

Daniel Aitchison brings an eagerness to learn and understand the game, always asking great questions which has helped him grasp the game.

We have players who played last year and will hopefully continue next year:

Reggie Hall has really developed his bowling and is gaining an understanding of the game.

Big hitting Seth Fellows, he quietly goes about his cricket, but when he gets hold of the ball it goes for miles! Without checking the stats, I am sure Seth has scored more 6s than anyone else!

James Calvert has stood out in the field. He attacks every ball and nothing gets past him.

We have a few who will move up to the u11s and I am sure will have every success next year:

Brooke Larkin has shown great leadership in the field in particular helping those less experienced than her. I also have to reference one piece of fielding in a game where she dived to stop a boundary. I have no idea where it came from, but she looked like a professional and will have to show me how that is done!

Zia Alam the man with the infectious smile. Zia's bowling has come on leaps and bounds. Not being the biggest of lads bowling up hill and into the wind didn't really suit him so well, but not anymore his bowling has really developed this year. I am so pleased that Zia and his brothers have returned to the club!

Achintya Lyer is doing all sorts with the ball. He has developed the capability to bowl quickly and spin the ball, another player with a love for the game which is really paying dividends!

Millie Gould, an all rounder in the true sense of the phrase. When it comes to cricket she has shown her ability in all aspects of the game, another big hitter in the team, accurate with the ball and great in the field. The most pleasing thing has been seeing her confidence grow during the season.

Alfie Baraclough has joined us too this year and he is a fantastic addition, bringing enthusiasm, listening to coaching and overall enjoyment of the game. He has already developed in the game so much in the short time he has played.

A big thank you must also go to those who have made this happen. Ben Fellows taking on the scoring, Kim Fellows (Seth's Mum and dad) running the tuck shop and pulling her first pints, Dave Brown for his organisation, all those who help on Friday night training sessions and Paul Collins for running the games when I was unavailable.

Our All Stars programme was once again a great success with lots of children gaining new skills and making significant progress.

The future is bright at SBCI!

**Rob Larkin**



Junior Presentation Night



Crossley Shield runners-up 1986  
(Simon will buy a pint to the first person to correctly name them all)

## **Under 15's & 18's**

Unfortunately we were not able to field sides at these age groups in 2023.

## **Junior Prize Winners**

### **Under 13's**

Batting – Jack Fellows 13 innings, 4 not out, 187 runs @ 20.78

Bowling – Noah Gould 19 overs, 3 maidens, 8 wickets, 52 runs @ 6.5

Fielding – Liam Parker

Bill Jordan Memorial Shield (most promising junior) – Libby Fellows & Sam Scholefield

Young Player of the Year – Jack Fellows

## Club Development

Possibly the most noticeable change for players and visitors alike to look out for when they return to The Astleys next year is that the 'all weather artificial wicket' has been removed from the square. Two new grass wickets have been laid as a result giving Mick a little more room to play with in rotating strips.

We are in the process of acquiring 'Frogbox'. For those not familiar with what this is it is a video camera system which will enable us to live stream matches on the Play Cricket platform. This will not only be great for supporters to watch games they cannot physically attend but will significantly raise the profile and exposure we can offer existing and new sponsors.

The bowlers run ups to the nets have been extended with a top walling effort by Jamie Summerscales helping make this possible.





## LEAGUE TABLES 2023

### Premier First XI

Team	P	W12	W6	T3	LO	Aband	Batting	Bowling	Total
Thornton	22	15	2	0	0	5	13	7	227
Illingworth	22	12	2	0	3	5	9	12	192
Booth	22	12	0	0	6	4	14	10	180
Copley	22	8	3	0	7	4	19	18	163
Bradshaw	22	7	3	0	10	2	22	21	151
SBCI	22	8	1	0	10	3	17	18	146
Oxenhope	22	5	3	0	9	5	15	26	134
Luddendenfoot	22	6	1	1	11	2	21	19	133
Triangle	22	5	1	0	12	4	30	23	131
Sowerby Bridge	22	4	3	0	13	2	31	22	125
Blackley	22	3	1	1	15	2	31	26	108
Mytholmroyd	22	3	2	0	14	2	22	25	107

Note: Mytholmroyd & Luddendenfoot one match cancelled for Religious festival

### Premier Second XI

Team	P	W12	W6	T3	LO	Aband	Batting	Bowling	Total
Illingworth	22	12	5	0	2	3	15	16	214
Blackley	22	13	3	0	3	3	14	11	208
SBCI	22	11	2	0	5	4	13	17	186
Greetland	22	8	3	0	6	5	16	16	161
Booth	22	7	1	0	9	5	24	17	146
Warley	22	6	3	1	8	4	20	21	146
Great Horton PC	22	8	0	0	11	3	10	18	133
Bradshaw	22	6	1	0	10	5	19	14	126
Bridgeholme	22	4	1	0	13	4	21	21	108
Sowerby Bridge	22	2	1	0	13	6	27	21	96
Sowerby St Peters	22	3	0	1	11	7	12	22	94
Mytholmroyd	22	4	0	0	13	5	12	18	93

## Sunday Section Division 2

Team	P	W20	WD7	LD1	L	Aban	WCN	LCN	Bt B	Bl B	Total
Low Moor	14	10	1	0	2	1	0	0	5	8	228
Illingworth	14	7	1	0	2	4	0	0	18	12	197
Almondbury Wesleyans	14	5	0	0	5	4	0	0	16	24	164
Outlane	14	5	0	2	5	2	0	0	11	30	155
Great Horton PC	14	5	0	0	7	2	0	0	6	24	142
SBCI	14	3	0	1	6	3	1	0	7	23	131
Queensbury	14	2	0	0	6	6	0	0	14	26	116
Stones	14	2	1	0	6	4	0	1	20	21	108

WD7 – Incomplete win      WCN – Opposition conceded (20)

LD1 – Not all out

Stones 8 Penalties



Booey's Bench

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Thank you for your support and the Editor apologies for any omissions.

## Principal Sponsors 2023





**Storm brewing!**

***This newsletter is produced by Jonathan Hyland***

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R Larkin***

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