



# SILLY POINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF SBCI CC  
End of Season Edition 2021



## Editorial Licence

I am writing these notes shortly after the passing of the great Jimmy Greaves and to borrow one of his best quips "it certainly is a funny old game". At the half way point of the season both the first and second teams looked great bets for relegation sitting at the bottom of their respective divisions with only two league wins between them, both to the firsts! This was a somewhat paltry return from 18 completed fixtures.

The seconds could however win matches provided they were played on a Sunday reaching the semi-final of the Crossley Shield where they ultimately fell to eventual runners up, Sowerby St Peters. Come Saturdays the wheels fell off.

The second round of fixtures presents a totally different picture as shown by the firsts winning the Lindley Moor Trophy and the seconds sharing the Clay Trophy. I won't embarrass the second team regular who dropped the catch which cost the point which would have won it outright as I understand he has taken sufficient ribbing already from his teammates. Just in case you are new to SBCI these trophies are awarded to the Clubs who secure the most points in the last 6 weeks of the season across first and second teams.

For the statisticians amongst you it was 15 wins from 17 completed fixtures in the second round as against 2 from 18 in the first. This fantastic turnaround must be commended and shows what winning on a regular basis does to confidence and what confidence does to winning. We must not however be complacent as a result. The seconds were only one defeat from relegation having to win their last match sending Copley down in the process. On any other day it could have been SBCI. Both skippers have pulled the proverbial rabbit out of the hat but we cannot afford to start (or finish) 2022 as we started this year.

Despite being disrupted by a combination of poor weather, Covid, and clubs withdrawing the Sunday Team have fulfilled their fixtures with a degree of success retaining their status in Division 2. What is really encouraging to me is the All Stars programme continues to attract lots of new children (and parents) to the club and the number of Juniors, both boys and girls, attending training on a Friday is possibly at record levels. Hopefully it will not be long before we can support junior sides at all age levels from our own resources. Our volunteer coaches and helpers under the leadership of Dave Brown are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Enjoy the winter break and pre-season nets and please support our sponsors wherever possible.

**Jonathan Hyland**

## First XI



Back Row L-R A Fawcett, D Evans, Arun, I Ahmed, R Tandon, O Benson

Front Row L-R L Firth, A Scholefield, S Wood (Cptn), S Hinchliffe, T Wood

Before I sit down to write my reflections on the season I always like to look back at what I've written in previous years. In doing so I stumbled across the 2019 edition of Silly Point (the last "proper" season) and I was drawn to a particular paragraph about the worrying trend in our league finishing positions, having gone 5th (2016), 6th (2017), 8th (2018) and 10th (2019), the last 2 being under my captaincy. It's fair to say that this year we've bucked that trend with a very respectable 5th placed finish albeit at the half way point it looked like the trend was continuing with us rock bottom of the league having won only 2 games. The 2nd half of the season didn't start much better for us either with a heavy defeat to local rivals Warley (but more on what happened after that game later).

From a playing resources perspective we'd retained everyone from the previous season with Arun's contract at LBG being extended for another 12 months and the players who opted out in 2020 also returning to play. We got the info from the league that we'd be playing a full season under the same restrictions as the previous year which didn't bother me as I was just happy to have the opportunity to play after another lockdown post Christmas. That lockdown meant we weren't able to complete any indoor training but as soon as light allowed we were outside a few weeks before the start of the season. It wasn't ideal preparation but it was better than nothing and I thought we'd be in no worse position than any of the other teams we'd be playing against.

The first game of the season was against local rivals Warley and I was in optimistic mood knowing they'd lost last years captain to Barkisland and both Atkinson's were missing. The mood was lifted even further when we'd managed to bowl them out for 161 and we were 105-3 needing only 56 more for victory. Then our famous batting collapse happened and we were suddenly 129-8 and then 133 all out, we'd somehow managed to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory. Not the ideal start but we bounced straight back the week after at home to Mytholmroyd winning by 10 runs in a very close game. The week after that we travelled to Booth and after being put into bat we made 248-6 which I felt gave us a great opportunity of beating one of the fancied sides in the league. At 28-3 we had them rocking and not long after our first bit of bad luck, when we had Jon Midgley caught behind only for the umpire not to give it, Jon and Rick Laycock then put on 200 for the 4th wicket and set up the win for them. Our lack of luck continued the week after when our game against Northowram fell victim to the weather, a game we would have fancied ourselves to win. This was compounded further the week after when we played on in heavy rain and I mean heavy rain to end up losing to Sowerby Bridge in conditions and on a pitch that clearly wasn't fit. You only have to look at this photo from the day after!!!



Hindsight is a wonderful thing and when I reflected afterwards we should have walked off when we were given the opportunity but I also think the umpires should have been stronger and taken us off because it clearly wasn't playable and sometimes as players emotion takes over when you're looking to win. The week after we lost another game to the weather, this time to Blackley who ended up being relegated. When I talk about luck, we always seem to be rained off against sides we'd hope to beat. We lost the next 2 league games before we recorded an excellent win against recent league winners Illingworth, making it 2 league wins for the season. Batting first we made a competitive 184-9, which after being 2-2 and 49-3 was a fantastic effort. We then turned in a truly brilliant bowling and fielding display with Arun C-K taking an unbelievable caught and bowled (available on YouTube for anyone that hasn't seen it). We bowled Illingworth out for 68 and I genuinely thought that performance would be the catalyst we needed to kick start our season.



Unfortunately it wasn't to be and we lost our next 3 league games and went out of the Parish Cup quarter final to Thornton in a very close run chase in which we ended up 13 runs short.

The third of those run of 3 league defeats was against Warley, a game which was a real low point for me. It wasn't so much the fact we'd lost the game it was more the manner of the performance. We'd been really poor in the field and pretty abject with the bat as well, only 3 players getting into double figures. During the 2nd innings whilst watching our chances of winning slip away I'd convinced myself it was time to resign, with the rationale that perhaps I'd taken this team as far as I could and it was time for someone else to take over with 10 games left to try and turn it around. Anyway, I stewed on it some more that night, calmed down a bit and decided to put all my frustrations into a message to the players. It wasn't a cry for sympathy but I was looking for a reaction from the players and it's fair to say that I got it in a big big way. That week we won at Mytholmroyd in a game that we looked destined to lose. Scoring 64 off the last 4.3 overs we managed to win by 4 wickets in an exhilarating finale.

I genuinely believe that the nature in which we won that game coupled with what had happened the week before was the catalyst for what happened in the rest of the season. It was an unbelievable run-in, to go unbeaten for the rest of the season and end up finishing 5th was truly fantastic and a credit to all the players who made it happen. It's given us a taste of what we are capable of. And to top it off, we were the winners of the Lindley Moore Trophy which means we'd picked up the most points (league winners are excluded) across all 3 divisions in the last 6 games of the season.

Finally a couple thank you's to finish;

Firstly to Adrian for resuming scoring duties and not missing a game again! We're really spoilt to have you and it's much appreciated.

Thanks once again to my dad for preparing the wicket each week and for everyone involved in making the ground and surroundings look as good as they do.

Thanks to everyone that keeps the club clean and tidy and working as it should do.

And finally thanks for everyone's continued support, I hope you all have a great winter and see you again in 2022.

**Simon Wood**

## Second XI



Back Row – L-R: L Hampshire (Scorer), R Larkin, S Hampshire, T Kirby, T Illingworth, D Evans, M Veitch, J Hyland (Umpire)

Front Row – L-R: R Tandon, M Keast, B Holt (Captn), T Smith, M Fellows  
Inset – J Greenwood, J Hampshire

After a long wait over the winter the cricket season was finally back but the first half did not go the way we would have hoped.

Our first game was at home to Mytholmroyd where they won the toss and elected to bowl first. With Chris scoring 48 and Greeny the second highest scorer with 19 we found ourselves all out for 155 after 40.4 overs. Royd knocked them off for the loss of four wickets

The following Saturday we travelled to Shelf Northowram Hedge Top in a game now known as 'sun gate'. After Smudger hit 50 off 58 balls and both Rishav and Greeny getting into the 40s we set a total of 217 for 8. The home side got off to a very good start but after a few quick wickets, we were in control of the game. But as soon as the sun dropped behind the club house, the batsman claimed he couldn't see the ball as he couldn't lay a bat on Rishav. After Rishav finished his over seam up, we then had to take him off. We lost the game on the last ball as the batsman could miraculously see the ball again.

Our next game was a loss at home to Blackley, followed by a rained off game away to Mount. On Sunday the 9th May we played our first game in what was a very good cup run, away to Bridgeholme CC. We won the toss and elected to bowl first. With Greg taking 7 wickets for 41 runs helping us bowl them out for 148. Bridgeholme replied well after Dylan got down on one knee and tried to smash their opening bowler on to the road but was bowled (sorry Dylan). In comes TK and smashes 109 off 73 balls. With Dave Brown holding up the other end with a big 32 of 69 balls we won comfortably.

Another rained off game against Warely followed. On Saturday 22nd of May we made the short trip to Booth, where it was another wet and windy day, but we managed to get the game on after agreeing we either get on with it or go home and call it a day. Of course, we all wanted to play cricket. Booth won the toss and put us into bat. Greeny and Brown opened up the batting, with Greeny back in the changing rooms 5 balls later. Not a great start. Brown and Dylan soon follow as we find ourselves 14-3. Smudger and I had to dig in on a very wet pitch and try get us some runs on the board. With Both of us reaching 50, the next wicket fell, and we were 105-4, looking a little better. Unfortunately we struggled after the loss of Smudger finding ourselves all out for 138. Booth knock off our total 3 down with 6.2 overs remaining.

Another Saturday, and another loss at home to Soweby Bridge. But Sunday we faced Shelf Northowarm. We travelled there looking for revenge after the 'sun gate' game and we came out victorious. The exact same scores from the league game, Northowram scoring 217/8 after 45 overs, and we scored 220 for 8 after 44.4 overs.

Another month, another 4 losses to Bradshaw, Sowerby SP, Triangle and Copley. Although, we had our third game in the cup away to Low Moor on Sunday the 20th. We won the toss and put them into bat. With an excellent performance from Hampy, 9 overs for 25 runs and 4 wickets. Also, myself and Ikhlal both taking 3 wickets each, helping us bowl them out for 103. After a couple of early wickets it looked like we were going to make hard work of this, but Mike and Dylan helped steady the ship and enabled us to win the game 5 wickets down.

Into July and our first game against Mytholmroyd was rained off. We the hosted Shelf Northowram at home. They won the toss and elected to bowl first. We posted a score of 157 all out, with Mike getting 49, and Tony getting 29 and Abeel adding 26. Hampy with another brilliant bowling performance with figures of 5-26 helped us secure our first win in the league all season and what a win it was!

Next up its semi-final day where we travelled up the road to Sowerby SP. We won the toss and elected to field. They set us a total of 209 to win with Mike getting 5 wickets for 45 and myself taking 2 wickets for only 8 runs off 9 overs. We came up short only reaching 143 with runs from Dylan and Rob Larkin right at the death. Not our day unfortunately but what a cup run to say we were struggling in the league!

We then recorded another loss to Blackley but this would be the last loss in the league all season! We hosted Mount at home the following week and bowled them out for 155, with yet another 4 wickets from Hampy! We knocked it off 4 down, me scoring 52, New signing Mark Fellows 14 and Tony 20.

Our next game was away to our neighbours, Warley. With Warley only being able to raise a team of 8 players we took full advantage and put them into bat bowling them out for just 33! With Simon taking 5 and myself taking 2 from the other end. It looked like we were going to make it difficult when Mark Fellows left a straight one, sorry mate!! But we knocked it off three down!

The following game was abandoned after tea against Booth due to the rain meaning we both took away 6 points. We then travelled down the road to Sowerby Bridge who clearly had one eye on the Crossley Shield final the next day. As we bowled them out for 105 and knocked this off 1 down with a brilliant batting performance from TK with 67 off 62 balls, and Greeny doing a Greeny holding up the other end with 24 off 52 balls.

Another week and another cancelled game against Bradshaw due to the rain. Three games left, and three must win games if we are to avoid relegation after our dreadful first half of the season. First up was Sowerby SP away, we won the toss and elected to bowl first. Sowerby started well, with 71 on the board for the fall of the first wicket and we thought we had a tough game on our hands. A couple more wickets and we had them 114 -3. With 5 wickets from Abeel and 5 from myself we bowled Sowerby out for 133. A great recovery and a very chasable target. After losing Mark early, Brownny and Jonny Hampshire were at the crease and scoring well. Dave with 44 not out to see us home with young Albie. What a debut for Albie and what a great innings from Brownny!

Next game was Triangle away, two games left, two wins needed. After winning the toss and putting 9 man Triangle into bat we had them 75-5, when two of their batters got themselves in and put on a fair few runs between them. But Keasty coming on and taking five wickets meant that we restricted them to 209 all out. Not the biggest score to chase on one of the smallest grounds in the league. But we didn't get off to the best of starts. Losing Greeny after just two overs and TK after 9 balls, it was down to Mark and Tyson to score some runs. Tyson, scoring a quick 30 and then spooning one up left us 56-3. Mark and myself put on another 98 runs before I was stumped on 68. 154-4. A couple more wickets fall, and in comes Rob Larkin hitting 19 off 17 balls and finishing the game with a lovely cover driver for 4. Mark finishing on 61 not out and a brilliant performance it was!

Final game of the season was at home to Copley. We needed to win to stay up and so did they. After we won the toss and elected to bowl we played exceptionally well in a very important game and bowled Copley out for just 80 runs. We knocked the total off three down and this meant that we kept our spot in the premier division.

I'd like to thank everyone who has helped me out this season, especially Keasty! Enjoy the Winter and see you all next season!

**Brad Holt**



## Sunday Section



Back Row L-R S Sharma, N Noordeen, G Boocock, P Collins, D Grundy, M Shaffiq, M Summerscales (umpire)  
Front Row L-R C Wesencraft, D Brown, V Hyland (scorer) R Conway, A Earle, D Wilkinson

A 22-week season punctured by teams pulling out of the Sunday division two before the season had started, Covid cancellations, cup clashes and the inevitable dreary British “summer” weather meant that the Sunday side only completed ten games of cricket in the 2021 season. The stop, start nature of the season meant that we were unable to field the same team in two games running, and we actually went without a fixture between 3<sup>rd</sup> May and 20<sup>th</sup> June.

As it turned out, we finished fourth in a league of seven teams and benefitted massively from two other teams being deducted points for fielding ineligible players, and this certainly kept us in the division, if we’re being honest. The last two matches of the season saw Dave Brown and Tom Smith take the wicketkeeping gloves- both of whom are still recovering!

We used 30 players across the ten matches we played with 18 players playing five games or less, so a massive thanks to everyone who helped out to ensure that we could get eleven players out. We said a big hello to David Wilkinson, Albie Earle and Charlie Wesencraft in 2021 who made their senior debuts for the club, Albie and Charlie graduating from the Under 15 side, with Albie also making an appearance for the second team on the August Bank holiday weekend. Charlie scored runs and took wickets, so the future is looking bright at the younger end of the cricketing age spectrum. David Wilkinson made his debut away at Buttershaw when we nearly conceded 400 but wasn't put off and played nine out of our ten matches. He capped the season off with his best knock of the season and taking a one-handed catch at mid-wicket against the aforementioned opposition. We did, however say goodbye to both of Adam Sloane and Simon Robinson to Queensbury and Sowerby Bridge, the loss of the latter will be especially felt as Simon had captained the Sunday side for the past three seasons and had ensured the continuation of a Sunday team.

A win on the opening day of the season versus Barkisland (Tyson 45, Dylan 34) saw a good start to the league season, swiftly followed by a sharp exit in the Rod Warhurst trophy, losing to Buttershaw and Barkisland before forfeiting against Triangle. Slaithwaite couldn't raise a side for our fixture on 16<sup>th</sup> May and we called off our match against Sowerby Bridge due to it being the second round of the Parish Cup and Crossley Shield, where both sides couldn't put eleven players out.

That took us into June and a handsome win at home to Mount (with ten men) - Mark Fellows made his debut for the club, made the highest Sunday section score of the season (80) and was promptly whisked off to the Second Team, never to be seen on a Sunday again!! 4 for 24 for Abeel Muhammad and 3 for 18 from Greg Boocock ensured that we ran out winners by 42 runs. As it turned out, that would turn out to be our last win of the season as Illingworth a week later and Slaithwaite in our next match on 25<sup>th</sup> July dismissed us for less than a hundred runs on both occasions and, unsurprisingly, we were on the end of heavy defeats. A further three weeks of inactivity brought us to the back end of August and four games in as many weeks to round the season off. We were 23 for 1 chasing 146 to beat Mount when the rain came and ended the match prematurely, and then three narrow losses to finish the season. We lost to both of the promoted clubs, Barkisland and Illingworth and then at Buttershaw on the last day of the 2021 season. Dylan top scored with 51 and Matty Keast had 47 against Barkisland with Matty taking 2 for 21, as we narrowly missed out by 12 runs. A week later at home to Illingworth with a genuine Sunday side, we gave the eventual title winners a scare by making 136 for 9 off our 40 overs. Dave Grundy top scored with 34 with Paul Collins and Sudanshu putting on 30 for the last wicket before the overs ran out.

On the final match of the season, a 24 run defeat could well have been a relatively comfortable win had we hung on to our catches, but that's Sunday cricket and in the end it mattered not a jot and a respectable fourth place finish, 23 points out of the relegation places and 20 from being promoted is more than a pleasing finish.

Dylan Evans has been the shining light with the bat and ball for the Sunday side in 2021, scoring 104 runs more than anyone else in this truncated season. He also had the joint highest number of wickets (with the evergreen Richard Conway) as well, so is a genuine all-rounder for the Sunday team (when he can find someone to take the gloves!!!)

A massive thank you to everyone who has made this season possible- not only to the players who represent the club, but our scorers and umpires who ensure the game can go ahead. Ground staff and other volunteers at the club are frequently overlooked but without their mowing of the grass, restocking of the bar and cleaning of the clubhouse (when most people are at work), then we simply wouldn't have the cricket club we have. We are truly blessed to have an army of volunteers who are willing to give up their free time in order to contribute so much to this cricket club.

Fingers crossed we can get more games of cricket played in 2022 where we'll continue to give our up and coming youngsters a chance to play senior cricket as well as providing cricket for those unable to play on a Saturday.

**Dave Brown**

## Senior Appearances – 2021

		1st XI	2nd XI	Sunday side	Total
D	Evans	2	24	10	36
M	Keast	0	24	7	31
B	Holt	0	24	2	26
L	Firth	25	0	0	25
S	Wood	25	0	0	25
O	Benson	24	0	0	24
S	Hampshire	0	24	0	24
A	Kirby	0	23	1	24
R	Larkin	2	21	1	24
T	Smith	1	18	5	24
A	CK	23	0	0	23
A	Scholefield	23	0	0	23
C	Dalby	21	1	0	22
J	Hampshire	1	21	0	22
T	Wood	22	0	0	22
A	Fawcett	21	0	0	21
J	Greenwood	1	19	1	21
I	Ahmed	11	8	1	20
D	Brown	1	8	11	20

		<b>1st XI</b>	<b>2nd XI</b>	<b>Sunday side</b>	<b>Total</b>
G	Boocock	1	7	11	19
R	Tandon	12	6	1	19
S	Robinson	2	9	7	18
M	Veitch	6	11	1	18
S	Hinchliffe	17	0	0	17
A	Muhmmad	1	13	3	17
T	Illingworth	7	7	1	15
D	Brock	13	0	0	13
R	Hanson	7	6	0	13
D	Grundy	0	1	11	12
D	Wilkinson	0	0	11	11
M	Shaffiq	0	0	10	10
R	Conway	0	0	9	9
M	Fellows	0	8	1	9
A	Sloane	2	1	6	9
A	Earle	0	1	7	8
N	Nordeen	0	0	6	6
P	Collins	0	0	5	5
C	Wesencraft	0	0	5	5
S	Sharma	0	0	3	3
M	Wood	1	0	2	3
A	Rayner	0	1	1	2
N	Mekapothula	0	0	1	1
D	Sykes	1	0	0	1
J	Thomas	0	0	1	1

Please note the above are selections and rained off fixtures are registered as an appearance

## Senior Prize Winners

### First team

Batting – Sam Hinchliffe 13 innings, 4 no, 395 runs @ 43.9

Bowling – Alex Scholefield 232 overs, 72 maidens, 44 wickets, 729 runs @ 16.57

Fielding – Sam Hinchliffe – 6 marks

### Second team

Batting – Brad Holt 18 innings, 4 not out, 329 runs @ 23.5

Bowling – Simon Hampshire 214 overs, 64 maidens, 38 wickets, 587 runs @ 15.45

Fielding – T Kirby / T Smith / M Veitch – 4 marks

### Sunday Team

Batting – Dylan Evans 8 innings, 0 no, 299 runs @ 37.38

Bowling – Dylan Evans 31 overs, 4 maidens, 9 wickets, 244 runs @ 27.11

Fielding – Albie Earle – 1.5 marks

**Alan Sutcliffe Trophy** (most senior runs league & cup only) Tom Wood 739 @ 41.1

**Campbell Cup** (most senior wickets league & cup only) Alex Scholefield 44 wickets @ 16.57



**Dollars says “nice shot, wrong line!”**



## 2021 Junior Season Review

At the back end of Winter and early Spring this year, there was a worry amongst the SBCI coaches that we wouldn't have enough kids to put out a single junior side for the forthcoming cricket season. A blank season in 2020 because of the pandemic and not being allowed to run the usual Winter nets at the beginning of the year had us worried that kids and their parents might have lost their appetite for cricket or gone and found something else to do. Thankfully, we couldn't have been more wrong. The outdoor training sessions we did put on in August 2020 were extremely well attended and even though we couldn't put any indoor sessions on in February and March, when we did start outdoors in April, the youngsters came flooding back and we had the most juniors up at the club on Friday nights throughout Spring and Summer, I've seen in my eleven years at the club. 43 junior players signed on across the four age groups and an incredible 28 All Stars signed up for sessions up at the club on a Sunday morning for 12 weeks in May, June and July.

The good work that we do at SBCI was spread far and wide, mainly by word of mouth at the school gate and we attracted more and more youngsters as the Summer progressed. Not everyone who came stayed for the full season and some came for a couple of weeks and decided it wasn't for them. The vast majority however, came back week after week and we'll hopefully keep these juniors for a few years at the very least as they progress through the age groups. Most Friday nights, when the weather was kind enough, there must have been at least 35 children enjoying their cricket with their parents/guardians watching on from the sidelines (in some instances with a well-deserved drink in hand).

In our older age groups, we had to combine forces with our near neighbours, Sowerby Bridge CC to ensure that we could field an Under 13 and Under 15 side. This just didn't happen by chance in April, a great deal of planning went on throughout the Autumn of 2020 and into the new year to ensure that a collaboration between the two sides would work. Despite it being year one of a new partnership and despite a couple of blips along the way, I was really pleased with how the collaboration between the two clubs went and goes to show what can be achieved between two clubs with the same ethos with regards to junior cricket. Without this joining of forces, many teenagers would have drifted to other clubs or stopped playing all together. Testament to this is that Albie Earle, Charlie Wesencraft from our Under 15 side went onto make their senior debuts for SBCI this season.

Finally, all of the above couldn't happen without the army of volunteers, who give up a tremendous amount of their free time throughout the season to run training, manage a team, keep parents updated about matches, open the club up, staff the bar and all the other activities required to ensure a smoothly and well run junior section. So, here goes- a massive thank you to the following people (in no particular order)

Dave Grundy, Lauren Grundy, Mr and Mrs Fellows, Mr and Mrs Larkin, Alex Scholefield, Dylan Evans, Rishav Tandon, Jack Ward, Rick Robinson, Paul Taylor, John Sunderland, Oliver Benson, Paul Collins, Brad and Danniella Holt, Richard Gould, Michael Robert Veitch, Matty Keast, Simon Robinson.

Let's keep the momentum we built up rolling forwards into 2022.

**Dave Brown**

## Under 15's

The under 15s played out a patchy season with poor weather and the impact of Covid resulting in just seven games being completed. The temporary joining of SBCI and Sowerby Bridge however meant that we could put a team out when required.

We started the season with a tight encounter at Lightcliffe Colts. Batting first, we posted a total of 87 for 4 and set about defending it. Bowling was tight and there was some sharp work in the field, but the home side chased down their target with just two balls left. It was a promising start, however, for a group of players who hadn't played together as a team before. The next game saw us take on a strong Barkisland outfit. With most of their team already established at senior level, it was always going to be a tough ask. Wickets for Albie and Musa-Ali, together with a classy run out from Charlie saw them post 147/3. In reply, Tyler stood out, opening the innings and retiring on 35 from 34 balls. No one could stick with him though, only Albie making it to double figures as we ended on 78/8.

Our first home game of the season saw us bat first against Northawram Fields and this time it was Albie's turn to make some runs, retiring on 38 after opening the batting. We struggled to 65/4 in our 20 overs which Northawram chased down, despite wickets from Joe and Charlie. We headed back up to Lightcliffe in the June sun to play their first team. Albi, Joe, Saahil and Logan were in the wickets as they restricted the hosts to 124/4. Tyler knocked off another 35 runs and retired but the rest of the team struggled against a good bowling attack as we ended on 84/5

The return fixture against Lightcliffe Colts was arguably the game of the season. A high scoring affair, Harris and Charlie took a wicket each and Harry chipped in with a run out as the Colts posted a challenging target of 129/3. Jamie got us off to a flyer, retiring on 36 off just 18 balls, before Tyler came in and notched up 40 off 29 before retiring (again!). Saahil added a quick fire 16 in a good partnership with Logan (14). In a tense final over, needing 5 runs to win we couldn't quite get over the line, finishing on 129/4. Game tied

Booth were next to visit with their team boosted by the arrival of twins who play for West Indies U15s! Needless to say they were a strong team, but Albie (19) and Jamie (15) battled away as we posted a modest total of 61 all out. Wickets from Jamie, Tyler and Albie offered some resistance, but the visitors chased down the target with relative ease.

What turned out to be our final game of the season was also our first win. Top batting from Jamie (36) and Albie (21) helped us to a total of 111/6. A strong bowling display from Tyler 3/6, supported by Jamie, Saahil and Albie, taking a wicket each kept the score down to 73/8 and the celebrations began!

Tyler had a great season with the bat, ending 6th in the league standings with a total of 125 runs at an average of 41. Albie finished 10th in the rankings, notching up 101 runs at an average of 20.

Albie and Tyler topped our bowling standings too, taking 4 wickets each. Tyler took 6 catches throughout the season, meaning he finished second in the fielding standings.

Team spirit, mutual support and new friendships blossomed during the year with many of the players going on to make senior debuts for their respective teams, which is a success in itself.

### **Rick Robinson (Sowerby Bridge)**



## Under 13's



Back row L-R Ayaan Mushtaq, Musa-Ali Mansha, James Chatwood, Christopher Whittall,  
Stanley Robinson, Finlay Charnock  
Front row L-R Murtaza Mansha, Sonny Keast, Haaris Alam, Lewis Green & Matthew Grundy

A highly satisfying 9th placed (out of fifteen teams) finish for our Under 13 side in 2021. Even better when you consider that for many, this was their first taste of hard-ball cricket and for everyone, barring two, it was their first year at Under 13 cricket. I'm sure that we'll be pushing for a top five place in 2022 with the same side.

Both Sowerby Bridge and SBCI cricket clubs are all about giving kids a fair crack at cricket and this extends to match days as well. The easiest thing in the world would be to let the better batters bat every week, and the stronger, quicker 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 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 definitely be batting 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 Jacob and James for doing a fine job over the season) got to bowl 2 overs each. To me, this is the right thing to do and (hopefully) with the aim of keeping the children interested until such a time they are wanting to graduate to senior cricket. Stan Robinson from Sowerby Bridge is a fine example of what both clubs are trying to achieve. Captain of our Under 13 side, he played at least 4/5 senior games of cricket for the Sowerby Bridge second and Sunday teams towards the tail end of the 2021 season.

A late start to the season (our first match away at Copley was washed out) meant that we didn't get up and running until 13th May. We lost our first match of the season at home to Low Moor, but 24 runs out of a total of 58 from Ayaan and a decent bowling display gave me assurance that our first victory wouldn't be too far away. After another week of inactivity because of the weather, we had our first victory of the season against Mytholmroyd, chasing down 80 with 7 balls to spare (Stanley and James both scoring 16, Reis 2 for 4, Christopher 2 for 10)

Into June and a couple of heavy defeats to Sowerby St Peters and Northowram Fields followed. Against Sowerby, Stan had 20 not out, Ayaan retired with 26 and also took a stunning one-handed catch on the boundary. When Northowram were the opponents, Reis made 27 before retiring, and Matthew Grundy (still young enough to be playing Under 11's cricket) scored 9. In that same match, six different bowlers took a wicket. In the final match of the month, we were done and dusted in 45 mins as we blew Illingworth away for 26 (Sonny 2 for 6 and Christopher 1 for 1) and we knocked the required runs off inside 6 overs – Haaris 10 not out at the end.

A good win against Stones on 1st July was a real team performance with everyone chipping in. A week later and despite only having 10 players, and a much-changed team we gave Clayton a real run for their money, eventually losing by 6 wickets, but not before we had them 7 for 4 (Stan 3 for 15) in pursuit of our 61 all out. Murtaza very much like Matthew and Haaris, still young enough to be playing at Under 11 made his Under 13 debut against Clayton and batted and bowled really well – definitely three names to keep an eye out for in future seasons. A rearranged game away at Stainland on a Friday night proved to be the match of the season as we came agonisingly close to winning, but coming up short in the final over. Bowling first, we kept our hosts to 87 for 8 (James 2 for 0 and Sonny 2 for 13). In reply, and despite James and Ayaan both retiring, we came up seven runs short. A fortnight later we had another thriller away at Thornton as we won by 1 wicket with 5 balls to spare. Musa-Ali showing nerves of steel to smack the winning four, after Christopher had taken 2 for 20.

**Dave Brown**



## U11's (softball)



After missing a full season in 2020 it was just good to be back playing this year although we missed a few games due to the weather and school Covid bubbles 'popping up' making things tricky sometimes but we played a seasons cricket.

With only four teams in our league there was lots of playing the same faces which isn't always ideal. However we won more games than we lost, and some of the losses were very close ones. More importantly, we played the game in the right spirit, everyone got a turn to bat, bowl and field in all the positions and to be part of the team. We've had a player spend a morning in A&E and still play the game in the evening so dedication is not an issue! A number of the U9's stepped up to play at U11's during the season so the future is positive. The progression of all the players is clear to see and many of those 'older ones' who have not done so yet are ready for hard ball cricket at U13's next year.

Thanks to all the families who've helped out and supported throughout the season, to DB for all his work behind the scenes and a special thanks to Lauren for scoring the majority of the matches, often for both teams, without the aid of the app and the complexities of 5 ball overs, 2 for a wide, -5 for wickets, batting pairs 4 overs each etc. etc.

**Dave Grundy**

## Under 9's



Front row L-R: Samuel, Yusuf, Zia, George, Brooke  
Back row L-R: Harry, Rajab, Freddie, Dylan, Libby

We have had 20 kids playing in 12 under 9s matches this season; all with different levels of experience but the same fantastic levels of enthusiasm. That included one evening where we had 2 games against Copley with 2 different sets of players and a semi final appearance in the cup at Low Moor!

Some players joined us for their first year many of whom had never played before with others having their final year playing for the team.

The kids playing for the first time have really improved as the season has gone including Sol Clark, Otis, Rayyan, Henry, Charlie, George, Rajab, Zia, Idris, Yusuf and Zahra. I hope to see them all back again next year.

Playing wise there have been too many highlights to mention, however some of them are:

- Libby's hatrick

- Some amazing catches from Harry, Sol Umen, Freddie, Monty and Ben
- We have some big 6 hitters in Freddie, Ben, Sol Umen, Dylan also some lovely technicians in Sam and Libby
- All of the kids have shown tremendous development in their bowling and there are a few games where the bowling was excellent. Sam, Ben, Rajab, Yusuf, Henry, Harry have really shone in that department! I also personally enjoyed the shock on Brooke's face as she took her first wicket.

Also, a big thank you must go to those who have helped things happen on match days, whether umpiring, scoring or running the bar, in particular Mike Veitch, Yvonne Larkin, Kim Fellows and Alex Scholefield.

The enthusiasm and enjoyment makes this all so worthwhile and I hope to see you all back next year!

**Rob Larkin**



## All Stars Review

After a delayed start to All Stars, the weather finally turned around for us!

This year's All Stars was a great success once again as we saw new and returning faces every Sunday morning. The children progressed throughout the sessions and could be seen making new friends as well as gaining new skills.

A big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped out this year and filled in when needed. The sessions would not have happened without you.

It was also great to see some of our All Stars make it to Friday night junior training! We are excited to see you all grow as players and participate in games in the next few years.

We can't wait to see you again next year!

**Danniella and Brad**



*Photo by Joe Bognar*



## Club Development

It has been a relatively quiet year on this front as the long awaited re-vamp of the ECB Clubmark system has been delayed yet again as a result of Covid. We anticipate that 2022 will see the move away from a paper based format to a virtual (computer) based one. Who knows if that will make it easier and less time consuming! In the meantime I'm pleased to report that we have secured our re-accreditation with thanks to Dave Brown for his assistance.

Off the field improvements have been carried out to the sightscreen and more concrete has been laid to the access track which now runs from Blackwall to the car park.

### Jonathan Hyland





# LEAGUE TABLES 2021

## Premier First XI

POS	TEAM	P	w	W6	t	a	np	l	X	BatP	BowlP	Pen	R/W	AVE+	Pts
1	Mytholmroyd CC	22	8	3	1	2	2	6	0	28	16	0	2.83	7.86	173
2	Triangle CC	21	8	3	0	2	2	6	0	22	14	0	6.65	7.71	162
3	Thornton CC	22	10	1	0	1	4	6	0	18	8	0	1.82	7.59	167
4	Booth CC	20	6	4	0	1	3	6	0	20	21	0	6.46	7.45	149
5	Sowerby Bridge Church Institute CC	22	9	1	0	1	3	8	0	20	11	0	3.66	7.14	157
6	Illingworth St Mary's CC	22	6	4	0	0	4	8	0	20	26	0	0.22	7	154
7	Copley CC	22	7	2	0	3	2	8	0	24	16	0	2.84	6.86	151
8	Warley CC	21	6	2	0	1	3	9	0	27	16	0	2.43	6.62	139
9	Sowerby Bridge CC	20	4	3	0	1	2	10	0	21	21	0	-8.85	5.85	117
10	Bradshaw CC, Yorks	22	6	0	0	1	3	12	0	26	18	0	-1.54	5.82	128
▼ 11	Blackley CC, Yorks	20	4	1	0	2	4	9	0	21	18	0	-3.03	5.55	111
▼ 12	Shelf Northwram Hedge Top CC	22	1	2	1	1	4	13	0	28	22	0	-14.46	4.18	92

p - Played, w - Won, W6 - Win (6pts) (6), t - Tied (3), a - Abandoned during game (3), np - Abandoned - No play (3), l - Lost, X - Cancelled - security reasons (0), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, R/W - Runs / wicket differential, AVE+ - Average points all games, Pts - Points

## Premier Second XI

POS	TEAM	P	w	w6	t	a	l	np	BatP	BowlP	Pen	R/W	AVE+	Pts
1	Mytholmroyd CC	22	7	9	0	1	2	3	33	23	0	7.95	9.36	206
2	Blackley CC, Yorks	21	10	2	0	1	5	3	17	13	0	6.88	8.29	174
3	Triangle CC	22	9	2	0	1	8	2	21	14	4	8.68	7.27	160
4	Booth CC	22	7	2	0	2	8	3	23	20	0	2.5	7	154
5	Sowerby St Peters CC	21	5	4	0	1	7	4	25	19	0	1.19	6.81	143
6	Sowerby Bridge CC	20	4	3	0	3	8	2	22	16	0	-5.26	5.95	119
7	Bradshaw CC, Yorks	22	6	2	0	2	9	3	19	12	0	-0.69	5.91	130
8	Sowerby Bridge Church Institute CC	22	6	1	0	1	10	4	23	14	0	-2.74	5.91	130
9	Warley CC	20	5	1	0	1	10	3	25	14	0	-2.67	5.85	117
10	Shelf Northowram Hedge Top CC	21	5	2	0	2	10	2	18	19	0	-5.33	5.76	121
▼ 11	Copley CC	22	5	0	0	1	13	3	19	23	0	-2.65	5.18	114
▼ 12	Mount CC, Yorkshire	21	6	0	0	0	13	2	16	9	0	-6.1	4.9	103

p - Played, w - Won, w6 - Win (6pts) (6), t - Tied (3), a - Abandoned during game (3), l - Lost, np - Abandoned - No play (3), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, R/W - Runs / wicket differential, AVE+ - Average points all games, Pts - Points

## Sunday League Division 2

POS	TEAM	P	w	WD7	LD1	t	NR8	NR4	l	wcn	lcn	BatP	BowlP	Pen	R/W	AVE+	Pts
▲ 1	<a href="#">Illingworth St Mary's CC</a>	12	5	1	1	0	2	0	2	1	0	7	10	0	-5.54	13.42	161
▲ 2	<a href="#">Barkisland CC</a>	12	4	1	1	0	3	0	3	0	0	9	10	-12	3.67	11.92	143
3	<a href="#">Mount CC, Yorkshire</a>	12	5	0	0	0	2	1	4	0	0	3	10	0	7.39	11.08	133
4	<a href="#">Sowerby Bridge Church Institute CC</a>	11	2	1	2	0	2	1	2	1	0	14	19	8	-4.62	10.36	114
5	<a href="#">Sowerby Bridge CC</a>	12	2	1	0	0	3	0	5	1	0	10	24	8	-3.06	9.75	117
▼ 6	<a href="#">Buttershaw St Pauls CC</a>	11	4	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	1	6	7	0	-4.37	9.18	101
▼ 7	<a href="#">Slaithwaite CC</a>	12	4	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	2	0	7	8	2.42	7.25	87

p - Played, w - Won (20), WD7 - Incomplete win (7), LD1 - Not all out (1), t - Tied (4), NR8 - Abandoned During First Innings / No Play (8), NR4 - Abandoned During Second Innings (4), l - Lost (0), wcn - Opposition Conceded (20), lcn - Team Conceded (0), BatP - Batting Bonus Points, BowlP - Bowling Bonus Points, Pen - Penalty Points, R/W - Runs / wicket differential, AVE+ - Average points all games, Pts - Points

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