SILLY POINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SBCI CC

End of Season Edition 2020



Editorial Licence

Welcome to this year's end of season edition of *Silly Point* which is a somewhat abridged volume compared with more recent publications.

It is rather obvious to state that 2020 has been different to any other year we have all experienced and not just where cricket is concerned. The Halifax League Executive, not often in receipt of plaudits, should be complemented for acting quickly once it became apparent that fixtures were looking possible and on the whole half a season can be considered a success.

Although you always set out to win every game I don't think SBCI's approach in 2020 was especially results driven rather having made a commitment to field two Saturday teams it was to ensure no fixtures were cancelled due to a lack of players. Paramount to everything was to create a safe and secure environment and thankfully this was achieved.

On the field the first team struggled to compete with several of the opposition who appeared to suffer less from player unavailability with many fielding teams as strong as ‘pre-covid’ or maybe even stronger with the use of ‘imported loan players’. Lack of runs was the principal problem and one that hopefully can somehow be addressed during the winter months.

The seconds performed admirably finishing third in Premier 2’s under Brad’s captaincy and the percentage points system adopted by the league which came into play to deal with either postponements on health grounds or simply because clubs couldn’t raise a side. SBCI seemed to suffer more than most here limiting completed matches to half a dozen.

The General Committee decided not to run a Sunday Team this year although they did manage one friendly away at Sowerby Bridge and Robbo’s match report can be found within these pages. The same decision was taken in not entering junior teams into leagues but several junior activities took place and a detailed report has been written by Dave Brown.

Silly Point always provides an opportunity to thank all the club’s volunteers for their hard work in running the club and more so than usual this year to the players turning out each Saturday. Special thanks are due to those ‘regular’ second teamers who stood in to the first team possibly at the expense of playing a full part in the 2’s although you can’t say you never got the chance to have a bat!

The ground was in first class condition with credit due to Michael and his work gang which often included son Simon, Browny, Booey, Robbo and our new painting and decorating specialist Jez. Considerably more paperwork was involved with Covid safety assessments and although the changing rooms were not fully operational the pavilion still had be cleaned and disinfected every week. Thanks to our Secretary and Pam and also to those assisting with the running of the bottle bar. The continued support of the club’s sponsors must not go unnoticed and to Paul Collins in helping secure Covid grant funding. Apologies to those I’ve forgotten to mention.

Please keep safe over the winter and try and take part in as many of Dave Brown’s organised quizzes to raise club funds. Let us all hope 2021 will see a full compliment of league and cup fixtures at both adult and junior levels without the need for six over sanitation breaks!

Jonathan Hyland

First XI



Back Row L-R D Sykes, A Scholefield, R Larkin, Arun, M Veitch,

Front Row L-R T Wood, M Wood, S Wood (Cptn), D Evans, R Tandon, L Firth

I'm really not sure how I sum up this very strange (half) season. It started off with such promise back in February/ March with excellent numbers (including our new signing Alex Scholefield) attending winter nets at Park Lane. We were 2 weeks away from moving outdoors to continue our preparations when the news broke that we going into lockdown. At that point I don't think anyone knew how long restrictions would be in place and I'm sure I wasn't alone in thinking the longer it went on, the less chance it seemed that we'd be playing any cricket in 2020.

The Halifax Cricket League deserve a lot of credit for remaining on the ball throughout the whole situation with lots of hard work taking place behind the scenes to make cricket a possibility. It looked for a long time like there would be no cricket at all but early on they published their intentions under what conditions and format cricket could be started and in the end we got almost half a season of competitive games played.

From a first team perspective I think it's key not to over analyse, it's been such an unprecedented season in so many regards that we should be thankful that we actually got back on the grass and played some cricket. Whilst it was incredibly hard and dis-heartening at times, especially when we were losing every week, I for one am very grateful for the opportunity to play. After spending 4 months in lockdown it was nice to get back out there and see people again and share the banter and enjoyment that comes with playing team sport. Let's be honest, it was always going to be difficult when we knew we'd be missing 3 of last seasons front line bowlers. Ironically though, if I was to summarise, it was undoubtedly our batting that's let us down. Barring the game at Northowram when 3 or 4 players made big scores we simply haven't put enough runs on the board or been good enough to chase down targets. Like I said at the start though, it's been such a strange season, in July we were given 2 weeks notice that the we'd be starting and up until that point the last time anyone had picked up a bat was March, so it's hardly the best preparations for anyone.

Throughout the 10/11 games, myself and Brad tried to get the balance of the sides right making sure players didn't feel like they were simply 'filling in" when stepping in to play for us. I'd like to place on record my thanks to Mike Veitch, Rob Larkin, Matty Keast, Tony Kirby and Tom Smith who have played their part in helping us out.

Finally a couple more thank you's to finish. Firstly to Verity and Mel Fawcett who covered the scoring duties in Adrians absence. The highlight of this has got to be Verity riding up on a white horse to try help fix the scoreboard. Whilst she was inside trying to fix it, Martyn Firth was left outside holding the reigns. It had to be seen to be believed!!!!!

Thanks once again to my dad for preparing the wicket each week. He worked tirelessly through lockdown making sure that things were ticking over in case the season got the green light.

And finally a big thank you to members of the committee who've helped ensure the correct procedures and guidance were in place to ensure cricket could be played at SBCI.

Please stay safe everyone and hopefully things start returning to some form of normality very soon and we see cricket return again in 2021.

Simon Wood

Second XI



Back Row – L-R: D Robinson, J Hampshire, A Sloane, S Hampshire, A Boocock, J Greenwood

Front Row – L-R: M Keast, T Kirby, B Holt, D Brown, L Bavin

After a delayed start to the season due to the virus, second team cricket finally began on the 25th of July. My aim for this season was to finish as high as possible but, with the virus reducing the players we had available, I was worried that we would struggle to get a team out every week.

Thornton at home was our first game and my first as captain and its safe to say it didn't go very well. With Thornton batting first they used up all 40 overs and put 236 on the board. We then replied with 47 all out . The less we talk about this result the better.

We then played Outlane at home, who must have looked at the results from the previous week as they won the toss and elected to bat first. Simon Hampshire found his spot on the wicket bowling 12 overs for 22 runs with 5 maidens and 5 wickets, an excellent spell from a senior member of the club. We bowled them out for 113 and we all knew we had the batters in the team to win this game. We lost Dylan at 9-1, then in came Tom Smith who delivered with a stunning batting performance with 55 off 67 balls. We knocked their total off in 25.5 overs, and I was over the line with my first win as captain.

Our first away game of the season was a short trip down the road to Sowerby Bridge CC. After having a chat with their captain, he told me the wicket wasn't very good, I won the toss and elected to bowl. Our loan signing, Lewis Bavin, opened the bowling and bowled very well, 9 overs for 33 runs, with one maiden and 2 wickets. Booey also bowling 11 overs for 32 runs with 2 maidens and 3 wickets despite asking me to come off after 5 overs (sorry Booey). We had them 168 for 8 at tea. Tony and Browny opened the batting getting us off to a good start. Losing Tony at 36-1, we then had a slight wobble and found ourselves 49-3. Jonny Hampshire and Matty Bamford played two great innings and took us to 130/4 before the loss of Matty on 47. This was my chance to finally get some runs under my belt. We won the game with 3 overs to go with Jonny Hampshire finishing on 36 off 59 balls and myself finishing on 32 off 16 balls. A very good away win and an excellent team performance.

The following week our game against Bradshaw was called off due to rain. We then travelled to Mount. The weather and the pitch wasn't the best, but we managed to get a game on and what a game It was. Mount won the toss and elected to field. Browny and Tony opening up the batting struggled with the pitch and weather not helping them in the slightest. After losing a few wickets, Matty Bamford came in and did what he does best and scored 27 runs. We found ourselves all out for 97. Hampy opened the bowling and doing it very well as always with 12 overs for 28 runs and 3 wickets. Booey, who also bowled very well, with 11 overs for 26 with 3 maidens and 3 wickets, again asking to come off after 6 but there was no chance I could allow that! Pedro with his annual match then takes an absolute stunning catch. Then on came Robbo, 3.4 overs 1 maiden 2 runs and 4 wickets. His first ever hattrick and what a game to get it in. We bowled Mount out for 75. This is, and will be for a long time, the best game I have played in. Credit to everyone who played in those conditions and got a great win.

We then had Triangle away which is never an easy place to go. They won the toss and elected to bat putting on a score of 232 for 7 with Matty Keast, Hampy and Robbo getting 2 wickets each. Triangle then bowled really well and we struggled with only three batters getting into double figures falling miles short being bowled out for 101.

Our game against Copley was called off as they were not able to raise a team so we then travelled to Great Horton Park Chapel for our final game of the season. Another great bowling performance with Simon getting 2 wickets and Matty with 12 overs for 20 runs with six maidens and one wicket. Then, in comes Booey with a massive 5 wickets for 39 runs - meaning we bowled them all out for 133. With a strong batting line up, I was very confident that we could knock this off. In comes Browny and Greeny for the final game which did not go to plan as Dave got a second ball duck. Tony was up next and played a brilliant innings, scoring 96 runs off 93 balls. He then had chance to hit the final ball for 6 but completely missed it and so did the wicket keeper and it ran all the way for 4 byes. We knocked the total off with only 3 down for another good team performance.

Thank you to everyone that has helped me this season and a big thanks to all the umpires, scorers, Mick for getting the ground ready for us and Robbo for helping me out on match days and selection. Finishing third in my first season as captain is a very good start and hope we can push on next season.

Brad Holt

Sunday Section



The one, solitary, sunday first XI fixture of 2020

So I sit here, in Scotland, near the home of golf, writing about our season. To be precise, one sunny afternoon in September.

It was a chance visit to Sowerby Bridge CC earlier in the season due to a cancelled game (something about a virus?) that led to a conversation around our decision not to play Sunday cricket. The basics were do you fancy a game. Yes, somewhat excitedly, I replied. Not giving it a thought as to the logistics I left it at that.

Fast forward six weeks and I had the mother of all dilemmas, on the eve of the match I had actually got too many players - not something I had been used to in any way, shape or form.

So game day arrives and upon winning the toss I made the decision to field. I figured that this may make the game last in to the late afternoon, given that some of the team had played little or no cricket.

Greg Boocock and Sudanshu Sharma led the attack, manfully but with little early success, a combination of both the lads not playing regularly and their openers playing the straight ball and hitting the slightly wider ones (there were a few, understandably mind).

The skipper changed things up and introduced Mr Brown and Matty Keast and the rewards were immediate - both openers were on their way.

Dave ended up with a fine haul of three for 38 before running out of overs, Matty a couple of victims too, then we were put to the sword by their No 7, Saad, who played as he always does (50 or 0) and ended up with 51 not out.

So their innings closed on 173-7. A reasonable score, with good fortune on our side it could have been twenty or thirty less, but, given the lack of cricket within the team, not a bad run out.

In reply Dave and Dylan set off in their usual styles, however the combination of wickets and the heat may have gotten to Dave, who ended up with 25 runs at a strike rate of 61 before falling. Dylan sadly fell without adding to the team score and 50-0 was 50-2.

Unfortunately this was the start of the infamous SBCI shuffle, although it was not as bad as I have seen over the years, at one point I believe that six or seven of us were padded up at one point.

Soon enough we were 72-7, Matty got us in to the 90's and Greg and Sudanshu got us in to three figures and the innings closed at 102 all out.

The result was not important however. It was the very fact that we could play cricket and, crucially, field a full team of players wanting to play cricket for the club despite the fact that this was a friendly and likely to be the only game for some this season.

I believe that both sets of players enjoyed the game, I know I did, despite the result and, if nothing else, we had a bloody good laugh with ourselves and the opposition lads. It was fun, it was what I love seeing on a pitch - no one taking themselves too seriously.

A massive thank you to Martyn and Verity for their time in umpiring and scoring, and of course everyone who made themselves available to play. It was really appreciated.

Let's hope that even in these uncertain times, we get to do this more often in 2021 as a team and show what we are truly capable of.

Simon Robinson

Appearances – 2020

First X1		Second X1	
Simon Wood	9	Brad Holt	6
Lewis Firth	9	Dave Brown	6
Alex Scholefield	9	Adam Sloane	6
Tom Wood	8	Simon Robinson	6
Adam Fawcett	8	Simon Hampshire	5
Mike Veitch	8	Tony Kirby	5
Dylan Evans	7	Lewis Bavin	4
Arun	7	Andrew Boocock	4
Rob Larkin	6	Leo Bragg	4
Rishav Tandon	6	Jonathan Hampshire	4
Matty Keast	5	Bash	2
Sam Hinchcliffe	5	Richard Conway	2
Tom Smith	3	Matthew Bamford	2
Tony Kirby	2	Dave Grundy	2
Dan Brock	2	John Greenwood	2
Sam Bragg	1	Matty Keast	2
Brad Holt	1	Sud Sharma	1
Tyson Illingworth	1	Dylan Evans	1
Dan Sykes	1	Tom Smith	1
Michael Wood	1	Paul Collins	1
Sunday team please see match photo			

Junior Review

Who would have thought that a junior cricket season with no competitive games played and Friday night training cancelled, would prove to be more stressful compared to when we have a full season of fixtures, outdoor training and something going on at the club almost every night. It has certainly been the uncertain cricket season the club has ever been involved in from a junior perspective with updates on what we could and couldn't do being received on what seemed to be a daily basis, from not only the government, but also the ECB and our Halifax Junior League, who must be commended for sticking with it and trying to get matches going in late July continuing until September.

Of course, the main thing throughout this ongoing pandemic is that everyone stays safe, and so cancelling a year of cricket, is a small price to pay if it means our nearest and dearest stay safe.

We can only hope that the very well received junior training sessions we ran up at the club in August and September will inspire the youngsters to come back in 2021, when, hopefully we might be back to something bordering on normality and we'll be able to get a full season of training and fixtures in.

We started the calendar year off in a very positive way with our younger juniors enjoying five weeks of All Stars equivalent cricket. These sessions were very well attended and should have set our juniors up for an exciting spring and summer full of cricket, either via All Stars or through one of the junior teams we were aiming to put into the Halifax junior cricket league. We also managed one indoor net session for our older juniors (Under 13's and 15's) at the beginning of March before Covid-19 put paid to the remainder of these sessions and would put a hold, not only on our cricket activity, but our lives in general.

After four months of lockdown, and with other sporting activity being allowed, there was the hope that there would be some semblance of cricket in 2020, with the executive of the junior cricket league in Halifax deciding on running league fixtures in July, August and September. Our last year Under 17's benefitted from our close links with our neighbours, Sowerby Bridge and saw some competitive cricket in mid-late summer of 2020.

As a club, we have, in recent years, had to make links with other clubs to ensure that we were able to submit a team at a certain age group. This link up with Luddendenfoot CC has proved to be very worthwhile over the years and has ensured that our current Under 15 side has been able to play competitive cricket over a number of years. Unfortunately, there was no willing from LFCC to put forward their youngsters this time around, so our Under 15's went without any cricket this year.

Ongoing uncertainty around the impact of the virus combined with doubts as to whether or not we would be able to field side each week, meant that, after many a Zoom call between officials at the club and junior parents, we decided that the correct option was not to submit any teams to play league fixtures in 2020. It wasn't a decision that was taken lightly, but as it transpired, it was 100% the correct choice.

What we were able to offer (after a couple of successful trial weeks with limited numbers participating and hands sanitised very frequently) was junior training on a Wednesday evening for an hour. This was open to all age groups, but it was mainly our younger juniors who took the opportunity to have a run around the Astleys and have a good bat and bowl. The unexpected, but most welcome surprise was that news of these sessions spread and we not only had children attending who had never played cricket before, but had, previously, no link with the cricket club. We hope that we'll keep these youngsters as we head into 2021. We also saw the likes of Hugo, Joe, Teddy and Eoin attending and playing cricket for the very first time and with their Dad's or Uncle's being longstanding playing members of the club, we hope that this will be the start of a long cricket playing relationship with our cricket club.

A massive thank you to everyone who got involved to ensure that some form of cricket could take place in 2020. In particular Brad and Daniella for being the principal coaches on a Wednesday evening, but also to Dave Grundy, Rob Larkin, Mick Wood and Mike Veitch who helped us reach a decision that we should offer some form of cricket over the summer.

We evidently did something right in that we had enough interest to enter an Under 11 side into the Autumn Bash down at the Cricket Asylum, which will guarantee six of our juniors a game of indoor cricket every week from September to November.
Onwards and upwards to a cricket filled 2021.

Dave Brown



Club Development

Last year we announced the impending purchase of roll on roll off covers which were to arrive prior to the start of this season and I hope you'll agree that their presence adds a certain something as to how a cricket ground looks. The 'eagle eyed' of you may (with the aid of a magnifying glass) just be able to spot Jez painting the sightscreen frame just one of the many projects he undertook with brush in hand.

The scoreboard was refurbished as it was 10 years since the old tins were replaced with an electronic system. Unfortunately we were somewhat let down by technology and it's failure to synchronise with the Play Cricket App at times despite Verity's best efforts riding to the Astleys on horseback prior to the start of play one afternoon.

Winter 2020/21 projects include the laying of more concrete to complete the access track from Blackwall to the rear of the pavilion, alterations to the sightscreen making it more user friendly to move and the creation of a 'hospitality' area to the west side of the pavilion complete with wind break!



LEAGUE TABLES 2020

Premier First XI

POS	TEAM	P	w	W6	t	a	np	l	X	BatP	BowlP	Pen	R/W	AVE+	Pts
1	Triangle CC	10	6	0	0	1	1	2	0	5	6	0	10.43	8.9	89
2	Thornton CC	10	5	1	0	1	1	2	0	9	4	0	7.34	8.5	85
3	Blackley CC, Yorks	10	4	1	0	1	1	3	0	10	10	0	1.2	8	80
4	Booth CC	9	3	2	0	1	0	3	0	11	10	0	1.47	8	72
5	Bradshaw CC, Yorks	10	4	0	0	1	1	4	0	5	13	0	2.68	7.2	72
6	Warley CC	9	3	1	0	1	0	4	0	9	10	0	1.6	7.11	64
7	Illingworth St Mary's CC	10	3	1	0	1	1	4	0	12	6	0	-10.7	6.6	66
8	Sowerby Bridge CC	10	3	0	0	1	1	5	0	6	11	0	1.47	5.9	59
9	Mytholmroyd CC	9	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	8	2	0	-2.84	5.78	52
10	Copley CC	10	3	1	0	1	1	4	0	5	4	0	-4.82	5.7	57
11	Shelf Northowram Hedge Top CC	9	1	1	0	1	1	5	0	9	8	0	-8.94	4.56	41
12	Sowerby Bridge Church Institute CC	10	1	0	0	1	1	7	0	6	9	0	-7.2	3.3	33

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	np	l	X	BatP	BowlP	Pen	R/W	AVE+	Pts
1	Blackley CC, Yorks	9	6	2	0	0	1	0	0	6	4	0	20.57	10.78	97
2	Mount CC, Yorkshire	8	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	5	7	0	10.27	8.63	69
3	Sowerby Bridge Church Institute CC	8	4	1	0	0	1	2	0	4	5	0	-2.83	8.25	66
4	Triangle CC	9	3	2	0	0	2	2	0	9	7	0	4.35	7.78	70
5	Thornton CC	9	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	9	9	0	6.34	6.67	60
6	Shelf Northowram Hedge Top CC	9	2	2	0	0	2	3	0	10	7	0	-3.64	6.56	59
7	Bradshaw CC, Yorks	9	3	0	0	1	1	4	0	8	3	0	-3.35	5.89	53
8	Sowerby Bridge CC	9	2	0	0	1	1	5	0	9	7	0	-3.19	5.11	46
9	Great Horton Park Chapel CC	9	0	2	0	1	1	5	0	10	13	0	-7.47	4.56	41
10	Copley CC	8	2	0	0	1	1	4	0	2	4	0	9.42	4.5	36
11	Warley CC	8	1	0	0	0	1	6	0	9	5	0	-2.05	3.63	29
12	Outlane CC	9	1	0	0	0	2	6	0	4	9	0	-16.3	3.44	31

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

WD7 – Incomplete win
LD1 – Not all out
WCN – Opposition conceded (20)

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Verity & Freddie set off to the Astleys to fix the scoreboard!

This newsletter is produced by Jonathan Hyland

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