



# SILLY POINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER  
OF SBCI CC  
End of Season Edition 2024



## Editorial Licence

In piecing together the editorial for approaching around the 20th time it is difficult to avoid repeating what's been said previously however I can at least start this year with something new.

In hosting the Crossley Shield final in August 18 months of planning came to fruition in a brilliant event leaving the League Executive delighted at being able to sit back and enjoy the game without having to worry about anything. Although this was a great example of the club pulling together Chris Dalby as 'organiser in chief' must be congratulated for being the driving force behind it.

As usual *Silly Point* contains full reviews of our senior sides so I'll simply comment that top 5 finishes for both Saturday sides was very credible. Never flirting with relegation the 1st eleven would benefit from more consistency with the bat if they are to challenge for honours. Two or three new recruits could make all the difference although it was great to see our first woman make her premier league debut in August, congratulations Olivia.

From potential title contenders early season the 2nds fell away somewhat after their Crossley Shield semi-final defeat to Booth, a blessing given we hosted the final, rallying towards the season's end. Reliant too often on two or three players they are still a 'good scalp' for the opposition.

The Sunday team struggled in Division 2 but never lacked enthusiasm and relegation is not a disaster. They could benefit from two or three more experienced players turning out each week making games both more competitive and probably enjoyable for the juniors.

I am pleased to report that the Chair of Selectors advises that player availability has been much improved with 9 First X1 players making at least 20 appearances.

In taking this opportunity to thank all those people responsible for the smooth running of SBCI special mention is given to those preparing a first class wicket and ground in general plus the 'Monday gang' for keeping the pavilion in great shape. Laura has been brilliant in organising Saturday socials and Dave Brown steps down as junior coordinator having done this for the last 10 years or so.

We have a number of club roles to fill – many of the committee have served the club for a long time and succession planning is needed. We must be proactive so keep an eye on social media for job descriptions and opportunities and please don't just shrug your shoulders waiting for someone else to step forward.

A number of league umpires are standing down this year many giving their reason to finish as poor player discipline. It is understandable to be frustrated and disappointed if decisions do not go your way but whinging about them does us no favours. Please be aware and take on board for 2025.

**Jonathan Hyland**

## First XI



Back Row L-R D Nagappan, T Wood, Arun CK, J Summerscales, Y Chandrasekar, A Scholefield, O Scholefield (scorer)

Front Row L-R O Thomas, A Fawcett, S Wood (Capt'n), L Cherkur Purushothaman, L Firth

And just like that the 2024 season has been and gone and yet again it feels like a case of what might have been, which seems to be a common theme in my end of season summary. A fifth placed finish for me is a fair reflection of where we are as a team, we've finished one place higher than we did last year, we've won over 50% of our completed league games (again an improvement on last year) and 170 points is the best return in my 7 years as captain.

Traditionally we've always struggled to recruit and I've always said, in the current climate if you manage to hold onto all your players from one season to the next then you're doing well. Unfortunately for us, we lost Sam due to a change in job meaning he could no longer commit to playing and the arrival of Baby Sykes meant Dan also was unable to commit in 2024, both key 1st XI cricketers. Thankfully, despite interest from other clubs Brad decided to stay and give first XI cricket a go with us and Divakar was finally eligible having fallen foul of the league rules around overseas cricketers in 2023. Additionally the LBG production line

continued to be a profitable one for us and we were able to add Yuvraj and Lakshmi to the 1st XI squad.

So into the season and we lost the first game to the weather meaning we officially started away at Shelf Northowram. I won the toss (I know...Schoey was shocked too!) and had no hesitation in bowling first on what was a very green track. That decision was vindicated with us managing to bowl Hedge Top out for just 48 and despite a mini wobble and the loss of 4 wickets in the chase, the result was never really in doubt. Up next was last seasons unbeaten treble winners Thornton and the result of the season for me. I won the toss again! and asked them to bat first and was delighted when we managed to bowl them out for 173 despite knowing it would be a tricky chase. We managed to put some decent partnerships together and despite being 97-4 at one stage, big contributions from Tom 63, myself 49\* and Gnanam 38 saw us record a fantastic win with 5 overs remaining, inflicting Thornton's first defeat in 16 months.

Unfortunately we were unable to follow up the week after with another win when really we should have done, chasing 170 for victory at Bradshaw, we were 91-2, then 121-4 before falling agonisingly 6 runs short of their total. Momentum is a massive thing in any sport and that was definitely a momentum shifter for us especially after the high of the week before. Despite beating Augustinians the next day in the first round of the cup, we went on to lose our next 4 leagues games, firstly to Oxenhope when we were dismissed for only 101 and then to Luddenden Foot when we were all out for 89, albeit the loss of the toss that day didn't help as we were asked to bat first on a very damp track. Those 2 defeats were followed by defeat to Triangle on the first weekend of June, although it was by the narrowest of margins in a really good game of cricket, we fell only 5 runs short chasing 220 at home, thanks to contributions from the middle order (Dollars 64, myself 37, Gnanam 55 and CK 30).

If Thornton was the high point of the season then Queensbury away was definitely the low point for me as we crashed out of the Parish Cup in embarrassing fashion and a lesson to always pick your strongest team and never take any opposition for granted. Credit to Queensbury they raised their game, bowled and fielded exceptionally well and were deserved winners in the end. See what I mean about momentum, that's now 4 losses on the spin since the game against Bradshaw and it was soon to be 5 with defeat at Booth the week after.

I won the toss again! and sensing that our better performances and victories this season have come when batting 2nd I asked Booth to bat first. At 55-5 with Scoffer taking 4 of those, I thought we'd be comfortably chasing less than 150 to win however a 100+ middle order partnership between Matthew Hoyle and Rick Laycock saw us chasing 231 for victory. With confidence a little low it was important we got off to a good start and Tom and Adam made sure of that as we raced along to 39 before we lost our first wicket, unfortunately we quickly lost several more wickets and found ourselves in a big hole at 56-5! Myself and Gnanam managed to rebuild and were going great guns as we put on 80 for the 6th wicket before Gnanam was adjudged LBW and the momentum of the whole game shifted, myself and CK added a further 43 but a further 3 quick wickets and we were all out for 186.

We finally managed to get back to winning ways with a 4 wicket win away at Illingworth, set 182 to win we managed to reach our target with only 4 balls to spare in an exciting and

morale boosting fashion, Tom with 48 set the platform upfront and CK did the rest at the end scoring 37 off 17 balls including 3 big sixes! We managed to close out June with another win, this time against Copley. The scoreline would suggest it was comfortable however batting first we found ourselves 59-5 and in a spot of bother, but thanks to Alex's 59 and runs again for CK we got to a competitive score of 167. Excellent bowling from Lewis 4/37, well supported by Alex 2/33 and Tom 2/10 saw us dismiss Copley for only 88.

Our good form continued in July with us managing a further 3 wins against Sowerby Bridge, Shelf Northowram and Bradshaw respectively, all 3 wins were us chasing for victory something we've been notoriously bad at in the past with the famous SBCI CC batting collapses. Our only defeat was a loss to Thornton however it was another case of what might have been. Bowling first we had them 56-5, 74-7 and 99-8 but in the end they managed 150 and I guess that's one of the reason why they've done as well as they have over the last few years, scoring 76 runs for the last 3 wickets ultimately won them the game as we only managed a disappointing 84 in reply despite Jamie scoring 48.

Into August and a historic moment for the club as we handed a first XI debut to Olivia Thomas at Oxenhope, our first female to play senior cricket and the first to play 1st XI premier division cricket in the Halifax league. Two fine catches and a maiden wicket marked a sign of things to come for Liv. Unfortunately we were unable to pull off another chasing victory after being set 236 to win, despite the best efforts of Gnanam (who hit his maiden century for the club) and myself putting on 164 for the 6th wicket we fell an agonising 7 runs short! The rest of August saw us take revenge against Luddenden Foot for defeat earlier in the season, a fairly heavy defeat at Triangle in a "run fest" and then defeat in a poorly executed run chase against Booth after we'd done really well to bowl them out for 129, and got ourselves into the position of being 97/3 before losing the last 7 wickets for 19 runs! We did manage to end the month on a high with a comprehensive victory over Warley & Elland beating them by 75 runs.

After the first game of September fell foul to the weather half way through the first innings we finished the season with 2 fantastic wins, first at Copley where despite being in a little bit of bother again, this time 30-5 chasing 145, a 97-run partnership between Yuvi (getting his maiden 1st XI 50) and myself 51\* we got home by 4 wickets with just over 4 overs to spare. The last game of the season saw us put local rivals Sowerby Bridge to the sword in clinical fashion and in the process consigned them to 1st division cricket in 2025.

Thank you to Adam for his support as vice-captain both on and off the field, for those that don't know this was Adam's last year at SBCI as he moves to play closer to home. On behalf of everyone at the club I just wanted to say a massive thank you, you've been a fantastic team-mate, vice captain and servant to the club and you will be a big loss to us.

Once again thank you to the ground staff, the work you put in make it a truly wonderful place to play cricket (when the weather plays ball) Thank you to Olivia our scorer and everyone who did teas, its one of the hardest things to organise and I appreciate everyone that volunteers to take a turn and even more so those who do more than one (mum!).

Finally a big thank you to everyone of the players that's a pulled a shirt on for the first XI this season, everyone of you has given your all and that's all I can ask for.



Finally, congratulations to all the prize winners, I hope everyone enjoys the annual dinner, has a great winter and see you again in 2025.

**Simon Wood**

## **Second XI**



Back Row L-R L Hampshire (scorer), D Evans, N Trakru, J Hampshire, T Illingworth, T Kirby, A Dasari

Front Row L-R J Greenwood, M Keast, S Hampshire (Cptn), D Brown, M Fellows,

### **A season full of cliches, that flattered to deceive**

Following a season containing our first silverware, the second team entered 2024 full of hope. We looked younger, fitter and more ambitious than ever, obviously author's licence to stretch the truth is being played here! But two sporting cliches put paid to any silverware, "it's a game (season) of two halves" and "catches win matches" played out all too true in 2024. It was a bit of a rollercoaster but the team stuck together took the rough with the smooth, supported all the new social events and managed to consume copious amounts of alcohol. The end of season awards proved the wheel never lies.

We finished the season in 5th place with 12 wins from 22 games, 1 abandoned and 9 losses. We lost games against all 4 teams that finished above us but the bigger disappointment was

probably losing to the two sides that were eventually relegated. The cup again proved a route for success just losing out to Booth in the semi final at home, the team that won the league. Although we didn't make the final, hosting Triangle vs. Booth was a massive success for the club and an event we can be very proud of for a long time to come.

We started the season brightly with a 9 wicket win at home against GHPC, Keasty starting strong taking 6 of the 7 wickets we got and Greeny starting the season how he didn't mean to go on with an impressive 53 no. Next brought Bridgholme, with the skipper missing his first of 5 games in the season, a close game went to the wire, as the opposition got over the line with 2 balls to spare.

May was more successful as a month with us winning all four games including an 8 wicket win at Bradshaw, a super over win in the first round of the cup at Queensbury, with Dylan and Mark outstanding in the league's first and only super over so far! A nervy 2 wicket win at Mount, with only 14 boundaries in the game telling the story of the outfield, Chris scoring a controlled 50 to get us over the line. A comfortable win at home to Greetland followed, although once again bowling first we failed to bowl out the opposition, this became a bit of a theme unfortunately! Tony hitting ex pupils all around the ground for an unbeaten 70.

June was a mixed bag with 6 games including 2 cup fixtures. A trip to Triangle up first and one best forgotten as we finished third in a two horse race. Highlights certainly didn't include the skipper going for 33 in 3 overs, not actually sure how he got more than one to be honest. Mike showed how it could be done with a respectable 3 for 23 off 8 overs. Tyson offered some resistance with the bat hitting a better than a run a ball 50. The cup on the Sunday gave us the opportunity to get back on track against one of the favourites and last season's league winners Illingworth. 95 and 61 not out for Chris and Tyson respectively saw us canter over the line and into an away quarter final against Warley, last year's final opponents.

Next up Sowerby Bridge and another 12 points, with Keasty and Veitchy taking the bowling plaudits and Tyson continuing his fine form with the bat. June rain put paid to us against Booth, followed by a comfortable 85 run win against Warley in the league, Mark top scoring with 66 and Tony close behind with another 50. Rob leading the way with the ball with an impressive 4 for 10 from 8 overs. Illingworth away saw us falter with the bat, having bowled them out for 158 we only mustered 101 in our chase. The final game of June was the cup quarter final, and it turned into a bit of a walk in the park, quite literally as Greeny could be seen walking around the outfield whilst the umpires sorted some controversy in the middle. We bowled Warley out for 62, including 3 for 6 for Rob and then knocked them off 1 down with Dollars, in his last 2nd team game of the season, scoring an unbeaten 40 ably supported by Greeny with 12 no off 56 balls!

July brought 3 league wins on the bounce against Blackley, GHPC and Bridgholme. This took us to third in the league and into a home semi-final against Booth. We won the toss and elected to field eventually bowling Booth out for 194. A few dropped catches along the way meant they probably scored 40 more than they should have. Mark starred with the bat with 57 but we fell short by 42 in our defence of the shield. This was probably the turning point in our league season as we then registered 4 losses on the bounce against Bradshaw, Mount, Greetland and Triangle and kissed goodbye to any chance of the league. Lack of application with the bat, the skipper's inability to win a toss and dropped catches probably being the key

components of a bad run. Sowerby Bridge saw us turn our form round, followed by another loss to Booth, victories against Warley and Illingworth leaving us with a final day trip to Blackley. Nearly everyone got a bowl with only Mark “refusing” to turn his arm over, the highlights being Jack getting his first senior wicket, Dylan running out one of their batters with a direct hit from the boundary edge and getting 59 no and the father and son Fellows opening the batting together for the first time, the sign of things to come perhaps.

As always, I'd like to thank loads of people and apologies if I miss anyone. Lucy, Verity and Adrian our scorers especially with the new technology off Frogbox to cope with, Jonathan as always our reliable umpire, who managed to help get the league umpire back on side when any overstepped the mark. John as well who stood in when Jonathan was away or the league asked us to provide an away umpire too. To everyone who makes the ground and clubhouse look so good every week, it really is a pleasure to play at home and we got loads of compliments this year from visiting team. Everyone who did teas, it remains one of the hardest things to organise, so thanks Pam for making sure the teacakes and fillings are there every week and to Jo who baked more weeks than not. The social side has been something special this year many thanks to Laura for the injection of events into the calendar.

To the boys who turn up week in week out, we try and enjoy the game, win, lose or draw and its certainly soon forgotten off the field. Each and everyone has stood up and delivered at some point this season and for that I thank you. Tony for his contribution with the weekly and seasonal “awards” and once again to Matty, my vice-captain, I said it last year and I'll say it again he makes the game more enjoyable both on and off the field, he keeps me sane, and I'll be forever grateful of that.

So, as I sign off as both author of this piece and my third stint as second team captain, over a nearly 40 year period, I hope you winter well, and look forward to seeing you at some point next year!

**Simon Hampshire**





Allen Hampshire's long service to SBCI is recognised



## Sunday Section



Back Row L-R L Veitch, A Devasenan, L Wring, C Parker, D Brown, J Fellows  
Front Row L-R D Evans, M Grundy, D Grundy (Cptn) R Hanson, K Major

We cannot talk about a successful season - we ended relegated and without a league win all year, (well on the field at least) however, do read on....

The future is so much brighter, plenty of motivated players joined by our under 15's Fin C, Matthew G, Liam P, Lucas V and Noah G who have made their senior debuts. Jack F has played the odd game for the 2nds also made his Sunday debut. These lads have not just 'played' they have batted up the order, bowled and taken wickets, they were key parts of teams. Three sets of dads were able to play games with their lads, perfect Sunday cricket stuff.

Credit should go to all members of the team who supported this plan from the start, even when it meant not getting a game themselves as we played a couple of juniors each week and when they did maybe not batting as high or bowling as many overs as they should.

Despite these results, each Monday morning I would put out a message about availability and by lunchtime I had more than enough players. Indeed going into selection each week, I was almost hoping that Saturday sides might need a few, meaning more of the Sunday players would get a game - a far, far cry from previous seasons. On the field everyone backed each other despite the dropped catches or misfields, playing the game in the right way and enjoying it. With all happy to go again next season in Div 3 with the aim of being more competitive.

Without going through each game, as there are a few we are happy to forget (!) we've had 50's for at least six different players, with Dave G's first 50+ score for 30 years, our keeper Rohit topping the league standings despite us being bottom of the league, Robin H bowled an amazing 9 over spell against the eventual league winners that went for 9 runs, and an outstanding all-rounder performance with 64 runs carrying his bat and a 5-fer from Dave B.

Nearly every side we played against bought into what we were doing, encouraging our youngsters on the field and giving us positive feedback after. Thanks should go to Stephen S and Ces C who did the same as our umpires and to Adrian B for scoring a number of our games. Towards the end of the season we played three games at home that we were able to complete as a result of the quality of the ground when other games around the league were abandoned or didn't start so huge thanks to the ground and clubhouse teams and anyone else who helped out around the side during the season.

## **Dave Grundy**





## T20 Review

In June, a T20 side made the short trip down to Triangle to contest a three-team round-robin with Triangle and Oxenhope. Winning the group was the only way to make it through to finals day and we came very, very close to pulling it off despite defeat in the first game.

Few at the ground seriously expected us to challenge Triangle's 279/7, but 85 off 45 balls from Jamie Summerscales, plus contributions from Tom Wood (46 off 24), Arun CK (42 off 18) and Divakar Nagappan (40 off 13) saw us fall just 10 runs short. Rishav Tandon had been the pick of the bowlers with 2/44 from his four overs. Our net run rate from the game remained close to neutral and we had hoped that would keep us in contention as the day wore on.

In the second game, we beat Oxenhope convincingly, with 2.2 overs and seven wickets to spare when chasing down 168 all out. Jamie (60) and Adam Fawcett (59\*) were the main run scorers. Rishav was again in the wickets with 4/27 and Rob Larkin took 3/30 from his four overs to set up a comfortable win. An Oxenhope defeat of Triangle in the final game of the day meant it was to be decided by a version of net run rate which unfortunately for us saw us knocked out, with eventual winners Oxenhope progressing at our expense. A proposed rule amendment for the 2025 season is probably a good indicator of quite how unfortunate we were but the rules are (were) the rules and so that's that.

Thank you to all players on the day and to Verity for scoring. Here's hoping for better luck in 2025.

### Lewis Firth



## Appearances – 2024

|                    | 1XI | 2XI | Sunday XI | Total |
|--------------------|-----|-----|-----------|-------|
| Matthew Keast      | 0   | 25  | 0         | 25    |
| David Brown        | 1   | 12  | 11        | 24    |
| Dylan Evans        | 1   | 22  | 1         | 24    |
| John Greenwood     | 0   | 24  | 0         | 24    |
| Simon Wood         | 24  | 0   | 0         | 24    |
| Divakar Nagappan   | 23  | 0   | 0         | 23    |
| Jamie Summerscales | 23  | 0   | 0         | 23    |
| Jonathan Hampshire | 0   | 23  | 0         | 23    |
| Lewis Firth        | 23  | 0   | 0         | 23    |
| Tony Kirby         | 0   | 23  | 0         | 23    |
| Alex Scholefield   | 22  | 0   | 0         | 22    |
| Tom Wood           | 22  | 0   | 0         | 22    |
| Tyson Illingworth  | 3   | 19  | 0         | 22    |
| Adam Fawcett       | 21  | 0   | 0         | 21    |
| Arun CK            | 21  | 0   | 0         | 21    |
| Simon Hampshire    | 0   | 21  | 0         | 21    |
| Gnanam Arjuna      | 20  | 0   | 0         | 20    |
| Lakshmi Narayanan  | 10  | 7   | 2         | 19    |
| Yuvraj Kumar       | 9   | 10  | 0         | 19    |
| Chris Dalby        | 12  | 6   | 0         | 18    |
| Michael Veitch     | 2   | 15  | 1         | 18    |
| Rob Larkin         | 0   | 18  | 0         | 18    |
| Robin Hanson       | 1   | 3   | 13        | 17    |
| Brad Holt          | 7   | 9   | 0         | 16    |
| Dave Grundy        | 0   | 1   | 15        | 16    |
| Naman Trakru       | 1   | 7   | 7         | 15    |
| Chris Parker       | 0   | 3   | 11        | 14    |
| Rohit Singh        | 0   | 0   | 14        | 14    |
| Sameer Saeed       | 0   | 1   | 13        | 14    |
| Ajay Dasari        | 0   | 5   | 7         | 12    |
| Albie Earle        | 5   | 7   | 0         | 12    |
| Paul Collins       | 1   | 0   | 11        | 12    |
| Jack Fellows       | 0   | 3   | 7         | 10    |
| Ken Major          | 0   | 0   | 10        | 10    |

|                  | <b>1XI</b> | <b>2XI</b> | <b>Sunday XI</b> | <b>Total</b> |
|------------------|------------|------------|------------------|--------------|
| Aswin Devasenan  | 0          | 1          | 7                | 8            |
| Olivia Thomas    | 8          | 0          | 0                | 8            |
| Matthew Grundy   | 0          | 0          | 7                | 7            |
| Bash Shaffiq     | 0          | 0          | 6                | 6            |
| Lucas Veitch     | 0          | 0          | 6                | 6            |
| Satyam Sadasivam | 0          | 0          | 6                | 6            |
| Lewis Wring      | 0          | 0          | 5                | 5            |
| Finlay Charnock  | 0          | 0          | 4                | 4            |
| Fin Evans        | 0          | 0          | 3                | 3            |
| Mark Pottinger   | 2          | 0          | 1                | 3            |
| Matt Rose        | 0          | 0          | 3                | 3            |
| Noah Gould       | 0          | 0          | 3                | 3            |
| Richard Conway   | 0          | 0          | 3                | 3            |
| Liam Parker      | 0          | 0          | 2                | 2            |
| Aqeel Taj        | 1          | 0          | 0                | 1            |
| Dan Brock        | 1          | 0          | 0                | 1            |

Appearances include where selected but game abandoned before play.

# Club Prize Winners 2024

## Senior Prize Winners

### First Team

Batting – Simon Wood 19 innings, 5 not out, 566 runs @ 40.43 (HS 70)

Bowling – Alex Scholefield 238 overs, 68 maidens, 48 wickets, 756 runs @ 15.75 BB 6/22

Fielding – Lewis Firth & Arun Chettiyam Kandy – 11 catches

### Second team

Batting – Mark Fellows 18 innings, 1 not out, 641 runs @ 37.71 (HS 116\*)

Bowling – Tyson Illingworth 213 overs, 74 maidens, 48 wickets, 535 runs @ 11.15 BB 6/33

Fielding – Tyson Illingworth & Yuvraj Kumar - 8 catches

### Sunday Team

Batting – Robin Hanson 12 innings, 2 not out, 270 runs @ 27.0 (HS 72)

Bowling – Robin Hanson 79.5 overs, 15 maidens, 13 wickets, 245 runs @ 18.85 BB 3/7

Fielding – Phil Earle - 5 catches

**Alan Sutcliffe Trophy** (most senior runs league & cup only) Mark Fellows 641 @ 37.71

**Campbell Cup** (most senior wickets league & cup only) Tyson Illingworth 55 @ 12.11

## Halifax Cricket League Prize Winners

Premier First X1 Wicket keeping – Simon Wood

Laurie Plumb Trophy – Simon Wood (most wicket keeping dismissals across all divisions - won for the fourth year running)

Sunday League Div 2 Wicket keeping – Rohit Singh

## Halifax Cricket League Association of Cricket Officials

Umpire of the Year – Jonathan Hyland



## Junior Review 2024

It has been a great year and season for the SBCI CC junior set up. Perhaps not in the traditional sense of matches and trophies won, but more in terms of numbers of children (and teams) participating and we've finally also seen the breakthrough of some of our older juniors into the senior set up.

We were able to field 4 junior sides in 2024 - Under 9's through to Under 15's and we also saw a huge in-take in new players. A rough estimate is that we signed 18 new players to the club this year, boosting our overall numbers by around a third from the previous year. Paul Collins and Robin Hanson kindly agreed to take on the Under 9's with Rob Larkin moving up an age group to take on the 11's with Richard Gould taking on the Under 15 side.

Jack Fellows, Noah Gould, Finlay Charnock, Lucas Veitch, Matthew Grundy and Liam Parker have all made their Sunday Team debuts this year, the final three I mentioned also got to take to the field with their respective Dad's which was great to see and something that hasn't happened in a while. The production line of juniors is starting to fruit. Hoping that the above names will go onto have long and successful careers in cricket and inspire the next lot of SBCI juniors to give senior cricket a go.

Libby Fellows continues to be the flag bearer for women and girls cricket not only at our club, but also continuing to be selected for the Yorkshire Under 13's girls side.

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.

### Special Awards

The following were made at the junior presentation evening on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to:-

- 1) The most promising junior player in the Under 13 age group who (we hope) will be playing first team cricket in the following few years.
- 2) Best junior at our club – Under 15 age group and above
- 3) Junior who has made the best contribution off the field

Each of these prizes have been discussed and agreed by the junior coaches

Most promising junior player is awarded to **Ben Langhorn** This young man has impressed both the Under 13 and Under 15 coaches with his pace bowling and his technical correctness with the bat - looking forward to a boat load of runs and wickets in 2025 .

Best junior is awarded to **Jack Fellows**. Our best junior player for the second season running playing for both the Seconds and Sunday sides and taking wickets and scoring runs for both.

Biggest contribution by a junior player off the field is awarded to **Finlay Charnock**. This young man has not only scored for the senior sides on more than one occasion, BUT also helped re-build the wall by the nets AND helped install the additional benches around the ground.

**Dave Brown**

## **Under 15's**

Success can be measured in so many different ways, but here's how I do it..

I think it was about this time last year that we had a conversation about the fact that many of the 2023 U13 squad would be moving up to an age group that SBCI didn't have. This would have meant 6 or 7 kids who'd played together for the previous 3 or 4 years throughout U11s and U13s, having to split up and either play their cricket elsewhere, or worse case, not play at all.

So, it was decided we should try and do something about it, but numbers were light. We considered merging with Sowerby Bridge as they had similar numbers to us, and create a joint team, but by doing that we potentially risked losing the SBCI identity. Not only would training and games be split between both grounds, but players would also have to be rotated, so our SBCI kids wouldn't have all played together, which was the main reason for fielding an U15 team in the first place.

So...

Success 1 – SBCI have entered an U15 team into the Halifax League for the first time in around 7 years.

Success 2 – We've managed to keep those 6 or 7 kids playing cricket together at SBCI.

Success 3 – We've played in a league, which is a Year 10 age group, with only 1 Year 10 player (thank you Fin for coming back, the younger players couldn't have asked for a better role model to look up to – literally! The way your game has developed throughout the season is testament to your hard work, congratulations, and we'll miss you next year).

Success 4 – Several of the squad are playing at an age group higher than their own which shouldn't be overlooked. It can be very intimidating playing against players 2 or 3 years older than you and without them we wouldn't have had an U15 team this season, so a special thank you to Libby, Sachin, Aayan, Ben, Dylan and Sam who've all stepped up.

Success 5 – and probably the most important in my opinion, your U15s are the future life blood of this club, and I'm so proud that 6 members of the team have gone on to make their debuts for the 3rd XI senior team this year, so congratulations to Fin, Jack, Noah, Liam, Lucas and Matthew.

So has this season been a success.....absolutely!

As for 2024 itself, because it was our first season we were put into Division C, a Development League, with 4 other teams initially: King Cross, Queensbury, Clayton, and Stones. Two of which were simply not development teams.

Overall, we've played some great cricket this season, we're a very young team and have played against some very good sides. Apart from one game we've competed throughout and had fun doing it. What I've been most impressed with, and this is testament to each and every one of the kids, is the team comradery. Every single player fought for each other. Every single player played with a smile on their face. Every single player celebrated a wicket with high fives. Every single player fist pumped each other after a teammate was out.

In fact, I remember every one of our players fist pumping Sachin when he played for the opposition in a friendly and he hit Isaac (I think) for a six to win them the game!!!

That was quite special to watch, and was something, not many other teams did, so if there's one thing, that I ask you take into next season- please maintain that wonderful team camaraderie.

A final note of thanks to Mark, Chris, Mike, Mick Wood and all the parents, brothers, sisters, grandparents, and of course the players for their commitment to making 2024 such an enjoyable one.

**Richard Gould**

## Under 13's



### 2024 players included

S Scholefield, L Fellows, Adi Arun, B Langhorn, D Larkin, P Patil, S Arokiyaraj, R Goregay, T Elliott, Adw Arun, S Uren, A Yuvarajkumar

I think it was the last Friday in July at a late season practice night when a couple of coaches commented that this was the first time this season, they'd been able to come to training wearing just t-shirt and shorts and not having to worry about how many layers they'd need.

Unfortunately it has been one of those summers where the weather has disrupted a large part of our season. Added to the fact that for the first time in a long time the Under 13's have had a squad of 15/16 players to choose from each week has meant that players sometimes had to miss out on a rotation basis, then we've simply not played as much cricket as we would have liked. Bizarrely, despite the poor weather, I don't think we've called off a training session all year.

We had 12 fixtures scheduled in 2024- 3 were abandoned without us bothering to try, one was stopped about four overs in, and we never got back on and Mytholmroyd had to concede when they couldn't get a side together for our re-arranged cup match. 7 matches are all we've played at this age group this year.

As you well know, 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 Rishab for doing a fine job over the season) got to bowl 2 overs each. To me and thankfully the majority of other team managers at this age group, this is the right way to do things and (hopefully) will keep these talented youngsters interested until such a time they are wanting to graduate to senior cricket.

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

Jack taking two wickets for 5 runs on his debut for the club in the first match of the season.

Sam taking three wickets against Low Moor and retiring against Booth.

Rishab and Ashan taking their first wickets for the club the following week against Outlane.

Pratham and Pranav – sheer enthusiasm for the matches and training and a smile on both their faces at all times – great to see.

Sol not that many games played due to football and holidays clashing, but along with his younger brother, Idris are two to watch in 2025.

Dylan and Ben putting on 51 runs for the third wicket after we'd been 1 run for two wickets (again against Outlane).

Libby taking four wickets for two runs-against Outlane and then making 31 not out the following week having retired on 25 and then coming out to bat again at the fall of our final wicket.

Adidev making 25 against Booth.

Ads – a wicket for no runs conceded on his debut.

Sachin being our voice in the field with his non-stop encouragement of everyone. Last game of the season- Jaden bowling away swingers to the Lightcliffe batters who didn't have a clue how to play him- batter getting a big nick to Rishab as wicketkeeper who took a great catch.

Thomas Elliott- we said we'd get you to a place whereby you'd be able to play a game for our club this year and we have done. 7 selections in 2024 and standing upto some quick bowling from Lightcliffe in our final cup match of the season.

Additionally, it's not all about training on a Friday night to play on a Thursday- sometimes it's about giving youngsters a pathway into a sport they've never tried before or haven't played in a few years. As well as building their confidence over the training sessions they attend to get better they make new friends as the weeks progress. Step forward Zach who hadn't played cricket in a few years, and certainly not with a hard ball. Really enthusiastic at the weekly net sessions and great to see the improvement in his batting, bowling and fielding as the weeks progressed.

## **Dave Brown**





## Under 11's



### 2024 players included

M Oughton, L Stevenson, J Madina, M Maddock, C Maddock, J Mutch, A Barraclough, C Wright, A Lyer, E Mutch

At the end of 2023 I had genuine concerns about whether we would have 8 players to make up a full team, however I am delighted to report that we have completed the season with 17 players on our books! Big thank you to Charlie Swift who recruited a good proportion of his school mates. This has meant a lot of our team playing for the first time and a lot of rotation, in line with our club philosophy to give all abilities a fair opportunity to play. I am immensely proud of our club for that ethos and even more proud of the development I have seen across the full squad.

No need to talk results, but as I tell the team each week cricket is the winner and as the season progressed the closer we got to that illusive victory.



At the end of season presentation I was able to list, with ease, several attributes, skills or development for each individual player that made me proud and I hope each player is proud of how they contributed throughout the year! I debated sharing that in this write up, given that but thought I would just reference a few traits of the team and the 2 award winning individuals.

This U11s team has a fantastic team spirit and record of supporting each other. Despite the results the attitude was great from all for every game and training session. They are also enthusiastic, smiles on faces enjoying cricket makes it all worthwhile!

We recognised 2 players this season who demonstrated these characteristics and stood out in doing so:

Connor Maddock most improved - I asked Connor to wicket keep for a game about half way through the season. He had never done it before and for the first few overs of the game struggled, but within that game he worked hard, grasped the idea to get something behind it and went from strength to strength for the remainder of the season behind the stumps. He showed great resilience a number of times when he was hit by the ball to just brush it off and carry on and I can't mention Connor without speaking about how after every game he tidies up the club gear and leaves the cricket bag looking as neat as any senior team player bag. Thank you Connor

Matty Oughton - Started with us in indoor nets this year having never played the game. He found the game tough in particular how to bowl. He listened to guidance, worked hard and not only did his bowling improve he became one of our best bowlers getting 3 wickets in 2 overs in one of the games! That is fantastic in its own right, but Matty also developed a really good understanding of the game, so much so I asked him to be captain and when his team were all asked who was player of the season Matty took the majority of the votes, most of all quoting the encouragement and support he gives to his fellow players. Well done Matty.

I am super proud of the whole team and look forward to next season. Good luck to all of those who move into the U13s next year as we welcome a number of players who move up from the U9s.

Thank you team (players, parents and those who help with the various jobs to be done) it has been a very enjoyable season coaching .

**Rob Larkin**

## Under 9's



### 2024 players included

Dougie, Reggie, Emilia, Theo, Seth, Jack, Harry, Daniel, Hugo P, Noah, Joe, Rory, Hugo H, Freddie, James. Coaches Robin, Sam & Paul

This season we welcomed a number of new players to the squad and saw plenty of returning faces, creating a blend of more experienced players and those brand new to the wonderful game of cricket.

We regularly had up to 20 players attending our Friday training sessions which is great to see and shows we are doing something right as a club to help attract the next generation. It also kept Robin and Pedro on their toes!

In respect of matches we saw 16 players play in matches, and squad rotation made sure everyone got several opportunities to play a game. Whilst squad rotation is hard, having so many boys and girls wanting to play cricket is a fantastic position to be in and a nice headache to have, we'd certainly rather that than be struggling for numbers.

Out of the squad of 16 we had 10 making their U9s match debuts for SBCI, all doing brilliantly.

On and off the pitch it has been a pleasure to see the group develop and enhance their cricketing skills, becoming more competitive as the season progressed. The hard work (and fun) on the training ground really paying off across all disciplines. And most importantly enjoying playing, having fun and developing friendships.

The progress the group has made across the season is clear, and this was proven in the closeness of the games in the second half of the season, and despite results not always going our way heads never dropped.

All the efforts of the players paid off when in the last game of the year at home to Thornton we secured our first win of the season...which resulted in scenes of jubilation on and off the field.

A special thanks to the parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and other grown-ups who have supported the U9s throughout the season. The support from the sidelines during games and training sessions doesn't go unnoticed.

A special mention to our official scorer Gordon who "volunteered" to take responsibility of keeping scores this season.

#### Awards

##### Most improved player – Seth Fellows

This award went to Seth who we have seen grow in confidence this season. Seth was excellent in the field stopping everything hit at him by diving, long barrier or just getting his body behind the ball. Seth has also started to attack the ball with the bat, and he is really starting to show what he is capable of.

##### Player of the season – Joe Collins

Joe won the player of the season award due to his consistency with the ball, bat and in the field. He has become an impact player who the team can rely on to perform and who can really change a game whether it is by scoring runs, protecting their wicket and with quick fielding. He also had several direct hit run outs in the field with one from quite a distance away.

##### **Paul Collins & Robin Hanson**



Junior Presentation Night

## **Junior Prize Winners**

### **Under 9's**

Player of the Year - Joe Collins  
Most improved player – Seth Fellows

### **Under 11's**

Player of the Year - Matty Oughton  
Most improved player – Conor Maddock

### **Under 13's**

Batting – Libby Fellows 8 innings, 5 not out, 147 runs @ 49.00  
Bowling – Libby Fellows 14 overs, 1 maiden, 6 wickets, 74 runs @ 12.33  
Fielding – Sam Scholefield 3 catches

### **Under 15's**

Batting – Jack Fellows 8 innings, 3 not out, 166 runs @ 33.2  
Bowling – Ayaan Sherazs 14 overs, 7 maidens, 6 wickets, 56 runs @ 9.33  
Fielding – Jack Fellows, Libby Fellows & Matthew Grundy 3 catches

### **Special Awards**

Bill Jordan Memorial Shield (most promising junior) – Ben Langhorn

Young Player of the Year – Jack Fellows

Junior making the greatest club contribution off the field – Finlay Charnock

## Club Development

The acquisition of 'Frogbox' which has facilitated the live streaming of matches on the Play Cricket platform has been a great success despite some initial teething issues.

Prior to the Crossley Shield Final additional seating and wind breaks were built with thanks to Mick and Simon H.

The two new wickets laid to replace the former artificial one will hopefully come into play for the juniors in 2025 and we are looking at enlarging the sight screen in an effort to make life easier for all when there is a left and right handed batsmen combination at the wicket. We have a grant application pending which if successful will help our environmental credentials. More to follow in due course.

## LEAGUE TABLES 2024

### Premier First XI

| Team                | P  | W12 | W6 | T3 | LO | Aband | Batting | Bowling | Total |
|---------------------|----|-----|----|----|----|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| Thornton            | 22 | 18  | 0  | 0  | 2  | 2     | 5       | 3       | 230   |
| Booth               | 22 | 12  | 5  | 0  | 2  | 3     | 16      | 12      | 211   |
| Illingworth         | 22 | 11  | 4  | 0  | 5  | 2     | 18      | 15      | 195   |
| Triangle            | 22 | 12  | 2  | 0  | 6  | 2     | 15      | 13      | 190   |
| SBCI                | 22 | 9   | 2  | 0  | 9  | 2     | 21      | 23      | 170   |
| Copley              | 22 | 5   | 4  | 0  | 12 | 1     | 29      | 28      | 144   |
| Oxenhope            | 22 | 7   | 1  | 0  | 12 | 2     | 26      | 19      | 141   |
| Warley & Elland     | 22 | 7   | 1  | 0  | 13 | 1     | 19      | 23      | 135   |
| Shelf Northowram HT | 22 | 5   | 3  | 0  | 13 | 1     | 23      | 27      | 131   |
| Bradshaw            | 22 | 4   | 2  | 0  | 14 | 2     | 17      | 26      | 109   |
| Sowerby Bridge      | 22 | 5   | 0  | 0  | 16 | 1     | 22      | 23      | 108   |
| Luddendenfoot       | 22 | 2   | 0  | 0  | 17 | 3     | 27      | 28      | 73    |

## Premier Second XI

| Team            | P  | W12 | W6 | T3 | LO | Aband | Batting | Bowling | Total |
|-----------------|----|-----|----|----|----|-------|---------|---------|-------|
| Booth           | 22 | 17  | 1  | 0  | 3  | 1     | 6       | 5       | 224   |
| Greetland       | 22 | 17  | 0  | 0  | 4  | 1     | 4       | 4       | 203   |
| Blackley        | 22 | 10  | 4  | 0  | 7  | 1     | 20      | 20      | 187   |
| Illingworth     | 22 | 11  | 2  | 0  | 7  | 2     | 15      | 16      | 181   |
| SBCI            | 22 | 7   | 5  | 0  | 9  | 1     | 29      | 28      | 174   |
| Triangle        | 22 | 10  | 1  | 0  | 9  | 2     | 19      | 21      | 172   |
| Mount           | 22 | 1   | 0  | 1  | 8  | 2     | 12      | 17      | 170   |
| Sowerby Bridge  | 22 | 6   | 2  | 1  | 11 | 2     | 25      | 22      | 140   |
| Warley & Elland | 22 | 8   | 0  | 0  | 13 | 1     | 11      | 19      | 129   |
| Great Horton PC | 22 | 4   | 1  | 0  | 16 | 1     | 12      | 32      | 101   |
| Bradshaw        | 22 | 3   | 0  | 0  | 18 | 1     | 23      | 23      | 85    |
| Bridgeholme     | 22 | 3   | 0  | 0  | 18 | 1     | 21      | 35      | 79    |

Greetland deducted 12 points & Bridgeholme 16 points

## Sunday Section Division 2

| Team                 | P  | W20 | WD7 | LD1 | L | Aban | WCN | LCN | Bt B | BI B | Total |
|----------------------|----|-----|-----|-----|---|------|-----|-----|------|------|-------|
| Great Horton PC      | 14 | 5   | 3   | 3   | 1 | 2    | 0   | 0   | 23   | 29   | 188   |
| Triangle             | 14 | 5   | 3   | 3   | 2 | 1    | 0   | 0   | 29   | 21   | 182   |
| Almondbury Wesleyans | 14 | 6   | 0   | 2   | 3 | 3    | 0   | 0   | 19   | 7    | 168   |
| Northowram Fields    | 14 | 2   | 3   | 1   | 3 | 4    | 1   | 0   | 24   | 23   | 161   |
| Outlane              | 14 | 4   | 1   | 3   | 4 | 2    | 0   | 0   | 21   | 29   | 156   |
| Shelf Northowram HT  | 14 | 3   | 4   | 0   | 4 | 2    | 0   | 1   | 27   | 27   | 150   |
| Barkisland           | 14 | 3   | 3   | 1   | 4 | 3    | 0   | 0   | 24   | 19   | 149   |
| SBCI                 | 14 | 1   | 0   | 4   | 8 | 1    | 0   | 0   | 13   | 27   | 108   |

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



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