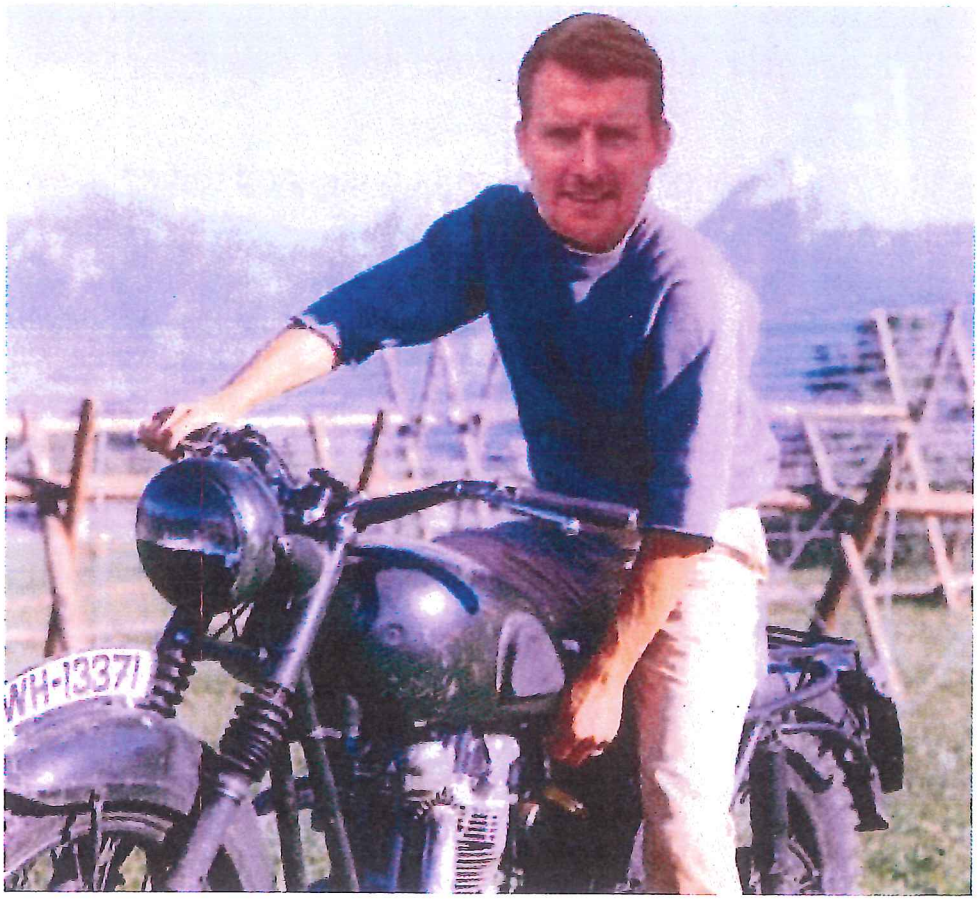
SILLY POINT

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF SBCI CC

End of Season Edition 2019

The Great Escape

(An SBCI 2019 First XI Production)



Starring

Simon Wood (as Captain)
Tom Wood & Lewis Firth (as Batters)
Oli Benson (as Bowler)
Adam Fawcett (as All Rounder)

Supporting cast – subject to availability!

Editorial Licence

I think the front cover to this edition of *Silly Point* is an accurate reflection of the First XI's season. Going into the last game of 2019 needing a victory, which even with maximum points, may not have been enough to guarantee retaining Premier League status is not where you really want to be.

Since our last promotion back to the Premier Division, our league position shows a worrying trend going from 5th to 6th to 8th and 10th in each of the last 2 seasons. Four wins from our first 20 games did not bode well, but 12 point successes at Sowerby St Peters and at home to Triangle saw us home. Undoubtedly the inability to pick the same side from each week to the next created problems, not only for the First XI, but had a significant knock-on effect to the Seconds.

I will not repeat my Editorial of 2015, which I understand ruffled a few feathers where availability and commitment was concerned, because the reality is we now live in a different age where attendance to nets and playing week in week out is not quite what it used to be and I doubt much will change in 2020 and beyond.

Despite these concerns, there continues to be much to admire about this Club. Whilst we cannot pick the same players each week, we turn out 3 teams on an excellent square, maniqured playingfield and still one of the best pavilions in the league. Considerable investment has taken place this year and will continue into next – see Club Development.

The All Stars programme which was set up 3 years ago has helped us to put out more junior teams again at Under 9's, 11's and 13's. As a Club who struggled to attract seniors to join us, the juniors are our life blood who we must nurture with great care.

In travelling around the district in my capacity as a League Umpire, I see how fortunate we are at SBCI to enjoy first class facilities, but these things do not just happen by magic and our dedicated team of groundsmen and Monday morning helpers should be thanked by all. Fund raising is vital to our well being, so please make every effort to support social events and use the services of our sponsors wherever possible.

To finish, I would like to thank all of those who have contributed to this publication, without whose help I could not have put it together.

Jonathan Hyland

Chairman's Address

As another season comes to a close I think we can all look back and be proud of the club and what has been achieved given the continued struggles that face clubs up and down the country with diminishing numbers at both junior and senior level.

The 1st team had a challenging season similarly to 2018 but this year seemed to be as a result of not being able to put a complete performance together with both bat and ball which culminated in inconsistent results. The age old problem of player unavailability added to the challenging campaign but thankfully our Premier division status was secured on the final day of the season which the lads can be proud of by keeping going to the end. I am sure the lads will be looking to improve on this season's end result and hopefully with better player availability next year I have no doubt this will be the case.

The 2nds have maintained their status in the Premier division this year largely due to a mixture of experienced players and juniors with some good individual contributions along the way. The 2nds continue to give the juniors a chance where possible which is great to see. The prolonged run in the Crossley Shield to the quarter final was a highlight of the season which all involved can be proud of.

The Sunday team had a good season overall having finished 5th in the league and the challenges that are faced week in week out with availability must not be underestimated. The support offered by the players doubling up, juniors and the regulars can be pleased with this seasons finish.

Finally, a special thank you to all involved who make the games possible every week whether this has been on the field, tea room or score box.

I wish you all a good winter and look forward to seeing you in 2020.

Ken Campbell, S.B.C.I. Cricket Club Chairman

First XI



Back Row L-R D Sykes, B Holt, S Hinchcliffe, O Benson, R Benson, R Hanson

Front Row L-R J Greenwood, B Hota, S Wood (Cptn), A Fawcett, T Wood

As the dust settles on another season it's fair to say the job of captain doesn't get any easier. Throw into the mix the arrival of our first baby on top of the usual challenges and it's been a tough 2019 campaign.

After flirting with relegation for large parts of last season I was keen for us to avoid those types of struggles this time around. With the teams promoted from the middle division making the league even stronger, the target at the start of the season was mid-table security. It might sound negative but we needed to be realistic, Chris had made the decision to retire from 1st XI cricket, Henry and Rhys decided to move onto other challenges and despite significant effort on my part, I'd been unable to strengthen our playing resources over the winter. Added to that, I knew Dan Sykes and Sam Hinchliffe would be unavailable for large parts of the year due to fundraising challenges and work commitments respectively.

As I've sat down and reflected on the season it was such a strange one in so many ways. In the early part of the season everyone seemed to be beating

everyone which meant there were no clear favourites for the title and no-one getting cut adrift at the bottom. For a long while the gap between top and bottom was never much more than a win. A perfect example of this was the away game against Thornton in May, having been bowled out for 119 we managed to bowl Thornton out for 105. If we'd lost that game we'd have been bottom of the league, likewise if we'd have batted properly the week before and chased 155 at Oxenhope we'd have been top of the league.

I know everyone can look back and say if we'd have done x,y and z in these games then we'd have been in a much better position but as I've looked back through the results to write this, we had our fair share of games like this. I'm still scratching my head about the Shelf Northowram game away when they somehow got the ground into a "fit state" to retake the field in the nick of time and with them chasing a revised total of 57 in 25 overs. The last 2 overs were played in heavy rain. Then there's our 2nd tie in 2 years, this time down at Sowerby Bridge, they managed 11 off the last over to tie the game. The last example is Triangle away, after being asked to bowl first on a baking hot day we managed to restrict them to 269. As everyone knows, 6 an over down at Triangle is more than achievable and we got agonisingly close. An opening partnership of 162 got us into such a strong position however we fell just 4 runs short of a memorable win.

So in summary it's been a frustrating year again, we continue to be hampered by player availability, I'm not saying we're the only club suffering but as a first team squad we've missed somewhere in the region of 50 games this season, which is always going to make things harder. However, in saying all that when it really mattered we stepped up and took 24 points from the last 2 games to secure our premier division status for another season. I don't want it to sound all doom and gloom because whilst its been tough this year, as I said earlier, the players have stuck together and the atmosphere in the dressing room has been brilliant, the results haven't always gone our way but we've played with a smile on our faces. And there's been some really stand out moments as well, the result against Thornton away, bowling Sowerby out for 41 after we'd been bowled out for 96, Brad's unbelievable catch in that game, Smithy's catch at Copley (he even shocked himself with that one, my dads catch at Thornton (not bad for 60!!), the last day win against Triangle.

As always I'd like to finish with some thank you's. Firstly, to everyone that's represented the first team this year, a big thank you for your efforts. Despite our struggles this season, we stuck together and it always felt like everyone was pulling in the same direction.

Thank you once again to Adrian for his dedication, yet again not missing a single game all season. To OB, who once again has been a loyal and supportive vice-captain and securing a 100% win rate from his sole game in charge!

Thanks to my dad for preparing the wicket each week and for sharing the outfield cutting duties once Isla arrived. I don't think I'm being biased when I say we have one of the best looking playing surfaces in the league (ok maybe slightly biased!).

Thanks to Phil for his support with team selection on a Tuesday night and to the ladies and gents who have made the teas on a match day.

And finally a special thanks to Kelly who despite the arrival of our daughter has continued to support me and put up with me on a Saturday when the results didn't go our way.

Simon Wood

Second XI



Back Row – L-R: A Boocock, J Hampshire, D Evans, R Larkin, S Hampshire, S Bragg, A Hampshire (Scorer)
Front Row – L-R: T Kirby, M Keast, T Smith, J Greenwood (Cptn) C Dalby, M Veitch

With the second team having a comfortable year in 2018, the main aim this season was to move further up the table and to have more consistency. We were fairly comfortable by finishing 9th which was a good achievement considering availability throughout the club. With the second aim, as in previous years, the only consistent thing we could count on throughout the season was our inconsistency.

The season didn't start well as we lost to Bridgeholme by one wicket, in fact it was the only game they won all year. The less said about that the better. Next we played Mount, a team promoted the previous year with a string of high scores with the bat. We did well to bowl them out for 159 with Hampy getting 4 and the skipper getting 5 victims as well as a run out. In reply, the rain came with us in a great position at 72-3 when the game was abandoned. Two games there we could have won!

Then followed an away trip to Booth who got 220-9, which I personally thought was great to restrict them to despite their no. 10 scoring 51 off 22 balls. At 172-2 we were in with a great chance with Chris (78) and Jonny (49) but the runs dried up and we ended up 18 short. Again, another game we should have won. This was followed with a big defeat by Sowerby Bridge after getting bowled out for 98 and a 3 wicket defeat by Blackley despite Chris (85), Matty (6-41) and Big John showing his class with a 2 ball 0*.

We then had our first two league victories on the trot. First over Thornton who we bowled out for 139 with Rishav getting his first 2nd XI 5-fer and Matty in the wickets again with 4. In reply we needed a solid start and we did with the Skipper and Dylan putting on 47 for the first wicket and the second wicket was worth 55. We ended up winning by 7 wickets with 19 overs left and Greeny finishing 67*. A highlight was Chris being given out LBW with the umpire apologising to him before he got off the square. I personally thought it was plum from the other end!!!

We followed this up with a derby victory over Warley. George Ezra and Rishav shared 8 wickets as we bowled them out for 129. Chris saw us home with a patient 56 which gave us our first 12-point victory over Warley in several years. Our next two games were affected by rain with a rain off against Copley and an abandonment again Shelf Northowram with us being 75-2. Their wicket-keeper had clearly not come across Dollars before as they had an entertaining discussion about the use of sawdust on a muddy bog and the correct decision to call it off was made soon after.

Another impressive victory was over Sowerby St Peters, who we bowled out for 92 which took us over 37 overs to do. In reply, we knocked it off for 2 wickets with Greeny (55*) and Veitchy (31*) seeing us home. The first half of the season was completed with a defeat at home to Triangle with the main contributions coming from Hampy with the ball and Matty with the bat.

We avenged our defeat to Bridgeholme with Dylan getting his maiden 2nd XI half century, finishing with 77. In reply Rob Larkin got a hat-trick as we bowled them out for 104 to win by over 100 runs. Another defeat to Mount followed on what I will politely describe as a green track as we made our first visit to Batley. A 10 wicket defeat to Booth was to follow as well as a rain off against Sowerby Bridge.

A close defeat to Blackley followed where we managed to grasp defeat from the jaws of victory as we fell 4 short chasing 180. Another cancelled game followed against Thornton, then defeat to Warley. This was despite 92 from Chris and majestic 11* from Jack Leach Dave Grundy off 41 balls to support Dollars in a 63 run partnership. Other notable moments from that game was a person called Daniel Jones making an appearance, Pedro with a majestic cover drive and Browny with his maiden 2nd XI wicket. He described the ball as 'drifting into the batsman, had a nice bit of dip and turned just enough for the batsman to make an error.' Other eye witnesses described it as a 'meat and potato pie with extra helpings of gravy and mint sauce on top.'

A great victory against Copley followed and secured our Premiership status with two games left. We bowled them out for 76 with Braggy, Matty and Veitchy sharing all ten wickets. We then lost to Shelf Northowram with a game finishing 15 minutes before the weekly draw. The main reason being the sun being too low, which ironically made us finish our innings in the dark as we finished 6 runs short.

Our penultimate game saw us record a 10 wicket victory over Sowerby St Peters with Veitchy and Dylan knocking off 94 with Josh Chaplin getting 3 wickets. Our season finished with a disappointing defeat to Triangle with Chris scoring 80* as we lost our last 6 wickets for 12 runs.

Our league record this season reads:

- Played - 22
- Won 12Pts – 6
- Won 6Pts – 0
- NR – 5
- Lost – 11
- Final standing – 9th

In the cup we got a walkover to Round 2 after Greetland conceded and got a tricky draw against Bradshaw who were top of Division One. Brad (76*) and Greeny (71) put on 108 for the 3rd wicket despite both being at Tony Kirby's party 'til the early hours. Brad was sweating alcohol and looked like a beetroot at tea. In fact, the majority of the team weren't well after staying at the club watching the Champions

League Final. We eventually won by 36 runs and earnt a quarter final against Mount (who were top of the Premier Division at the time) at home. We were unlucky with the draw as we were in the only all Premier Division tie and there being several 2nd Division teams left, but at home we always fancy our chances against anyone. They set 214 to win on a tricky pitch but unfortunately, we couldn't see it through. Some good opening bowling restricted us at the start but at 142/2 and two batsmen set we fancied our chances and they were worried. We then lost the skipper for 64 and Brad was run out for 24 (one of three long distance direct hits) as we lost by 26 runs.

Overall during the season, we used 33 players, of which 13 played 1 or 2 games, which highlights the lack of consistency we had in selection which in turn impacts with consistency in performances due to lack of time on the field. I'm also very grateful for the people that have played 1 or 2 games, your involvement is vital in turning out 11 players every week and in turn supporting the Sunday Section.

We had a great selection of juniors on show. First of all there is Dylan, who has made great strides at the top of the order. It's not an easy division to open the batting, especially as a junior. Your technique has improved a lot and it was great for you to get your first 50. As a stumper you have also improved when you have taken over from me when not playing. Your work as team DJ was exceptional with a fantastic playlist. Rishav, your bowling has improved a lot and you are an important part of our team. In my opinion, the best spinner in 2nd XI cricket. It was great to see your first 2nd XI 5-fer from behind the stumps and was fantastic to hear about your three wickets on the first team. Josh only played a few games but has certainly impressed the team with his bowling and enthusiasm.

Thanks must go to all the umpires, the groundsmen, scorers, tea men and ladies, Smithy as Vice-Captain for help you have given especially leading the team (along with Chris and Tony) as well as Dave for helping with the averages. Also, thank you to the players, its great fun playing on the 2nd team and I hope you all enjoyed it. When we eventually got to full strength we are a match for any team in the division, I hope we can do that more next season.

John Greenwood

Sunday Section



Back Row – L-R: D Hill, M Wood, M Shaffiq, D Evans, J Chaplin, B Stokes, V Hyland (scorer), K Campbell (umpire)
Front Row – L-R: N Nordeen, S Sharma, S Robinson (captain), A Boocock, G Boocock

A more than respectable 2019 season for the Sunday section, with the team securing the points they needed to avoid the drop on a damp final match at home against Rastrick. Having secured a third placed finish in 2018, just avoiding relegation 12 months later may seem as a bit of a failure, but having struggled to maintain a consistent team over the summer, then I think the club can be proud of what we have achieved. The Sunday team is now all about getting players a game of cricket on a weekend when they would perhaps go without and rather than chasing victories and promotion, we are all about inclusivity.

As a side issue, we actually only played 12 games over the summer with two abandoned because of the weather, Illingworth conceding on the same day as the second round of the Parish Cup / Crossley Shield and Thornton withdrawing from the Sunday section at the beginning of the season.

We are indebted this time around for the help that Sowerby Bridge CC has given us to ensure that we were able to field a side for the fixtures that we played. A chance conversation between representatives of the two clubs at a Winter junior meeting would ultimately culminate in Sowerby Bridge becoming a loan club for us throughout the season, providing players and on more than one occasion as many as four to ensure we could fulfil our fixtures. Without the support of our local neighbours (particularly during the first half of the season) then we will have, without a shadow of a doubt gone the way of other Halifax League clubs and would have had to withdraw our Sunday side, which would, in turn, have had a negative impact on both of the club's Saturday sides.

As always, the team doesn't select itself, and teas don't get made by magic, so we are once again grateful for the time and effort, perseverance and willing that skipper Simon Robinson has put in throughout the season, despite having the toughest job in the club. His handling of the juniors (and the juniors over 40 years old) has been exceptional as he has always backed them and given them a chance. I'm sure that I speak for all concerned with the Sunday team when I say that we hope to see him back next year. Whilst we do have a whinge and a moan throughout the season, it is a long off-season and playing cricket on a weekend up at the Astleys is always preferable to being dragged around the White Rose Centre kicking and screaming or heading off to B&Q to buy a decking scrubbing brush.

Additionally, we would have been totally lost this season without the goodwill and constant help we have had off the field as teas have been made, grounds have been prepared and grass has been cut. So in no particular order, we would like to thank Mick and Simon Wood for their tireless ground preparation and to all those who have provided teas over the summer. Additionally, a big thank you to Kirsty Cope and Pam Wood for their work behind the scenes to ensure that we were fed and watered throughout the season. We have also relied on the services of Martyn Summerscales who has umpired the majority of our games in 2019, but not forgetting Ken Campbell and Phil Dalby who stepped into the breach as and when Martyn wasn't available. Added to Verity Hyland, Alana Hampshire and others who have stepped in to score on the odd occasion, then we owe a lot of people a great deal of thanks. To put it simply, we couldn't have done it without you, so on behalf of everyone who has played for the Sunday team this season, a massive thank you to you all. Your hard work and giving up your spare time, for free, on a Sunday afternoon is massively appreciated.

We were boosted in June by the addition of Josh Chaplin and Greg Boocock to our ranks. Josh joined us from Copley and Greg from Old Town. Dan Hill also made a welcome return to the club in August. Dan only came back to help out and cut the grass on a Saturday morning and ended up playing every single weekend for either the second team or the Sunday side for the last six weeks of the season!!. We'd

also like to record our thanks to Rob Larkin, Tony Kirby, the good Dr, Rishav Tandon, Chris Dalby and Matty Keast who, between them, have helped us out on multiple occasions throughout the season ensuring that not only could we reach the magic number of 11 players (either with or without the help of Sowerby Bridge) but the 11 we put out on the pitch added a little bit of much needed quality.

A poor start to the season, despite an opening day win away at Hedge Top but followed by two defeats, meant that our Rod Warhurst trophy campaign didn't progress any further than the group stages as we were comfortably beaten by both Copley and Northowram Fields.

It is a season where we did not record many wins, but we recorded a good points haul against most sides and beat the two teams to finish below us. 30 points off Illingworth (without even stepping onto the field) and two comfortable wins against Hedge Top meant that we recorded enough points to stay up.

In truth, Birkby Rose Hill and Great Horton Park Chapel proved to be too strong for the rest of the sides in this division as the final table will show, but we were more than able to hold our own (despite not winning) against the other sides in the division - Buttershaw St Pauls and Rastrick.

Our league season started with a couple of defeats against the aforementioned Birkby Rose Hill and Great Horton Park Chapel, despite 41 from Keasty, 28 from the skipper with the bat and seven wickets between them with the ball against Birkby and 32 from Dylan (in a total of 66 all out) against Great Horton Park Chapel. Dylan kept wicket throughout the vast majority of the season and did a great job, enabling him to take the gloves for the second team with no problems as and when it was needed.

Our first league victory came at the end of June when 95 from Smithy and 38 from Tony Kirby combined with 4 wickets for Josh, saw us secure a 23 run win over Shelf/Northowram Hedge Top. Two weekends followed with no game before a 41 run defeat at home to Buttershaw. Josh top scored with 31 and had 2 for 34, but the skipper recorded the best bowling figures of 4 for 14 as we bowled a strong looking opposition side out for 182, but their bowling attack was too good for us and we ended up on 141-8 after our 40 overs. We were bowled out for 75 the week after and when extras is your second top scorer, then you know you're in bother. Browny batted for a fortnight for his 19, but nobody else made double figures. We had Rastrick six down chasing their total, so points on the board, mainly thanks to Sudanshu who took 3 for 9.

There were then a further three weeks between games with the weather accounting for our home game against Birkby and our away fixture at Illingworth. The ageless Sir Michael had 69 not out in our 30 over game against Great Horton Park Chapel and Robbo had 4 for 30, but it wasn't enough to stop us falling to a 48 run defeat. Success followed, however on a glorious Bank holiday Sunday, where Danny Keast made 100* and Browny and Jez Thomas weighed in with five wickets between them to secure a much needed win.

The final two games of the season were both defeats, firstly away at Buttershaw, where Robbo had 35 and Leo took 3 for 33, and then at home to Rastrick where we scored the 125 runs we needed in the first innings to secure the couple of points required to maintain our second division status.

A lot of teams throughout the Sunday league in 2019 have either withdrawn or have been unable to fulfil fixtures. Added to the fact that further clubs are likely to withdraw, then I would suspect a re-structure of the current three division system, potentially down to two divisions.

Another season done and an ultimately pleasurable experience despite us not being able to field the same side in consecutive fixtures! Ultimately a successful five months and the spirit and fight shown in the team, along with the camaraderie has been excellent. Onwards and hopefully upwards as we go into 2020.

Dave Brown

Senior Prize Winners 2019

1st XI

Batting	Tom Wood
Bowling	Olly Benson
Fielding	Dan Brock

2nd XI

Batting	John Greenwood
Bowling	Matty Keast
Fielding	Tony Kirby

Sunday Section

Batting	Dylan Evans
Bowling	Simon Robinson
Fielding	Simon Robinson

Alan Sutcliffe Cup (Most Senior Runs)	Chris Dalby - 672
Campbell Cup (Most Senior Wickets)	Olly Benson – 48

Appearances - 2019

2019 Senior Team Appearances									
	1XI	2XI	3XI	Total		1XI	2XI	3XI	Total
D Evans	0	21	11	32	R Tandon	4	9	2	15
S Robinson	0	14	14	28	A Boocock	0	1	13	14
C Dalby	0	23	1	24	L Bragg	0	5	9	14
M Keast	1	20	3	24	J Chaplin	0	5	7	12
R Benson	23	0	0	23	D Grundy	0	2	9	11
A Kirby	1	16	5	22	D Sykes	11	0	0	11
T Smith	2	16	4	22	T Illingworth	8	1	0	9
S Wood	22	0	0	22	S Sharma	0	3	6	9
A Fawcett	21	0	0	21	M Wood	2	1	6	9
L Firth	21	0	0	21	G Boocock	0	0	6	6
J Greenwood	5	15	1	21	D Hill	0	3	3	6
S Hampshire	0	21	0	21	N Nordeen	0	0	6	6
O Benson	20	0	0	20	P Collins	0	2	2	4
J Hampshire	2	18	0	20	D Keast	1	0	2	3
T Wood	20	0	0	20	A Rayner	1	2	0	3
S Bragg	6	13	0	19	D Addy	0	2	0	2
D Brown	0	12	7	19	R Addy	0	2	0	2
R Hanson	17	1	0	18	S Davis	0	0	2	2
B Holt	11	5	1	17	J Thomas	0	0	2	2
M Veitch	6	10	1	17	R Conway	0	1	0	1
S Hinchliffe	16	0	0	16	D Jones	0	1	0	1
B Hota	16	0	0	16	N Mekapothula	0	1	0	1
R Larkin	1	14	1	16	J Scholefield	0	1	0	1
D Brock	15	0	0	15	H Veal	0	0	1	1
M Shaffiq	0	3	12	15					

Under 17's

Before the 2018 season had even come to a close, our thoughts were already on 2019 and what we would be able to do in terms of our junior set up. Unfortunately, for our under-17s, it was apparent that there was no way we could get eleven players out on the pitch of our own accord. Fortunately for us, though disappointingly for local and junior cricket, Sowerby Bridge CC found themselves in a similar situation. A merger of the two teams was discussed, and as it made such sense both from a playing point of view and geographically, was agreed.

Both clubs had an equal share in the partnership, splitting the home games between Walton Street and The Astleys, and both contributing in terms of umpiring, scoring, and of course the players. The league had decided that for the first part of the season, eight-a-side cricket would be played in the under-17 section. This was played as pairs cricket, where each pair had four overs to bat and runs were lost if a wicket fell, rather than an actual dismissal. For some of the players this was an opportunity to 'hit out' without the risk of getting out – the lack of fielders certainly aided their cause – however it did present a situation where everyone was guaranteed to get a fair chance. I have no doubt this benefited some of our – and other sides' – players which is so important at a time when cricket, and sport in general is seeing a drop in participation numbers.

A tough start awaited at Copley, and the hosts wasted no time in racking up a huge score of 199 in their 16 overs. Our lads were not to be deterred though, and produced a spirited effort themselves, reaching 150 off their 16 overs with Rhys Newman's 34 and Dylan Evans's 22 the highest scores. Things were to get worse before they would get better as we played away at Northowram Fields, who registered 152 from 16 overs. One Fields batsman hit 46 from just 14 balls as we struggled to cover the ground with just six fielders. This time, a spirited response did not materialise, and some lessons were learnt as we lost no less than 17 wickets in response to finish on a negative score.

Fortunately, things did begin to improve after this and we managed to beat Booth by 42 runs, Rhys's 39 with the bat and Muteeb's 2 for 8 with the ball the stand-out performances. Some bad weather resulted in a couple of cancellations, and the eight-a-side competition felt to have ended before it really began.

A visit to Lightcliffe kicked off our 11-a-side season and a tight game was in store. Lightcliffe batted first and scored an above-par 133/4 from their 20 overs. In response, Rhys (30 ret) and Dylan (34*) led the way but a flurry of wickets in the middle part of the innings left us with too much to do and we were all out for 121,

having had two overs of the innings remaining to get the 13 runs which would have seen us victorious.

An abandonment of the scheduled game against Blackley due to bad weather, followed by Barkisland being unable to raise a side, brought another unwelcome gap in our season. We had a rude awakening from this break as we were shot out for just 67 at home to Copley, new signing Josh Chaplin the top scorer with 18. Josh then took the only two Copley wickets to fall as our visitors raced to their win in seven overs.

Josh took another three wickets, and Rishav Tandon two, in our next game as Booth racked up what looked to be an imposing 160/6. Despite the size of the task in front of them, the lads set about the total with apparent ease. Rishav led the way with 51 retired off just 37 balls, ably supported by Dylan's 29, before Josh's 39* saw us home with more than two overs to spare. An impressive win.

The last game of the league season was already upon us as we visited Northowram Fields once more, and certainly improved on the display that we had put on at the same ground in the eight-a-side competition. Still, Northowram produced a fine batting display as all of their top three passed fifty in registering 179/2. Rhys scored 50 off just 40 balls in response, with Rishav contributing 39 at a fraction over a-run-a-ball. Despite a good effort, the target was always going to be a steep one and so it proved as our innings slowed to a close at 123/6.

Although we put in some good performances, we did not threaten the top of the table, but there was one last chance to challenge for silverware as the cup competition came around. Booth away, a repeat of the league fixture just three weeks previous, was the draw, and thanks to some tight bowling including Leo Bragg (2-0-8-1), Rhys (3-1-7-1) and Muteeb (1-1-0-1), we managed to restrict Booth to 100 all out. Rhys (51 ret) and Dylan (21*) were in no mood to hang around and we chased down the score for the loss of no wickets and in just 12 overs.

Our reward was a semi final at home to Blackley, whose top three all passed fifty as they posted a well over-par 184/3. Eighteen extras didn't aid our cause but credit must be given to the Blackley batsmen who hit eight sixes between them, four of which went to their number three in his 50 off just 20 balls. Rhys once again showed the way in response with 52 retired, but we didn't have the collective firepower that the Blackley boys possessed and so we finished on 121/4.

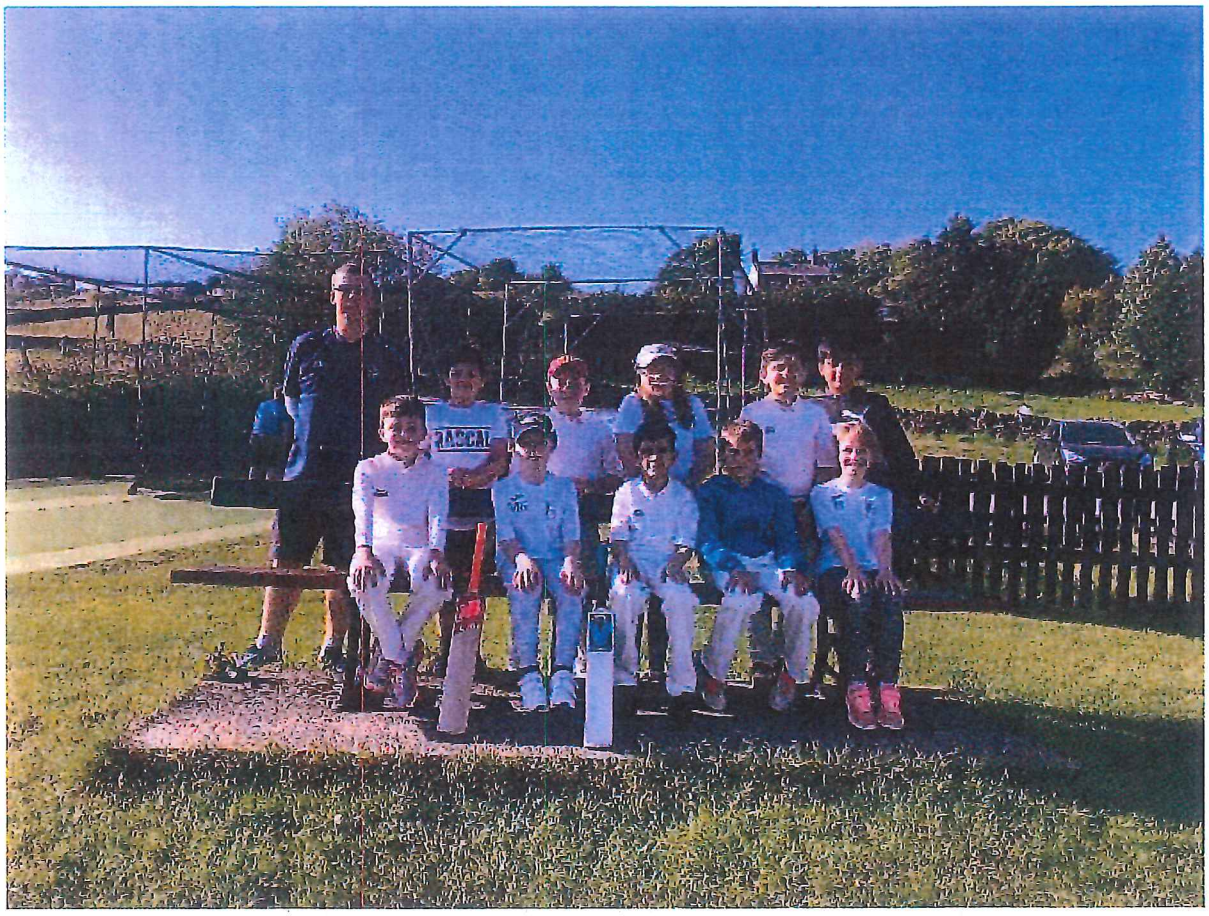
It was a challenging season for a number of reasons but nevertheless important for the lads' development. There were certainly some enjoyable moments and impressive victories - well done to all and thank you for your commitment. Thanks also to all the parents, who dealt admirably with the start times being moved forward

on a school night! Last, but absolutely not least, thank you to everyone who helped in some way, be that groundskeeping, opening up, serving tea and coffee, scoring or whatever other bit you did to help us. It is a team effort on and off the pitch and we couldn't do it without you.

Prize Winners
Batting – Rhys Newman
Bowling – Not awarded
Fielding – Not awarded

Lewis Firth

Under 11's



Back Row – L-R: C Isaac Culpan, Tyler Butterworth, Lauren Grundy, Musa-Ali Mansha, Haider Raffiq
Front Row – L-R: Sonny Keast, Matthew Grundy, Murtaza Mansha, Reuben Buck, Olivia Scholefield

With the arrival of a softball option for our young cricketers, we were able to field a side in the inaugural Halifax junior cricket league softball Under 11 competition along with Mytholmroyd, Sowerby Bridge and Illingworth.

We welcomed as new arrivals to our club for the new season Tyler, Isaac, Haider and Finlay with the majority of the rest of the side experiencing playing cricket in a team for the first time. Heading down the softball route seemed a sensible decision at the time and proved to be the correct one as the season progressed. We also had the benefit of 'new' players stepping up from the All Stars programme so proof that cricket is alive and well in our younger generations and that they want to progress.

Results at this age group don't really matter and pale into insignificance when you see the pleasure that players, parents and guardians alike get out of playing or watching their child/ children play in a team sport together. Despite the softball league being an 8 a side competition, I was able to name, without fail a side of at least ten players, which goes to prove how keen this team was to get a game of cricket every week. I, for one am hoping that this group of youngsters' sticks together and progress to greater things over the next few years as a team.

In the end, and despite the on and off summer we had, we managed to play 11 out of 12 games, winning 5 and losing 6, but having started the season with three straight wins. This meant we finished 3rd out of four sides in the league table, but to note out of our 6 defeats, 4 were by a margin of less than 25 runs. A few more runs here, and a few less wickets there and those slender defeats may well have been turned into victories.

There were too many performances of note to mention, but every single one of the team at some point contributed either with the bat, ball or out in the field. It was also good to see that our fielding was exceptional in all games and that there was plenty of vocal encouragement coming from both on and off the pitch in the matches we played. We also play to enjoy cricket rather than chase a result and in every match, everyone in our team has had the same opportunity with the bat and ball in order to keep everyone involved in the game.

In terms of stand-out achievements, the one run win over Illingworth at the beginning of July was a highlight for me with Isaac hitting the last ball for four to win us the game after Musa-ali had scored 33 runs from 4 overs batting in the first pair with his brother. Of course, all scoring and statistics are compiled online these days, so I do have some end of season numbers to go through.

Batting

Out of the entire league we had four players in the top XI with regards to batting averages- Sonny, Musa-ail, Isaac and Matthew.

Bowling

Out of the entire league we had five players in the top XI with regards to bowling averages- Musa ail, Haider, Sonny, Isaac and Olivia.

Based on the batting, bowling and fielding averages and numbers that are available online, I am pleased to report that both Isaac Culpan and Sonny Keast were selected to play for the Halifax Under 10 hard ball side against Barnsley up at Stainland and were part of a winning team.

So, another really promising season for our youngsters, even though the results may not have reflected our performances. We have a young, yet really enthusiastic and friendly set of young people who are always willing to encourage one another despite the weather and regardless of the match situation.

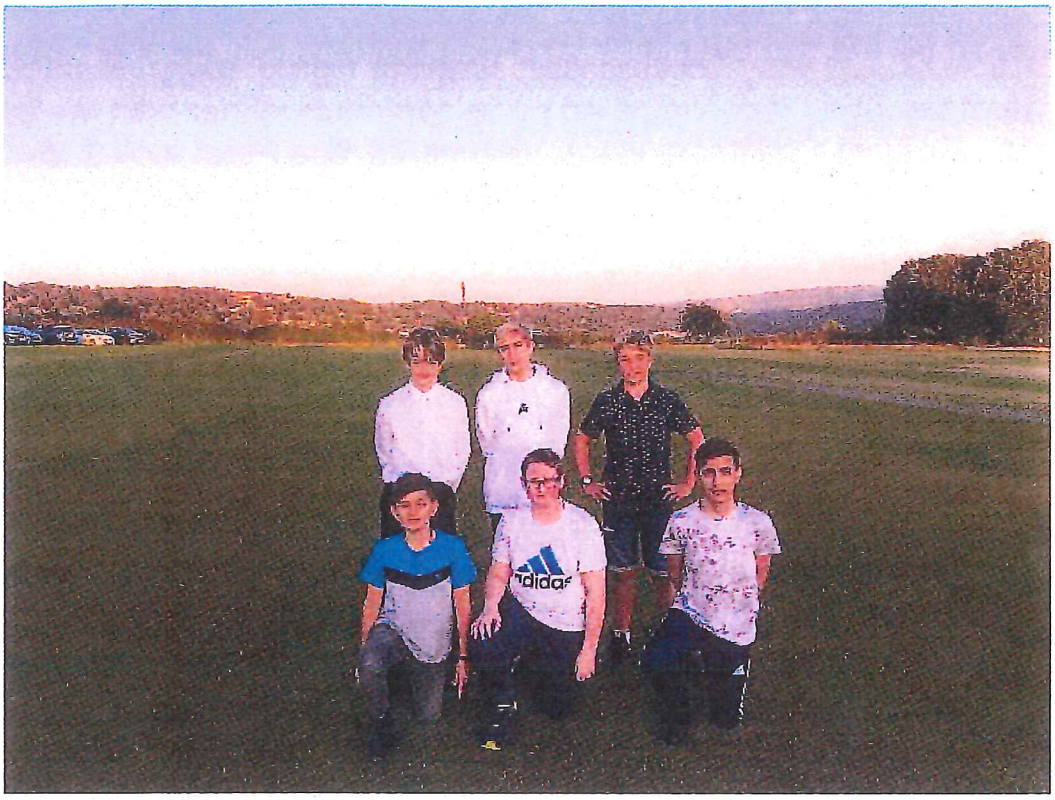
It is also good to note that we will retain the vast majority of the squad for 2019 I am hoping that all players build on their experiences from this year and use this season as a foundation and then build on it in next year.

A final thank you to all Mums, Dads and other family members who make the season possible by not only bringing their kids to the matches and training, but stay to watch and encourage the youngsters from the sidelines. A special mention to Danny Keast, Alex Scholefield, Dave Grundy Dylan Evans and John Scholefield who have been on hand to help out with organising the team, helping out with training or opening up the clubhouse when I've not been around.

Last but not least, Lauren and Olivia have done a sterling job in the tuck shop and have been a great help to me and have no doubt helped the club make a tidy profit from the sale of pop, crisps and tea over the summer.

Dave Brown

Under 13's



Back Row – L-R: C Wesencraft, I Wildgust, G Priestley
Front Row – L-R: M Mansha, H Veal, S Mansha
Not pictured J Fleet, A Earle

What a difference a year makes!

From not having won a match in over two years with this group of players to totally dominating the Under 13's league and winning it by a huge 37 point margin is a fantastic turnaround. We, of course, benefitted from the team being a year older and (in the main) in their 2nd year of Under 13's cricket, but this will be the first taste of silverware our lads will have witnessed so great for the club and they were formally recognised at the junior league presentation at the beginning of October. Let's hope this is the first of many trophies that this side will win.

Once again for 2019, we merged our resources with Luddendenfoot CC to ensure that we had enough players to ensure we could fulfil our fixture list. We also welcomed Albie Earle to the club who joined us this season and has been a great addition to the Under 13 side. Unlike the summer of 2018, 2019 proved to be a lot more challenging weather wise with 2 of our 8 league fixtures being rained off. The same applied to training and at least five Friday night training sessions were also canned because of the inclement weather which is never ideal. It also didn't help

that our first opponents of the season forgot they were due to play us, so it wasn't until 23rd of May when we got our first full game in.

A comfortable 60 run win over Stainland was the sign of things to come where every single one of the SBCI lads would go on to contribute either with the bat, ball or out in the field. Against Stainland, Harry Veal hit 23, Joe Fleet took 3 for 18 and Musa-Ali Mansha took 1 for 9- not a bad effort for someone playing in an age group above his actual age.

Our closest victory of the season came at the beginning of June with a tight win against Sowerby Bridge. The Mansha brothers combined to take 4 wickets for just nineteen runs to seal a 5 run win. There then followed a rained off match, a regulation 8 wicket win over Greetland, meaning that we hit July still unbeaten and with only two league games to go.

Another big win over Stainland followed where Saahil and Charlie Wesencraft both retired having reached 25 not out. Our final league match of the season saw another comfortable win where Isaac retired with 26 runs, a fine achievement. Charlie saw us over the line with 11 not out and Harry had two wickets for four runs.

So, an unbeaten league season and a collective and individual season performance wise that the 7 players who represented our club can be very proud of. The only slight disappointment in the season was a first round Collinson cup exit away at Booth, where we so nearly defended 93 runs but ultimately fell to a 7 wicket defeat despite 23 from Saahil.

It is also good to note that the vast majority of the squad will move up to the Under 15 side for next season and I am hoping that all players build on their experiences from this year and use this season as a foundation for 2020.

A final thank you to all Mums, Dads and other family members who make the season possible by not only bringing their kids to the matches, but stay to watch and encourage the youngsters from the sidelines.

Prize Winners
Batting – Saahil Mansha
Bowling – Saahil Mansha
Fielding – George Priestley

Dave Brown

Under 9's

My second year of running the Under 9's and I have to say they are all brilliant kids. The effort they all put into each game is fantastic. I have seen another massive change in everyone's ability and one day in the not too distant future, I hope to be playing first team cricket with them.

Some of the teams we have been up against have been challenging but we, as individuals and as a team have always given 100%. Win or lose, they are always asking when the next game is. Watching some of my Under 9's progress to playing in the Under 11 side is fantastic for me to see and great for the club and shows just how much progress every single player has made.

A big thanks to Rob Larkin, Mike Veitch, Dave Grundy and Dave Brown for helping me with training and umpiring over the course of the season- it is really appreciated.

We hope to see you all next season.

Brad Holt

All Stars Cricket



Back Row – L-R: Zeish, Matthew, Reuben, Dylan, Solomon, Felix, Idris, Sam, Libby, Jack, Olivia Renee
Front Row – L-R: Seth, Yasmin, Daniella, Bradley, Robert, Otis, Brooke, Alicia

Over the six or so weeks that we ran All Stars, we saw a major improvement in all of the children. Not only were we developing skills and a love for cricket, but we were having fun whilst doing it. We even had some children sign up for Brad's Under 9's team, and I was delighted in this as it shows that we must have been doing something right!

Junior cricket and cricket in general has played a huge part in mine and Bradley's upbringing. From watching it every Saturday in the summer months to playing juniors and progressing into the open age teams at SBCI. Both my brother and I sincerely hope that a lot of the existing All Stars will follow this path and progress through the ranks of our cricket club. We are fully aware of the positive impact that cricket can have on youngsters, especially starting at such a young age, and we wouldn't be doing what we do now if it wasn't for cricket. That's why we are so enthusiastic about the sport and the developments that children can and have made.

A big thank you to all of the parents who brought their children along and also for joining in most of the sessions- these were some of our favourite moments. Again a huge thank you to Rob Larkin and Mike Veitch for lending a helping hand and to Chris and Tina Dalby for making sure the coffees and bacon butties were in ample supply.

Hope to see you next year.

Daniella Holt

Club Development

In terms of facilities, substantial investment has been made in 2019 in replacing the carpet to the Club's all weather training facility, otherwise known as the nets. The pavilion benefited from a refurbished kitchen, with new unit facias and worktops and for 2020, mobile roll on-off covers have been purchased. In all cases, some grant assistance was secured, with contributions from the ECB and the Yorkshire Cricket Board Youth Trust.

Thanks to Sam Hinchcliffe and Mick Wood amongst others for their help in securing grant funding and also to Jonathan Hampshire who secured significant sponsorship this year.

LEAGUE TABLES 2019

Premier First XI

Team	P	W12	W6	T3	NR	LO	Batting	Bowling	Total
Illingworth St Mary's CC	22	13	2	0	4	3	10	11	197
Booth CC	22	9	3	0	4	6	19	20	173
Warley CC	22	9	3	0	4	6	19	17	170
Sowerby Bridge CC	22	9	1	1	5	6	20	16	163
Thornton CC	22	10	0	0	4	8	12	17	157
Triangle CC	22	8	1	0	4	9	24	18	152
Copley CC	22	5	3	0	5	9	32	21	141
Mytholmroyd CC	22	6	1	0	4	11	24	23	133
Shelf Northowram Hedge Top CC	22	4	3	0	4	11	29	24	127
SBCI CC	22	5	1	1	3	12	26	24	125
Oxenhope CC	22	5	2	0	5	10	16	16	115
Sowerby St Peters CC	22	2	1	0	4	15	27	27	81

Premier Second XI

Team	P	W12	W6	T3	NR	LO	Batting	Bowling	Total
Mount CC	22	13	2	0	4	3	9	10	195
Blackley CC	22	12	2	0	5	3	12	6	184
Booth CC	22	9	4	0	4	5	23	12	175
Shelf Northowram Hedge Top CC	22	6	4	0	4	8	27	24	155
Triangle CC	22	8	1	1	5	7	16	17	148
Sowerby Bridge CC	22	4	5	0	4	9	32	29	147
Warley CC	22	6	3	0	5	8	20	20	140
Copley CC	22	6	1	1	6	8	22	15	130
SBCI CC	22	6	0	0	5	11	19	21	122
Sowerby St Peters CC	22	5	1	0	6	10	19	18	115
Thornton CC	22	2	2	0	4	14	33	12	89
Bridgeholme CC	22	1	0	0	4	17	25	14	57

Sunday Section Division 2

Team	P	W20	WD7	LD1	L	NR	WCN	LCN	Bt B	Bl B	Total
Birkby Rose Hill CC	12	6	1	0	0	2	3	0	5	4	214
Great Horton Park Chapel CC	12	8	1	0	2	1	0	0	5	14	194
Rastrick CC	12	3	1	1	5	1	1	0	13	15	124
Buttershaw St Pauls CC	12	1	3	1	3	3	0	1	23	22	113
SBCI CC	12	0	2	4	3	2	1	0	21	35	110
Illingworth St Mary's CC	12	1	2	0	3	2	1	3	17	19	106
Sheif Northowram Hedge Top CC	12	1	0	4	4	1	0	2	28	20	80

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

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Do you recognise this man?
(I understand drink had been taken celebrating a rare victory!)

This newsletter is produced by Jonathan Hyland

Contributors: S Wood, J Greenwood, D Brown, K Campbell, L Firth B Holt and D Holt