

TCC MATCH REPORTS 2006

Sunday April 23rd
v. Old Almondburians (home)

'It ain't what you do, it's the way that you do it.'

To the pleasant surprise of everyone, the opening game of the 2006 season got under way in pleasant sunshine. The poor spring weather meant that the daffodils in the flowerbeds in front of the pavilion were still in full bloom rather than being on their last legs as in recent years at this time.

Lee Booth and Sam Oldham opened the innings and the first ball was delivered at exactly two o'clock. Nine minutes later two runs had been scored but both openers had been dismissed giving time for reflection on the meaning of life, the fickleness of cricketing fate and the burgeoning splendour of blossom on the trees. Lee chased a wide half volley and edged to the wicket keeper whilst Sam clipped a ball off his toes to the short leg side boundary. Events then unfolded as if a slow motion replay was taking place in real time. The visiting fielder at square leg, John Brook, set off to his left with reasonable purpose and passable zeal but the odds seemed to be in favour of the ball crossing the boundary, possibly for a six. The batsmen had completed the first run when the fielder who had covered about thirty yards, almost as an after thought, stuck out his left hand and, to general surprise, but to his great credit, the ball obligingly lodged itself therein. Two for two was not in the copy of the script written barely ten minutes earlier.

Kris Thackray, delaying his return to university by 24 hours because of a considerable number of players being unavailable, then joined John Eastwood for some urgently needed remedial action. The score was twenty when Kris probably should have been caught for three at square leg and in retrospect that was possibly a significant turning point in Thurstonland's fortunes. John played carefully on a slow wicket and managed to punish anything slightly wayward whilst two straight driven fours by Kris were shots of authority at this stage of the season. They added 74 before both were dismissed within a few balls of each other, giving catches when deceived by the pace and bounce of the ball.

More rebuilding was now needed and Tom Sykes, chosen as wicket keeper in place of Adam Thackray, and David Rishton, promoted by necessity from the lower reaches of the batting order set about the task. Tom's attacking instincts were kept in check by advice from the other end and gradually the score built up until he was dismissed for 16 after forty minutes of purposeful batting. David was joined by Mark Hill and they saw the innings through to the end of the 45 overs, the former with increasing authority which culminated in taking 20 runs from the last over, including two huge blows for six. His 62 not out was over three times his run tally for 2005 and he batted as long in this innings as in the entire previous season. Mark supported with 16*, a personal best in the first team, and their efforts saw a total of 172 for 5 at the interval.

Dan Peace and Greg Holmes opened the attack after the break and the latter soon claimed Martin Tunnacliffe, caught behind by Tom Sykes, for a duck. Tim Taylor, a centurion here last year, batted soundly until Kris Thackray, on in place of Greg, removed his off stump. David Rishton took wickets with successive balls and at 38 for 5 the visitor's innings looked to be in danger of complete collapse. The experienced Steve Slack (29*) and captain Andrew Pearson (31*) then batted with great concentration and, although the former was missed off a chance behind the wicket, they saw matters through to the end in a seventy minute partnership. Sixteen year old Joe Law on only his second first team appearance had four quite tidy overs and David Rishton persisted for fifteen accurate overs without further success.

The Old Almondburian innings closed on 118 for 5.

Team: Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Tom Sykes (w/k); David Rishton; Mark Hill; Dan Peace; Greg Holmes; Joe Law; Simon Whitehead.

**Saturday April 29th
v. Birchencliffe (away)**

'I think I could eat one of Bellamy's meat pies.'

The opening quotation is one of the more enigmatic last words allegedly uttered by an eminent person. Its use to introduce this report is particularly apt as Dan Peace, minutes before the start of play, was seen tucking into a meat pie of generous proportions. Laudable efforts to load the carbohydrates before strenuous physical action were rather undermined by the choice of dish but batting first at least meant that digestion was able to have ahead start before he was called into action.

For the second week in succession the innings lay in disarray after the opening salvos from Ashley Haywood and Darren Hinchliffe who opened the Birchencliffe attack. Sam Oldham played across the line a little too ambitiously after scoring just a single and was bowled with the total on three. John Eastwood hit one trademark boundary and added two more before an edge was well taken by wicket keeper John Eaton whilst Martin Oldham was adjudged lbw for nought. Jack Oldham looked in form from the start with several well timed shots played in his usual stylish manner. It seemed that he would lead a recovery when he was a little unfortunate to be given out caught at the wicket when the ball appeared to brush his pad. He had contributed 16 and his dismissal reduced Thurstonland to 26 for 4.

Eddie Haigh, returning to the club after missing the last two seasons, was joined by last week's batting stalwart David Rishton. Careful defence was mixed with judicious attacking shots and both batsmen produced useful boundaries. Two straight drives from David and some well timed strokes square of the wicket to leg and to off by Eddie began to stabilise matters. Gradually the total mounted and Robert Garside's spin in relief of Ashley Haywood was shown little respect. David Rishton was eventually bowled by a ball from Darren Hinchliffe which kept low for a hard earned 24 by which time the total had advanced to 79. Tom Sykes was quickly lbw for two but Eddie Haigh looked well in control and gave no chances with only an occasional play and miss giving the bowlers any encouragement. Mark Hill had his usual few lusty blows in compiling 14 and Eddie eventually succumbed on 44 and could feel well pleased with his efforts in holding the innings together.

Sam Robson, making his Thurstonland debut, then joined Dan Peace and they enjoyed a profitable ninth wicket stand, adding over thirty runs. The former timed the ball well from the start and his forceful strokes brought him a quick fire 22 before being bowled in the last over. Dan ended on 23 not out and brought up his thousand runs in the first team in the process. Greg Holmes's three not out meant that the target set was 164 for 9, well beyond what could have been expected after the first 45 minutes of the innings.

After surviving a confident lbw appeal from Dan Peace in the first over, Darren Hinchliffe was soon in run scoring action following his marathon 22 over bowling stint. He also survived after Sam Robson spilled a fiercely hit drive to cover but shortly after he succumbed when Sam held on to a similar chance, again off Dan Peace, when he had scored nine. Chris Flanagan and John Eaton then embarked on a partnership which for along time seemed as if it would take the game away from Thurstonland. David Rishton, as is often the case, made the opposition work for their runs at one end but at the other. Jack Oldham and Sam Robson had little joy and Greg Holmes then returned for what proved to be an excellent second spell.

Chris Flanagan was second out with the score on 101 but gradually runs began to dry up and the balance of the game slowly but surely tipped Thurstonland's way in the last fifteen overs. John Eaton was bowled for a deserved 51 but the other batsmen, a few typical blows from Jason Lockwood apart, had any answer to David (3/34) and Greg (3/29) and their innings closed on 148 for 8. In the end it was a deserved but very hard fought victory.

Team: Jack Oldham; Sam Oldham; John Eastwood; Martin Oldham; Eddie Haigh; David Rishton; Tom Sykes (w/k); Mark Hill; Dan Peace; Sam Robson; Greg Holmes.

**Saturday May 6th
v. Cumberworth (home)**

'Ne'er cast a clout till may is out.'

For the third time this season the Thurstonland innings saw the loss of an early wicket. The victim this time was Jack Oldham who was lbw to Richard Greaves for a single with the score on two. Once again John Eastwood was in action before the later spectators had taken up their favoured positions.

Eddie Haigh was promoted to the opening spot after his 44 of the previous week and once again he soon settled into playing a sound innings. Studied defence was mixed with judicious attacking shots. Both square and straight drives kept his score moving and Martin Kilner was removed from the attack relatively quickly with John Eastwood also into his stride with a couple of fours.

The early warm sunshine gradually gave way to cloud and Richard Parkes and Andrew Smith took up the attack for the visitors. Although never at his most fluent, John kept the runs coming and the total reached 87 and the feeling began to grow that something approaching 200 might be possible. There was then the first of several changes in fortune which characterised most of the match. Eddie Haigh's first significant error proved his downfall when an attempted off drive from Parkes found the edge and James Senior took a very sharp chance in the slips. His 37 runs had been patiently accumulated. Lee Booth was swiftly off the mark with a couple but then shouldered arms to a ball from Richard Parkes which cut back and removed his off stumps and he was soon followed to the pavilion by Sam Oldham also for two when a miscued leg side shot resulted in an easy catch to mid wicket. From 87/1 the total had suddenly become 104/5 when John Eastwood was caught two short of his fifty. The advantage was now with Cumberworth.

David Rishton and Sam Robson threatened a revival with Sam again showing good timing with some assertive shots as he had done the previous week but a rather over ambitious straight drive failed when he did not quite get to the pitch of the ball and he was caught for 13 at long off. Mark Hill briefly kept David company but he fell to James Haigh's second ball for 7 and the next delivery was well struck by Tom Sykes towards square leg where Andrew Smith took an excellent catch close to the ground. Had the ball been a foot or so to either side then a boundary would probably have been the result. The last ball of the over saw Greg Holmes bowled for a duck with the score on 141/9.

Sixteen year old Joe Law then provided good support for David who continued his good early season form with the bat. The returning Richard Greaves bowled the last over of the innings and three excellent straight drives brought boundaries to Joe from a bowler better known for his nagging accuracy. Twenty-nine runs were added for the last wicket with both batsmen undefeated, David with 20 and Joe with 18.

The Cumberworth target was 170/9 and Lee Booth, opening the attack in the absence of Dan Peace, quickly had the valuable wicket of Matthew Dolley who was lbw for one. Neither James Senior nor the in form Andrew Smith found scoring easy and both Greg Holmes and David Rishton gave few run scoring opportunities. The latter eventually bowled James Senior for 20 and Jason Senior also found it hard to get going and should have been stumped when coming down the wicket to David Rishton. In retrospect this was a turning point as, just when it seemed that the required run rate was going to turn the game Thurstonland's way, a calculated assault from the batsmen came off. A Smith reached a hard earned fifty and Jason Senior seemed about to follow him when the returning Greg Holmes bowled him for 49. He also took Smith's wicket when he was adjudged lbw for 66,

reviving fleeting hopes of a home win, but a six from James Bower off the last ball of the 44th over brought victory to the visitors.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Lee Booth; Sam Oldham; David Rishton; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes; Joe Law.

Saturday May 27th v. Nuffield Hospitals (away)

'Dig for Victory'

Without wanting to trivialise the slogan from World War 2 which was coined at a time of national crisis and chronic food shortages, it seemed appropriate to use it as the lead in to the latest match report. The wicket at Birkby played low and slow and Lee Booth's dismissal for a painstaking 22 after seventy-five minute's toil came when his bat was at chest height as the ball struck his stumps barely six inches from their base.

The two week gap in the chronicle of the season is caused by the cancellation of the games on the previous two weekends at Green Moor and at home to Holmbridge. The elements in this game made one wonder how cricket ever came to be invented in this country as, yet again in 2006, rain always threatened and the persistent cold wind seemed borrowed from a late autumn day. Jack Oldham found the going hard with conditions far removed from the firm wickets which favour his deft stroke play and his patient graft only resulted in three runs accumulated in the manner of a gold miner trying to reach a rich seam of the precious metal with only a tarnished tea spoon at his disposal.

The absence, for various reasons of Eddie Haigh, Martin Oldham, John Eastwood and Kris Thackray meant that several stalwarts of the middle and lower order had to take on responsibilities earlier in the proceedings. The temporarily out of touch Sam Oldham departed for a duck and he was swiftly followed by the run out of Sam Robson who also failed to score. Greg Holmes managed just five and the innings seemed on the point of implosion. David Rishton, however, batted with great patience and he helped Lee Booth to steady matters before the latter's dismissal described earlier.

A score of 44 for 6 did not look promising but Mark Hill, for the most part resisting his urges to attack at every opportunity, added 43 runs in partnership with David before being out for what turned out to be an invaluable 20. Joe Law was, perhaps, a little unfortunate to be given out lbw for 2 when well forward and the remainder of the batsmen were not able to linger long. The innings closed on 106 with David not out 39, so continuing his run of good scores in the opening part of the season.

This was the first time that the team had been all out for nearly two years and the prospect of an unexpected defeat loomed large at the tea interval.

The Nuffield openers got off to a relatively quick start in the context of the game and soon posted twenty as the heavy roller seemed to improve marginally the state of the wicket. Dan Peace made the breakthrough and he and Lee Booth shared the attack for the bulk of the innings after Greg Holmes had bowled six overs. Runs came mainly in singles but gradually wickets began to fall as the home batsmen mixed studious defence with seemingly random aggressive shots. A stunning catch low to his left at mid on by Ashley Armitage, who did not have the chance to try his off spin, ended the innings of one opponent in spectacular style.

In the end a rather attritional game of cricket, far removed from the pyrotechnics of the 20/20 version, went Thurstonland's way with the hosts being dismissed for 87. David Rishton took the last

wicket but victory was achieved thanks largely to the bowling efforts of Dan Peace (5 for 34) and Lee Booth (4 for 22).

Team: Jack Oldham; Lee Booth; Sam Oldham; Sam Robson; Greg Holmes; David Rishton; Mark Hill; Joe Law; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Ashley Armitage

**Saturday June 3rd
v. Hoylandswaine (home)**

'Another one bites the dust'

A curious yellow object appeared in the sky and a strange warmth filled the air as players and a decent smattering of spectators arrived for the game with the early league leaders, Hoylandswaine who had strengthened their side since the end of last season. It was indeed the sun which had booked its seat for the first time on a match day in 2006 to the relief of all concerned. The visitors had first innings on a track which looked full of runs and how full was soon to become apparent. The early wicket of the promising Chris Pickles, caught behind by Tom Sykes off Lee Booth for nought, was the only cheap success of the afternoon which rapidly became one of toil for the Thurstonland bowlers and fielders. Scott Marsh, returning to his home village club after five or six years, looked at a few balls to get his range and then two delightfully timed cover drives for four off successive deliveries launched him into one of the most dominant opposition innings seen for quite some time.

He was given great support by Ryan Copley (35) who has scored quite a few runs against us in recent seasons and Ian Simon (39) whose colourful language in the confines of the changing room after his dismissal and heard, let me stress, only by the scorers and his team mates, showed his disappointment in not filling his boots to the capacity of size twelves rather than the size nines with which he had to be satisfied. All the batsmen were in good form but were helped, in the opening overs at least, by several over pitched deliveries. Another newcomer, T Davies, then scored 56, largely in ones and twos so that his score crept up almost unnoticed but at the other end Scott Marsh scored prolifically all round the wicket with some high quality shots. He gave one chance when he was 48 as an attempted on drive soared in the air towards the mid wicket boundary but Joe Law seemed to misjudge the flight of the ball and in the end could only get a despairing right hand on the ball from which it readily fell to the ground.

Lee Booth, Dan Peace, David Rishton, Jack Oldham, Joe Law and Sam Robson all had turns in the attack as the Hoylandswaine total mounted inexorably. Scott Marsh's century duly arrived and he only perished in the last over on 142 when Lee Booth, taking a rare turn from the pavilion end took his wicket as well as that of T Davies to end with figures of 3/56 from nine overs. The tea interval saw the score on 283 for 5, by the first team since reliable records probably one of the highest ever concessions, and certainly the highest since 1954.

Matters rapidly got worse! The first ball of the Thurstonland reply from Ian Simon's saw Jack Oldham caught behind by Steve Hardwick. John Eastwood played the next four balls of the over watchfully and then shouldered arms to the last and posed as if waiting to be cast in bronze ready for placing on a suitable plinth as the off stump was duly clipped. Consternation filled the air and holes were sought down which to disappear by all associated with the home team.

Sam Oldham now found himself at the crease having scarcely had enough time to finish his last mouthful of teatime cake. Eddie Haigh had watched the opening disasters from the other end and he and Sam then set about repairing the damage. To their credit they managed this with a good measure of success. Ian Simon and Richard Brocklehurst continued to pose problems but generally the batsmen seemed in little trouble apart from an occasional play and miss. It was hard to believe that Sam had struggled for runs so far this season. He eventually departed for 29 playing over a ball from Simon to be bowled and Sam Robson soon followed for a duck and two wickets had again

fallen on the same score which was now 80/4. Eddie Haigh battled on defiantly and he ended on 94 not out with great late support from Tom Sykes (33) and Mark Hill (15*) to earn one point with the total on 184/6, riches indeed after the drama of the first over.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Sam Oldham; Sam Robson; Tom Sykes (w/k); David Rishton; Mark Hill; Lee Booth; Joe Law; Dan Peace.

**Sunday June 4th
v. Woodfield Park (home)
Allsop Cup – Round 1**

'The winner takes all'

With the sun again on its best behaviour, the cup game postponed from May 21st got under way on the same wicket which had produced so many runs the previous day. Visitors, Woodfield Park, had just enjoyed two successive wins in Section A after a poor start and their relatively lowly position in the division below Thurstonland made the home team favourites but everyone was mindful of Penistone's giant killing act in 2003.

Jack Oldham was absent on Joe Lumb duty with the Huddersfield Under 17 team and so Lee Booth opened the innings with Eddie Haigh. A steady beginning saw the scoring rate at about two an over but gradually the rate increased. The twelve over limit per bowler places extra demands on teams and gradually the total began to mount.

Both batsmen looked in little trouble although they never quite dominated in the way their Hoylandswaine counterparts had done the day before. Nevertheless, first the half century and then the century partnerships were posted and gradually the record total for the first wicket stand came into view. This had been set at 169 in the last game of 2005 by Jack Oldham and Mick Ingledow in what was the latter's final game before retiring.

Both batsmen reached their half centuries within a minute of each other although Lee faced twenty or so balls more. Eddie's prolific form in 2006 continued. A feature of his batting has been his concentration and well timed glances and cover drives. It came as a surprise when the persevering Mick Hollingworth bowled him for 84, once again just short of his century. The partnership had been worth 164.

Two balls later the total was 164/2. Saturday's game had seen the six Thurstonland wickets fall in pairs on 0, 80 and 149 and now two had gone on 164. John Eastwood completed a weekend pair when he launched himself into a trademark leg side pull only to get under the ball. Paul Askham took a well judged catch back pedalling at mid wicket. It was not wise to discuss the merits of seared duck breast or the traditional accompaniment of orange sauce.

Sam Robson then provided good support for Lee Booth in the last stages of the innings with several forceful shots in compiling a hard hit 25 not out. Lee ended on 96 not out, the second undefeated batsman in two days to run out of overs when near his century. Woodfield Park's target was 216 for 2.

Mark Heywood and the youthful Joe Skarz soon made it clear that they were not going to go down without a fight. The latter played some lovely cover drives, several of which went for boundaries and the experience of the former ensured that there was not going to be an easy time of it for the home side. Heywood was eventually bowled for 34 but Skarz soon afterwards reached a well deserved fifty. The experienced S Ahmed also gave valuable support and only David Rishton's accuracy kept the scoring rate just below what was required.

Joe Skarz seemed to decide to have a calculated assault on David's last over which featured three 4s, a 6 and two 2s. Ahmed had, meanwhile been bowled for 15, and wickets began to fall to the second spells of Greg Holmes (2/31), Dan Peace (3/36) and Lee Booth (4/36) as the visitors tried to keep the score moving along. Skarz eventually perished for 96 when he got a faint edge to Tom Sykes off Dan Peace but the Woodfield Park final total of 187/9 shows how close they got in a good game of cricket.

Team: Eddie Haigh; Lee Booth; John Eastwood; Sam Robson; Sam Oldham; Mark Hill; David Rishton; Tom Sykes (w/k); Joe Law; Dan Peace; Greg Holmes.

Saturday June 10th v. Azaad (away)

'Summer time, and the living is easy.'

It was hard to believe that a mere ten days earlier dress more familiar to the chills of late autumn had still been seen as people went about their daily tasks with a purposeful briskness to ward off the unseasonal chills. Our visit to Azaad's ground at Lupset on the outskirts of Wakefield was hot and humid and even the scorers, wielding nothing more burdensome than pens and pencils, had to move position after tea on two occasions to seek the shade of the trees when enjoying a rare break from the confines of a scoreboard.

The perspiring fielders, bowlers and batsmen gave ready testimony to the stifling temperatures and a thought occurred that if modern cricket padding, helmets and all, was like living in a pressure cooker, what must knights of old have felt like in all their gear when at the lists or in full blown combat? Thurstonland batted first in our inaugural league fixture against relative newcomers to the league who had quickly and deservedly won their way into the top section. Our only other game against them at first team level had been a cup fixture a couple of seasons ago.

Jack Oldham was soon bowled for one, continuing a frustrating run of low scores. He does not look out of touch but has been the victim of a couple of doubtful decisions and, on this occasion, a well pitched up delivery which yorked him. John Eastwood quickly got off the mark, thus avoiding a third successive duck supper and he and Eddie Haigh soon had the score moving along on the spacious ground. The latter had reached 13 when, from the bowler's end, he called for a quick single from a glance to backward square leg. He duly arrived in John's crease where he realised that his partner did not fancy a swift bustle up the wicket. He turned back and was run out by a stride. The fact that he had completed two runs on his own was of little consolation on his trudge back to the shades of the pavilion.

The key innings came from Kris Thackray making his first appearance at the crease since the opening game as the university term came to an end. Some pleasing drives soon got his score moving and John gave good support until he was bowled for 24. Sam Oldham, Lee Booth and David Rishton all had brief stays with the last named recording his second duck in a row after scoring prolifically in his first four innings of the season. Sam Robson joined Kris who was eventually bowled from an understandably weary looking shot for 60. Mark Hill got off the mark with a delightful glance for four but only added one more before chipping a catch to mid on. At 144/8, it seemed that the innings might subside into a below par total but Dan Peace proved a worthy Sancho Panza to Sam's Don Quixote role and they added 35 runs with strokes which belied their positions in the batting order. Sam's 21* and Dan's 20, bowled off the last ball of the 45 overs, saw Thurstonland to 179/9 at tea.

Dan Peace opened the bowling with Kris Thackray and the former probably set the scene for the eventual victory. He only conceded 16 runs from his nine overs and bowled K.Asam for five. David Rishton was a model of accuracy in relief of Kris although T Hussain and S Ibrahim built the score

patiently. The former was caught by Mark Hill off the bowling of Lee Booth, who relieved Dan Peace, for 28 whilst the latter, missed at 34 off a skier to long off, went to a deserved fifty. He was eventually trapped lbw by Jack Oldham for 55. The run out of Tariq Mahmood for nought made the score 116/5 and this proved to be the turning point. David Rishton picked up two wickets but Jack Oldham rapidly took 5/14 in an excellent spell of controlled medium paced bowling and effectively won the game. Azaad were all out for 127, a seemingly comfortable win, but for long periods the game was in the balance and matters were much closer that the eventual totals might suggest.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; David Rishton; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k).

Saturday June 17th v. Woolley (home)

'Absence makes the heart grow fonder.'

The usual report for this match will have to be replaced by a summary of key performances as personal commitments meant that I was not present at the game. Apart from Tom Atkinson (33), no Woolley batsmen seemed able to build an innings of significance and the target set was 103 for 9. The main frustration for Thurstonland being that the visitors gained appoint for not being bowled out. Fifteen maiden overs gives some indication of the run rate achieved by Woolley.

The chief wicket taker was Lee Booth with 5/25 from 13 overs with Greg Holmes taking 2/15 from nine. Tom Sykes enjoyed a profitable day behind the wicket with four catches and a stumping.

The game finished shortly after six o' clock. Jack Oldham at last shook off his first team batting blues in 2006 with a carefully compiled 24 not out and he saw the game to its finish with John Eastwood (16*). Eddie Haigh continued his fine form and was a little frustrated to be out for exactly fifty when he admitted that his concentration lapsed a little on reaching that landmark, giving a catch just a ball or two after reaching his half century. The winning total was 107/1.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; David Rishton; Mark Hill; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes.

Sunday June 18th v. Nortonthorpe (home) Allsop Cup – Round 2

Having defeated Woodfield Park from Section A in the first round the reward was another home game against opposition from a lower division. Nortonthorpe, in mid table in Section B, were the visitors, hoping to upset the odds. Lunchtime rain briefly put the game in doubt but matters improved just before the scheduled start time of two o' clock to enable play to begin at 2.15. Jack Oldham and Eddie Haigh faced Ryan Cosgrove and Paul Wilkinson, a familiar face from his Denby Dale days, and started watchfully. Boundaries soon began to feature and the fluency of Jack's strokes soon got the score moving along as well as dispelling any concerns about his lack of runs this season in the first team. Eddie gave sound support and added a couple of fours of his own before he mistimed an attempted straight drive, after a *Come Dancing* like shimmy up the wicket,

and was caught at deep mid off for 26. We never did find out if he was in line to replace Darren Gough as the cricketing performer in the celebrity version of that programme.

John Eastwood was quick to get off the mark and the hundred came up with the loss of the single wicket. At this stage it seemed that the worthy Nortonthorpe attack might be about to concede quite a large total but that never quite materialised. The Thurstonland batsmen, after the departure of John for 34 and Jack for an excellent 64, started to try to force the pace unnecessarily and the admirable persistence of Steve Parton, Ryan Cosgrove and the returning Paul Wilkinson saw several rather rustic heaves being duly punished. Sam Oldham, Sam Robson, Mark Hill, David Rishton and Dan Peace all succumbed in relatively quick succession, contributing only 19 between them. Lee Booth restored some sense of occasion, coming in at No. 9, with a well struck 25* and a brief flurry from Greg Holmes, who had two good boundaries in his total of ten, saw the final total reach 195 all out. Tom Sykes gave Ryan Cosgrove, never far from the action throughout, his fourth catch in the outfield as he attempted a big hit from the last ball of the innings. Both Steve Parton and Paul Wilkinson had four wickets each.

After the loss of an early wicket to Greg Holmes, Ryan Jagger batted soundly. He had scored 90* in the league the previous day and was one of several younger players, bolstered by some more experienced performers, in the visitor's line up. He scored a patient 22 before being out and Steve Parton made 19 determined runs to go with his four wickets. The problem was always keeping up with the required run rate and although taking only one wicket, his 886th in the first team, David Rishton's left arm spin proved hard to get away as he conceded just 25 from the 12 overs permitted in cup games. Lee Booth took three wickets to go with the five in Saturday's league fixture and Greg Holmes was a model of accuracy. His figures of 2/17 from ten overs did not flatter him.

Ryan Cosgrove was again to the fore as he got the top score of 29 batting at No. 8. Paul Wilkinson had a few trademark lower order blows before Paul England, batting with a runner at No.11 after pulling a muscle in the field, hit three successive fours from Sam Robson in the game's last over before the latter got revenge by bowling him as he went for another big hit off the penultimate delivery. Chris Sansom enjoyed his brief role as runner and looked a natural for anyone from the world of theatre looking for a new stand up comedian with his exuberant running and action replay versions of the shots played by his stricken captain.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Sam Oldham; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; David Rishton; Dan Peace; Lee Booth; Greg Holmes; Tom Sykes (w/k).

Saturday June 24th v. Denby Dale (home)

'A trio of Nelsons.'

Recently retired first class umpire David Shepherd might have been diagnosed as having St Vitus' Dance such would have been his hopping on one leg at the club statistics which coincided in this game. Lee Booth was making his 333rd appearance, David Rishton his 555th, just four short of becoming the second highest in games played behind Martin Oldham, whilst the latter's second wicket was his 888th in the first team. Such details probably delight and bore in equal measure but it seemed worthy of mention.

After losing one or two players before the start of the season, Denby Dale had struggled so far, although victory in their previous game had lifted them off the bottom of the Premier Section. In the absence of Eddie Haigh, Lee Booth opened with Jack Oldham and twelve runs came from the first four overs from Jim Stanley and Stuart Geldart on a wicket which appeared to hold few gremlins apart from a tendency for the ball to keep low at the end away from the pavilion. Boundaries came from well timed shots from both batsmen and Jack appeared to have put his early season

misfortunes behind him before Adam Craven, who had replaced Jim Stanley, bowled him with one which kept low for a stylish 23 which had begun to promise much more. John Eastwood was soon bowled for five off his pads and, like Mother Hubbard rummaging for supplies in her cupboard, his search for his customary treasure chest full of runs would have to go on for another week.

The key stand of the game then developed. Kris Thackray ought to have been caught at slip for two but Stuart Geldart was unable to accept the chance in spite of three increasingly forlorn juggles with the ball. Dean Rickson bowled tightly for a while but gradually the score mounted. Kris had a curious innings rather like I imagine a vintage car feels when on its annual outing in a rally. Half an hour was spent with exploratory splutters and the threat of action rather than fulfilment. In that time only three runs were scored. Suddenly the choke was pushed in, the engine fired and he raced to 31 in just fourteen more balls thanks to several well timed on drives. At this point he and Lee were on the same score. As suddenly as it had come, however, the timing went again and as Lee went to a purposeful fifty Kris, rather like an under used vintage engine, began to splutter, lacking only the blue smoke.

Lee was eventually caught at mid wicket for a valuable and patient 62. Kris soon followed for 43, bowled by the returning Jim Stanley, leaving Sam Robson (15*) and Mark Hill (14*) to push the score along in the final overs. The latter ended the innings with two bottom handed bludgeons to the mid wicket boundary. Denby Dale's target was 187 for 4, more than respectable but twenty or thirty short of what had seemed possible at on stage.

For all his energetic toil, Dan Peace was the only Thurstonland bowler not to take a wicket. Greg Holmes (2/19) bowled very tidily in two spells and bowled both Richard Lammyman and Dean Rickson early in the visitor's innings. The next four victims went to Kris Thackray (4/18) who at one stage had four wickets for just one run. He had Andy Amos well taken at slip by Lee Booth for 25 just as it seemed he might be starting to build a decent score. In a neat pattern, David Rishton (4/30) took the last four wickets, the second of them being No 888, thanks to Jack Oldham's catch. He also missed out twice when two huge skied chances went begging although Dan Peace managed to hold on to a third such offering. A third slip catch by Lee Booth to dismiss visiting No11 Adam Craven for 6 saw Denby Dale all out for 90 in 37.5 overs to bring six points to Thurstonland and third place in the league.

Team: Jack Oldham; Lee Booth; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; Sam Oldham; David Rishton; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes.

Saturday July 1st v. Cawthorne (away)

'A sundowner on the verandah.'

The stifling heat at the halfway point of both the calendar year and the Huddersfield Central League cricket season made thoughts of football, even the World Cup quarter finals, rather incongruous. Cawthorne's new pavilion with its verandah for both home and visiting teams was a welcome refuge after the game and brought to mind images of mint juleps in the cool of the evening in the southern states of the USA or the relaxation with tea or gin and tonic, punkah wallah at hand, of the wives and families of the British administrators in India at the height of the Raj when retiring to the Simla hills to escape the heat of the summer.

In the absence of Eddie Haigh, John Eastwood opened with Jack Oldham. The score soon got moving with John in particular looking in good form after his comparatively lean spell so far in 2006. Few dangers threatened and it was a surprise when a routine forward defensive shot by Jack to Darren Lindley brought a thin edge which was smartly taken by Dale Skelly standing up to the

wicket. He had made 7 and, as so often for him this season, a small error had resulted in the loss of his wicket. Fortunes will surely change for him before long.

Kris Thackray struck one lovely off drive to the boundary before a simple radar failure meant his bat was a distance away from locating the ball and he was bowled off stump for 5. Sam Oldham then provided good support for John Eastwood and the total rose steadily. Sam's timing was a pleasure to watch and it was puzzling that he has struggled for runs for much of the season so far. Just when he seemed well set on 20 he was dismissed but soon afterwards John made his first half century of 2006 with Lee Booth as his partner. The latter made 16 quite quickly before mistiming a drive and being caught. John continued to 80 and looked set for a century when, from virtually his first false shot, he too was caught. Enough time remained for David Rishton (15), Sam Robson (15) and Mark Hill (16) to add just over fifty between them in the last eleven overs. The latter included an amazing six over mid wicket from a top edge. Dan Peace with one and Tom Sykes (2*) were the other batsmen to feature as the innings closed on 184 for 9.

An extended tea interval, mutually agreed and sanctioned by the league, enabled most of the first half of the England v, Portugal game to be watched before Cawthorne began their reply. Dale Skelly and Chris Mosley took 14 from the first two overs from Dan Peace and Greg Holmes before things settled down. By the twelfth over both David Rishton and Lee Booth, bowling his off spin were in action, and the former took Chris Mosley's wicket when a fairly rare full toss was hit hard and high to mid wicket. Another two feet of elevation and a six would have resulted but the ball homed in with unerring accuracy on Jack Oldham on the boundary with no other fielder within thirty yards. He took the catch with the calmness of a grandparent playing catch with a four year old on the beach.

Sam Wilford, back in the Central League after several seasons in the Huddersfield Drakes League, offered a difficult caught and bowled chance first ball to David Rishton which he was not able to cling on to and when Sam Oldham dropped him off a steepling catch at long on to give him his second run alarm bells began to ring. His last innings against us for Clayton West in the 1999 Allsop Cup Final had been a rapidly stuck hundred. On 14, however, Jack Oldham caught him off Lee Booth in spectacular fashion, again on the boundary, this time after making several yards towards the ball and diving to claim the chance. Drinks were taken at fifteen and thirty overs and a break at the latter interval was taken to watch the penalty shoot out between England and Portugal after which the Cawthorne score declined from 81/2 to 118/9. Sam Robson brought off a catch similar to that of Jack Oldham's as part of the collapse. David Rishton took 5/50 and Lee Booth 4/31 in sustained spells of challenging spin bowling.

Team: Jack Oldham; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; David Rishton; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes.

Sunday July 2nd v. Heckmondwike & Carlinghow (home)

'No more than a storm in a tea cup'

For the second year in succession, a cup game was destined to be interrupted by a thunderstorm after the day had begun with the lingering sultry heat of a languid mid summer. We had only met our visitors, relative newcomers to the Huddersfield Central League, once before in a competitive game at first team level. This was in 2001, the year of our third and last championship, when, as now, our Heavy Woollen guests were in the second section. They had then pulled off a deserved giant killing act in securing a relatively easy win and there was a determination to try to avoid a repeat of this.

Dan Peace quickly took the first wickets, including that of league representative players and opposition captain Paul Cooper who was bowled for six, and a score of 19 for 3 hinted at a low

total. John Hudston then came to the crease and memories of a well struck 62 in the previous cup game quickly came to mind as he was quickly into his stride. The total began to mount and he continued to play well after losing his partner who was out for a determined 22.

Bowling options were restricted when David Rishton was able to bowl only three overs because of back problems and Kris Thackray had an extended spell in his place. It was his spectacular caught and bowled, making several yards to his left in his follow through and taking the ball in his left hand at full stretch, which saw the dismissal of John Hudston for 47. Once again he had batted well and it was a relief to see him out. Kris eventually ended with 2/27 to go with Dan Peace's 3/19. Lee Booth with 2 for 40 was the other wicket taker.

The rest of the Heckmondwike and Carlinghow batting stuck to their task with dogged determination and their score reached 140 for 7 at the end of the allocated 45 overs.

In the absence of Jack Oldham on Joe Lumb duty, John Eastwood, fresh from his 80 of the previous day, opened with Eddie Haigh. John did not last long, however, being adjudged lbw for just a single. He was replaced by Kris Thackray and both he and Eddie had to proceed watchfully. The score began to mount with the latter continuing his good form of 2006 with several powerful drives on both sides of the wicket. The partnership was broken with the score on 61 when Kris was caught for 21 after a mistimed drive to A Cooper at extra cover off from A Pickett's bowling. After quickly getting off the mark with a single, Sam Oldham provided a carbon copy dismissal to make the total 67/3.

Soon after Lee Booth had started his innings the thunder clouds started to gather and lightning was seen in the middle distance. Eddie Haigh reached another well deserved fifty as the light began to deteriorate rapidly. The offer of a second drink's interval at the thirty over mark was rejected in an effort to get the game to a conclusion. The first ball of the thirty-second over was slashed by Lee, baseball style, to the third man boundary and it only just missed the head of the fielder stationed in the gully. He clearly never saw it. Concern about both the light and the lightning was expressed at this stage but two more balls were delivered before a further protracted discussion led to both teams leaving the field with Eddie on 59 and Lee on 12 and the total 105/3.

The decision was the right one as twenty minutes later the storm arrived with a vengeance in Thurstonland and play was abandoned. The game was due to be finished the following Sunday but, because of the relatively long distance to travel for what would probably be only thirty or forty minutes play, the visitors conceded the game after a mid week telephone conversation.

Team: Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; David Rishton; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes.

Saturday July 8th v. Old Almondburians (away)

'There's life in the Old Boys yet'

This game marked the start of the second half of the season and was against long standing Premier Section rivals and near neighbours. Old Almondburians gained promotion into the top section in 1984, just one season after we last arrived there and we have enjoyed many hard fought contests during that period. The weather had a fresher feel after about two weeks of high humidity and Jack Oldham and Eddie Haigh opened against Steve Slack and D Clutterbrooke, a further name to challenge the space available in the dismissal column of the score book. It was not long before this was put to the test as Jack Oldham was bowled off stump for 2. Before long this most accomplished of young batsmen will make a team pay with a big score.

Eddie Haigh and John Eastwood then began to build a big partnership which was to be an important factor in the game's outcome. Whilst not being the most stylish of players, Eddie this season has shown great determination in minimising risks but then being quick to punish anything more wayward. Some good shots off his legs were a features of his innings here and both he and John looked in little trouble on a wicket which was occasionally a little variable in bounce. Clutterbrooke was replaced by S Sykes and it was he who eventually got the breakthrough for the home team when John was given out lbw trying to pull a full pitch to leg. He had made 31 and was beginning to promise many more. At 111/2, Nelson had once more prevailed.

Kris Thackray then kept Eddie company as the latter pressed on to his fifth half century of the summer and a century seemed there for the taking when he was rather surprisingly given out lbw to a ball which seemed to strike him on the hip, if not higher. He managed (just) to keep his feelings in check as he left the crease although a few leaves were in danger of turning colour ten weeks early from his look which was well up on the withering scale as he reached the steps of the pavilion. Six overs remained with the score on 157/3.

Sam Robson joined Kris and 51 hectic runs were added. Sam hit two sixes and Kris one but the chief feature of their partnership was the running between the wickets. The former is no slouch but several times Kris went for a second and almost lapped his partner as the home team struggled to keep a grip on things. Both ended with 30* and the total was 208/3 at tea.

Father and son Steve and Alex Slack opened for Old Almondburians and the former, often a heavy run scorer against us, was dropped behind the wicket on five by Tom Sykes, a relatively rare blemish this season. Dan Peace was the unlucky bowler. Just when it seemed that this might prove very costly, he got a thin edge to a ball from the persevering Greg Holmes coming down the slope and Tom made amends. He had made 22. Brijesh Patel departed for 4 soon after but sixteen year old Alex Slack, after a scratchy start, began to find his touch and produced some good drives to advance the score. His eventual dismissal for 43 came just at the right time when he was beginning to take control.

Kris Thackray again bowled tidily when brought into the attack, as well as making several good stops in the field on an energetic afternoon for him, and Dan Peace took a catch to give him a valuable tenth wicket for the season. The returning Greg Holmes got due reward for an accurate spell by getting three further wickets to give him the figures of 4/46. A sharp shower briefly interrupted play with just under seven overs to go as the hosts pressed on but after play was resumed the chase was given up with a few balls to go and they ended on 170/8.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Robson; Lee Booth; Mark Hill; David Rishton; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes.

Saturday July 15th v. Birchencliffe (home)

'If you can't stand the heat, get out of the kitchen'.

If the weather of the 2006 summer had not quite reached boiling point for the visit of Birchencliffe, then it was certainly approaching a rolling simmer. The straw coloured wicket made a marked contrast to the green outfield although that too was beginning to show brown patches as the lengthening spell without sustained rain continued. Parasols erected, sun tan lotion applied and a cooling beverage to hand, the sizeable number of spectators settled back to enjoy a day at the cricket. When December arrives it will be hard to think that such days existed in England.

Greg Holmes quickly accounted for John Eaton, caught at the wicket by Tom Sykes, although the batsman's subsequent self award of a period of hermit like contemplation on the bottom boundary

suggested that he felt in need of a period of time apart from the vagaries of fortune which are the occasional lot of most cricketers. Dan Peace and Greg then tried hard, but unsuccessfully, to build on this early breakthrough as Darren Hinchliffe began to play a determined innings mixing watchfulness with taking ready advantage of any slightly looser deliveries. Kris Thackray and Lee Booth, in off spin mode, took over the attack and it was the former who took the second wicket. The scoring rate was gradually reduced and there was soon the rare sight of two off spinners in tandem as seventeen year old Ashley Armitage, making his second first team appearance of the season and third in all as stand in for David Rishton, came on for Kris at the pavilion end.

He bowled five generally tidy overs and dismissed Darren Hinchliffe (41) thanks to a catch at deep gully by John Eastwood and he took a second wicket in his next over when the new batsman was well taken from a powerfully struck lofted on drive by Sam Robson near the boundary. His figures of 2/24 from his five overs represented a creditable effort. Sam also took another fine catch off Lee Booth a little later, running in from the bottom boundary and taking the ball at the second attempt as he fell.

Lee Booth continued to exert a stranglehold in an extended spell of fifteen overs and the dismissal of Ashley Haywood for 35 saw the end of the only other visiting batsman to threaten to play a decisive innings. He ended with 3/37, one of his wickets being a smart stumping by Tom Sykes. Jack Oldham was in bowling action for the latter part of the innings and his tidy medium pace brought him 3/23, bowling the last two visiting batsmen with the final balls of their allocation to close the innings on 150.

Jack Oldham and Eddie Haigh opened the Thurstonland reply and both batsmen looked in good form as several good boundaries, including a stylish cover drive by Eddie, soon had the score nearing the fifty mark. Although Darren Hinchliffe and Ashley Haywood gave little away it was hard to see where a wicket was coming from. It was, therefore, something of a surprise when Eddie was bowled by the latter for 24. When his score reached 12 he had passed 500 runs for the season. John Eastwood quickly reached 20 when Jack, playing virtually his first false shot, lofted change bowler Chris Farnsworth, to deep mid off. He scored 25.

The total was 77/2 as Kris Thackray joined John and for the next hour the spectators were treated to some positive batting in the left and right handed partnership. Kris was generally content to play a supporting role although two on drives for four were particularly pleasing shots. John reached a deserved half century and then finished the game with a flourish from the occasional bowling of John Eaton striking two fours, a six and a single from successive deliveries in the 38th over to bring up the winning total of 152/2. John was undefeated on 73 and Kris on 18. The six points brought us to joint second in the table with Hoylandswaine, one behind leaders Cumberworth who are the next league opposition.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes; Ashley Armitage.

Sunday July 16th
v. Hoylandswaine (at Almondbury Wesleyans)
Allsop Cup semi-final

'Here comes another one, just like the other one.'

Perspiring brows had scarcely been mopped after the previous day's exertions when the glow of toil was once more upon them as the first team attempted to reach the Allsop Cup final for the first time since 1999. Nineteen years had passed since the last success in the competition, in 1987, which had completed the hat trick, a feat still unique in Central League history. The Almondbury Wesleyan's ground and facilities were a worthy setting for the game which began quietly enough with Jack

Oldham and Eddie Haigh playing three maidens from Wayne Storey and Ian Simon until the latter hit two good fours and a single in the 4th over to get the score moving. The next over from Wayne Storey, however, proved his undoing as Steve Hardwick, in effervescent mood throughout the proceedings, was adjudged to have taken the first of his five catches behind the wicket.

Jack Oldham, having struck a delightful four through the covers, got the faintest touch off Ian Simon to give Steve Hardwick his second victim and Kris Thackray had a relatively early appearance at the crease, once again in the company of John Eastwood. These two, although in rather painstaking fashion, managed to steady the innings although Kris appeared a little fortunate to survive two confident appeals for stumpings off the bowling of Wayne Storey. They took the total to 51 before Kris was bowled for 21. Sam Oldham added 15 with John, although not contributing himself, before he became another of the caught behind fraternity. The innings then sagged like an over ambitious soufflé as, In Steve Webb's first over on replacing Ian Simon he dismissed John Eastwood, yes caught behind, for 25 when his bat seemed a little less than adjacent to the ball. Sam Robson then added to the wicket keeper's collection in the same over to leave the total on 66/6.

Lee Booth was joined by David Rishton and gradually things improved. After taking twenty balls to get off the mark, David scored seven from his next three and his 32 led the way, with dogged support from Lee, in bringing up the 100 without further loss. After he was bowled by Ray Spencer, Greg Holmes quickly followed for two with Lee becoming Steve Webb's third victim for a hard earned 20. Dan Peace (16*) and Tom Sykes (10*) then made the most of a comparatively rare appearance at the crease by adding an undefeated 35 for the last wicket. Both played good shots which belied the fact that they were numbers 10 and 11 in the order. Two wild deliveries helped to boost their contribution and the total of 161/9 was better than had seemed likely at 66/6.

With bowlers in cup games restricted to 12 overs, David Rishton opened with Greg Holmes and the latter's first over was a maiden. By the end of the game this had attained the status of a single pearl culled from the harvest of a sizeable tonnage of oysters. R Greenwood was bowled by David Rishton in the fifth over to make the Hoylandswaine score 16/1. Just over sixteen overs later the game was all over as Ryan Copley (57*) and Scott Marsh peppered the boundary almost at will. The latter hit ten fours and eight sixes and his first 56 runs, from an eventual not out score of 93 (from just 45 balls) were all boundaries. If one six had not struck the pinnacle of a mast in the garden of a house over the long on boundary, breaking a roof tile as it was diverted from its course, then it might have found its way down the hill to the centre of Almondbury.

No Thurstonland bowler had any answer to the onslaught and solace was sought in the cool of the changing room away from the heat of the day and the raging fires of the Hoylandswaine bats.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; David Rishton; Greg Holmes; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k).

Saturday July 22nd v. Cumberworth (away)

'Brewing up a storm.'

The current summer's weather may be a sign of things to come if theories about the effects of global warming are proved to be correct. It is, however, somewhat amazingly, turning into one of the most rain affected seasons for several years. The lunchtime thunderstorm delayed the start at Cumberworth by three-quarters of an hour and this made it the sixth match out of eighteen league and cup fixtures which had been interrupted by the weather.

Hard work on clearing the wicket ends of the standing water by members of the home club was accompanied by the earnest gaze of many of the visitors. A casual Martian visitor returning to home with a report on the lifestyle of Earthlings would surely find this behaviour pattern one of the more curious aspects of male adult behaviour to say nothing of the theorising which goes on about the likely response of a prepared wicket recently visited by extreme climactic conditions.

This has not been a happy venue for Thurstonland for several seasons in terms of victories. Memories of stern struggles to amass suitable totals were in the minds of spectators as John Eastwood accompanied Jack Oldham to get the now 38 over game under way. As ever the redoubtable opening bowler combination of Richard Greaves and Martin Kilner shared the home team attack. The usual watchful defence was necessary but twelve runs came with few alarms before John pushed forward to Martin Kilner and the ball went low off a thick outside edge to Matthew Dolley in the gully where he took a good catch at ankle height.

Kris Thackray replaced him and began a protracted battle with the bowlers, particularly Richard Greaves, whose left arm over the wicket bowling down the slope examines rigorously the technique of right handed batsmen. Kris left alone many deliveries when an edge would probably have given a chance to either the wicket keeper or slip fielder. Whilst he applied himself to his task, Jack Oldham was coping well and had reached nine when the lack of good fortune which seems to have been his lot for most of this season caused his downfall once again. A slightly shorter ball from Martin Kilner, saw him, rightly, play a back foot defensive shot only for the ball to rise little more than shin height from the wicket to leave him lbw.

Tom Sykes was sent in at No. 4 but did not survive for long. An edged four was his only contribution before his off stump was removed and Sam Oldham soon followed when he was caught at backward point. He immediately walked in spite of there being a hint of a bump ball in the dismissal, an opinion shared by others in a later discussion. Once more at Cumberworth the innings was in danger of falling apart as Lee Booth joined the fray with the total on 35/4, all four wickets going to Martin Kilner.

Heavy thunder clouds were again appearing as he and Kris Thackray battled to rebuild. Although continuing to struggle, Kris never lacked anything in determination and three well spaced boundaries, all from what is becoming a trademark on drive, off Richard Greaves meant that the bowlers were not able to capitalise on their excellent start. Lee also mixed watchful defence with a couple of boundaries and every opportunity was taken to run singles to keep the score moving as James Yates replaced Martin Kilner at the Emley mast end. Heavy spots of rain began to fall at about 4.20 in the 28th over and the inevitable happened at 4.35 at the end of the 31st as the thundery deluge began, stopping play for good with the Thurstonland score on 83/4 with Kris on a hard earned 29 not out and Lee on 22. Jordan Thackray was making his second appearance in the first team, after his debut at Woolley in 2005, having bowled well in the second eleven but never took the field.

Team: Jack Oldham; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Tom Sykes (w/k); Sam Oldham; Lee Booth; David Rishton; Mark Hill; Joe Law; Dan Peace; Jordan Thackray.

Saturday July 29th v. Green Moor (home)

Visitors Green Moor were almost strangers in town as it was May 2005 since we had last met, the corresponding fixture being rained off last year and the game at Green Moor this season being a victim of the poor late May weather. Anxious eyes were cast skywards as play began with clouds rolling in from the west and a weather report promising showers later in the day. It is amazing to think that 2006 has seen more interrupted play than for many years in spite of the record breaking heat and drought conditions which have applied since mid June. In the end, ten minutes or so of

light rain about four o'clock was as bad as it got and the sun managed to shine for most of the game.

Jack Oldham and Eddie Haigh once again got proceedings under way and runs were accumulated steadily. The latter was the first to depart, bowled for 12 by a yorker with the total on 33. It was the first real batting error and spectators were jerked out of their contented reflections at this sudden end to the untroubled collection of runs by the opening pair. Jack was joined by John Eastwood and the two began to dictate proceedings. The former looked at ease and many elegant shots were played. A delightful cover drive for four to the bottom corner with the trees and benches sticks in the mind as do two elegant leg glances which went up the slope towards the garages with an ease which paid testimony to the precise timing of the strokes. John was not to be left out and two full pitches from change bowler Steve Walsh were unceremoniously dispatched for six. He was eventually dismissed for 36 but Kris Thackray continued the home team offensive, quickly getting into his stride with quickly run ones and twos and well timed boundaries. Jack reached a thoroughly deserved half century and had reached 59 when he chased a wide delivery from the experienced John Hardy and got a thin edge to wicket keeper Ian Mosley.

Ian Short was playing his first game in the first team for almost two years after studies and weekend commitments meant he had played virtually no cricket from the end of 2004 until the beginning of July 2006. Good performances in the second team gave him his chance as holiday absences began. He scored six singles before crashing a cover drive to the boundary in authoritative style only to succumb to the next delivery which he drilled unerringly into the hands of Steve Walsh at extra cover. He had looked capable of scoring many more runs.

Mark Hill, as so often this year, had an entertaining flurry and compiled 10 from as many deliveries before being caught. His efforts have often provided a quick acceleration to the scoring rate as overs begin to run out. Greg Holmes had time to hit a huge six as part of his score of 11 before he became a member of an on the day over subscribed run out club whose membership also included Kris Thackray (37) and Tom Sykes who did not face a ball. Lee Booth, going in down the order, was left not out on 7 as the innings closed on 196/8.

In the absence of Dan Peace, Jordan Thackray opened the attack with Greg Holmes. He had missed his chance of a bowl the previous week because of the thunder storm which ended the game early. Julian Bates and John Hardy played watchfully but Jordan could feel pleased with his efforts, once he had got the spectacular first ball wide out of his system. Ian Short spilled a chance from Bates at mid off when the latter had scored just seven and when the openers posted a half century opening stand it seemed as if this might be costly. Kris Thackray (3/16), however, proved to be the US cavalry to the rescue by bowling John Hardy for 18 and Julian Bates for 30 before adding a third clean bowled victim later. Lee Booth tied up one end with 13 overs of off spin bringing 2/29 and there was just time in the game's last over for Jordan Thackray to take his first senior wicket by bowling Ian Mosley. Nigel Dowkes was left not out on 26 as the visitors settled for a point on 117/6.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Ian Short; Mark Hill; Greg Holmes; Lee Booth; Tom Sykes (w/k); Sam Oldham; Jordan Thackray.

Saturday August 5th v. Holmbridge (away)

'No Dec but plenty of Ants.'

The setting of the Holmbridge ground, with St David's Church across the main road as it begins its ascent over Holme Moss, is a picturesque one and its narrow boundaries square of the wicket also present challenges to visiting batsmen and fielders which are different from those on most other grounds. Its proximity to the river, combined with the sultry weather of high summer, also provides

the insect world, if they enjoy periods of relaxation, with destinations to rival those favoured by their human counterparts. Midges have been encountered there before but this seemed to be the year of the flying ant whose appearance in their hundreds would have filled only the most ardent student of insect life with pleasure. Cricketers, scorers and spectators were less easily persuaded of their delights.

Craig Furze, opening for Holmbridge, might also have fallen out with the supposed seductive charms of cricket when he hooked the first ball of the game from Greg Holmes into the hands of Kris Thackray at mid wicket. Two fours from David Thorpe off Jordan Thackray, who went on to bowl a tidy six over spell for the concession of only 15 runs, got the score moving but his brother also went for nought in Greg's second over to leave our hosts at 8/2. Brief thoughts of an early finish were soon set aside as Andy Haigh set about repairing the damage with David Thorpe.

The size of the ground means that bowling a consistent good length is essential to keep run scoring in check. As old cricketing sages have it, 'there's nowt for short'. The bowling never quite reached the levels of consistency demanded in spite of the best efforts of all concerned and it took Jack Oldham to induce Andy Haigh (23) into a false shot to be caught by Jordan Thackray. David Thorpe, accompanied first by Holmbridge wicket keeper Mark Gledhill and then David Holroyd, went to his fifty and was eventually dismissed for 73.

Lee Booth bowled his off spin tidily enough conceding just 31 from 10 overs and taking one wicket but everyone else found it a struggle to keep to a consistent line and length. Mark Beaumont struck a few late powerful drives to compile a quick 32 and the home team ended on 196/8, unexpected heights after their less than confident start. Greg Holmes ended with 4/73 from 14 overs and bowled some testing deliveries but looser balls were quickly punished, readily finding the short boundaries.

In marked contrast to the Holmbridge innings, the Thurstonland reply began with few alarms. Eddie Haigh got off the mark with a six, comfortably clearing the perimeter fence. Two or three well struck boundaries followed and when Jack Oldham opened his account with a four all seemed to be going well. After twelve overs, and just before the scorers had to retreat to a quieter spot away from the persistent ants, the total was 34. Four overs later it was 37/4 and could have been 37/5 if Sam Robson had not been given not out from a good appeal for a stumping. Eddie perished for 26 off a mistimed drive, John Eastwood was caught behind for one off a thin edge, Jack went for 7 and Lee Booth was out to a reflex action catch for nought. Even the insects seemed to pause briefly to take in the sudden transformation in fortunes.

Sam Robson took full advantage of his reprieve, timing the ball well and playing virtually a lone hand after Kris Thackray (11) was caught at square leg, deceived by a slower ball. Mark Hill managed 10 before Tom Sykes, another victim of a stunning catch, and Greg Holmes made brief appearances. James Adler, a late substitute for Ian Short, joined Sam and helped to add 37 in his first game in the first team after 192 second team selections dating back to 1991. He saw Sam (52*) to his half century before he was adjudged lbw for 7, Jordan Thackray soon following, bowled for a golden duck. All out 130 was 66 short of the target.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Lee Booth; Sam Robson; Mark Hill; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes; James Adler; Jordan Thackray.

**Saturday August 12th
v. Nuffield Hospital (home)**

'Make sure you aren't the first one to blink.'

The insistent bellowing of a bull in the neighbouring field as he tried to advertise his prowess to all, whether human or bovine, who chose to heed his call accompanied several periods of play either side of tea. There was little need for distraction from matters in the game itself as both teams went at it from start to finish in the manner of early prize fighters slugging it out toe to toe. Neither team seemed willing at any stage to take a backward step.

Both Jack Oldham and Eddie Haigh had, both literally and figuratively, an edgy start. The first ball of the game was edged by Jack and the Nuffield keeper just managed to get his finger tips to the ball at full stretch but was unable to hold on. With his score on three, and the total still not in double figures, Eddie edged a ball at waist height to first slip and almost had time to give a tutored coaching session in the taking of such chances as he observed matters. Having nestled in the fielder's hands for a moment, the ball promptly reappeared and fell to the ground.

A decent opening stand once again developed with both batsmen scoring fluently until Jack was lbw for 22 to the persisting M. Islam. This brought John Eastwood to the wicket and he took a little time to get going. It was only his fifteenth ball that saw him get off the mark but then his scoring rate accelerated appreciably. Eddie Haigh continued to benefit from his escape and played some positive shots on both sides of the wicket, being particularly ruthless on any deliveries slightly short of a length. He reached another half century and the partnership was worth 103 and the total 137 when John, looking to join him at the fifty mark, drove too early at a delivery and was caught for 48.

Kris Thackray, unusually this season, looked a little out of sorts with his timing and was fortunate to get two runs for a shot spooned high into the air between fielders before being caught for just four soon afterwards. Lee Booth joined Eddie who looked about to reach his maiden first team century when he failed to get to the pitch of a ball and was caught at short extra cover for 88, a score which took him past 1000 runs in the first team. In the remaining overs Lee (28*) wasted no opportunities to push the score along and Mark Hill (8) had a trademark cameo appearance to leave the Thurstonland score on 215/5.

If it had been thought that our visitors, languishing in the bottom three, were going to go through the motions, the home team was quickly disabused of this notion. Greg Holmes was unable to bowl a consistent line and Nadeem Ishaq dealt uncompromisingly with what was offered with several boundaries rattling the score along. His partner, skipper Mohammed Akram, played a couple of text book drives for four but otherwise got along happily with a paddle like shot, often scooped into the air, but always out of the reach of a fielder. Jordan Thackray was a little less profligate but he too found it hard to contain the opposition who reached 66 after 11 overs. This was not in the script. Jordan eventually bowled Ishaq for exactly 50 and Akram soon followed for 28, but M Liaqat continued to press on with a mixture of studied defence and purposeful attack. Lee Booth and David Rishton managed to put the brakes on, particularly the latter who ended with 5/28 from 15.1 overs, a fine effort in a game where runs came freely from both teams.

Liaqat, perhaps fortunately for Thurstonland, had only fleeting support from his remaining colleagues but it took a throw deflected at the stumps by Lee Booth from John Eastwood to run him out for 57. Two or three more overs from him might have changed the course of the game but the Nuffield innings gradually subsided to 181 all out in the 44th over leaving both teams to look back on a game where taking a backward step was markedly absent from the script.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Lee Booth; Mark Hill; Ian Short; David Rishton; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes; Jordan Thackray.

Saturday August 19th
v. Hoylandswaine (away)

'Is it just me or are cricketers getting younger?'

A glance at the team sheet for the third game of the season with Hoylandswaine revealed that just three players were over twenty. That honour, if that is the right word, went to David Rishton, Mark Hill and Lee Booth and their contribution to the cause brought the average age of the team to just over 23. Speculation suggests that this was probably the youngest first team ever to represent the club.

The home league meeting had resulted in the concession of the highest total in available club history (283/5) whilst the relatively recent Allsop Cup semi-final had seen the Thurstonland attack concede over seven runs per over in a losing cause. The absence on holiday of the opposition's Scott Marsh, chief destroyer on that occasion as well as in the home league game, was a crumb of comfort before the game began and time would tell whether that was to be a sustaining morsel or merely a left over for the grovelling peasantry from the banquet table of the mighty. Cousins, Jack and Sam Oldham opened the innings in weather which did not seem to have changed from the second team's game in the Tinker Cup final on this ground the previous Sunday. Although fine at the start it was raining by the third over and there were two short interruptions before three o' clock. Sam departed for nought, trying an ambitious pull shot off the fifth ball he received from Wayne Storey. His lack of runs for the first team remains puzzling as he has an average of forty-one from his four trips to the crease in the seconds.

Jack took a little while to get going and, indeed, in the first over he survived two very confident appeals from Ian Simon and most of the home team. Kris Thackray hit two good leg side boundaries before calling for a run from the bowler's end when the batsman should have been in charge of the decision. He was run out by a considerable distance and his body language on returning to the pavilion suggested that, had they been available, sackcloth and ashes would have been put to good use in a penitential walk on his knees round the boundary. His score of eight did, however, bring up his 1000 runs in the first team following close on the heels of Eddie Haigh who got there the previous week.

Lee Booth briefly hinted that he might form a restorative partnership with Jack Oldham, who was keeping his concentration in spite of the rain delays, but on 12 he failed to keep down a cover drive and was caught. An early tea was taken and play resumed after a delay of ninety minutes. Tom Sykes, elevated in the order to number 5, made seven quite patiently, including a well driven four, until he was caught when failing to keep down a leg side shot. Joe Law hit 17 in no time at all with well timed drives, first noticed in the Cumberworth game back in May, before being perhaps a little unlucky to be adjudged lbw. Jack Oldham was eventually caught in the gully for a battling 47 in an innings where he had to make four starts because of rain delays. Having reached 94/5, the rest of the wickets fell in a rush, including that of sixteen year old debutant Angus Cox for a single, to leave the total on 96 all out, a rare team dismissal for under 100 in recent seasons.

Only fifteen overs were needed by Hoylandswaine to knock off the required total. Jordan Thackray bowled respectably in only his fifth first team game and got the only wicket when R Dhufur had his middle stump removed for 12. Greg Holmes, Kris Thackray and Joe Law all found it difficult to keep a length in the wet conditions and the latter found keeping a foothold impossible with Ian Simon (65*) taking full advantage as the home team raced to 97/1. In American sporting parlance this was a sweep of the three game series. Ten minutes after the game's conclusion the persistent drops of rain turned into a heavy downpour but it was too late to save the visiting team, glad to see the back of our hosts, in a cricketing sense, until 2007.

Team: Jack Oldham; Sam Oldham; Kris Thackray; Lee Booth; Tom Sykes (w/k); Joe Law; David Rishton; Mark Hill; Angus Cox; Greg Holmes; Jordan Thackray.

**Saturday August 26th
v. Azaad (home)**

Holidays prevented your match correspondent from attending this game and the following one but, in the interests of continuity, a summary of key features of each game is provided.

The dismissal of Sikhander Ibrahim, bowled by the fourth ball of the game from Kris Thackray set the tone for the game which was to result in a comfortable win. The former had scored a good half century in the game at Wakefield and had been in good form throughout the season. Our visitors had proved competitive opposition in their first year in the top flight and held a mid table position but their form had dipped a little after the win as underdogs in the high scoring Allsop Cup triumph over our nemesis team in 2006, Hoylandswaine.

Only Kalim Aslam (43*) and S Aslam (32) played sustained innings and the Thurstonland bowlers amongst the wickets were Kris Thackray (2/20), Lee Booth (3/48) and David Rishton (3/35). The Azaad total was 152/8.

Only three batsmen were needed as the runs were knocked off in the 39th over. Jack Oldham's wicket was the only wicket to fall, lbw to J Ahmed for 33, after he had shared in 97 run opening stand with Ian Short. A maiden first team half century was the reward for Ian who often looks a class act when batting but, on his own admission, he has a tendency to get out just when he looks set. His 67* ought to give him confidence whilst John Eastwood with 41* kept him company as the winning score of 154/1 was posted. Tom Sharrock made his debut in the first team.

Team: Jack Oldham; Ian Short; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Lee Booth; Joe Law; David Rishton; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Greg Holmes; Tom Sharrock.

Sunday September 3rd v. Woolley (away)

Hosts Woolley were already relegated to Section A when we arrived for the third last game of the 2006 season. Our hosts batted first and old rival Peter Kelly, so long a redoubtable opponent when playing with Dodworth, was one of their opening pair. A typically painstaking innings of just over two hours saw him compile his side's top score of 36 with the best support coming from Ian Norton (25) and Paul Baranowski (24) in the host's middle order.

Dan Peace who, apart from a single five wicket haul in the game at the end of May at Nuffield Hospital, has often toiled unavailingly this year for wickets, made the initial breakthrough and then confounded the form book by going on to record the first seven wicket haul in the first team since David Rishton's 7/22 in the cup game at Durkar in 2000. His figures of 7/42 came from 12 overs, two of them maidens, to take his tally for the year to 22. Others to claim wickets were Kris Thackray (2/25) and David Rishton (1/18). Woolley's total at tea was 134 all out from 44.3 overs.

For once Eddie Haigh departed quickly, lbw for just a single, setting the stage for Jack Oldham, in a rich seam of form in the last third of the season, to add 104 with John Eastwood. The latter was caught for 38 with victory in sight. Kris Thackray scored six before also being caught leaving Ian Short (2*) to seal the win with Jack who ended on a fine 69 not out as Thurstonland took the points with a total of 135/3 from 38.2 overs.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Ian Short; Lee Booth; Joe Law; David Rishton; Dan Peace; Tom Sykes (w/k); Jordan Thackray.

**Sunday September 10th
v. Denby Dale (away)**

'Thurstonland's own 'Pie' leaves the Denby Dale version just 'pie in the sky'.

A mellow early September afternoon made it hard to credit that we were at the very end of summer with the autumn equinox just ten days away. Wasps had their usual seasonal fling which included several exploratory raids into the score box whilst the spindly legged crane flies remained a wonder of nature's engineering as they too enjoyed the day. Their presence, however, did not always delight the assembled representatives of humanity with whom they shared the occasion and determined flappings resulted either in their hasty retreat or the rather sad demise of these gangling creatures.

The fourth over saw the first Thurstonland wicket when Eddie Haigh got a leading edge to a ball which appeared to stop on him and Ryan Geldart took a comfortable return catch. He had scored five and the score was 6/1. Jack Oldham and John Eastwood proceeded with circumspection for a few overs as both Jim Stanley and Ryan Geldart bowled a tidy length. Ten of John's first eighteen runs were via singles whilst Jack also, a couple of boundaries apart, relied on watchful defence. It was only as the total began to edge upwards in spite of the best efforts of the Denby Dale bowlers that the eventual batting dominance was achieved.

Fourteen year old Callum Geldart, a very promising player, was introduced as third change and his leg breaks were dispatched for 18 in his first two overs before he reverted to medium pace. Jack just beat John to the fifty mark and their partnership realised 132 before both fell in successive overs. First Jack became the second caught and bowled victim of the innings when he spooned the ball back to A Amos when thoughts were beginning to turn to a possible century. He had made a patient and, eventually, stylish 67. The first ball of the second over from the recalled Ryan Geldart bowled John Eastwood for 52 to leave Kris Thackray and Joe Law both not out on nought and the score 138/3.

Joe had a look at three balls with studied concentration and the promptly launched three successive hits for six all over the mid wicket boundary. He raced into the twenties before Kris scored but then he too got into his stride and they added 61 in eight overs before Joe was bowled for 41 after just 25 minutes at the crease and facing 25 balls. David Rishton managed one six in his brief flurry scoring 8 whilst Kris hit two mighty straight drives off Jim Stanley which cleared the boundary easily. The regular cameo appearance from Mark Hill saw him get 11* with two fours, one a rustic carve over the slip area, the other an almost text book cover drive. Kris ended on 38* as the total soared to 244/5.

After an opening maiden over from Kris Thackray, back in the thick of the action after his batting exploits, to Richard Lammyman, his partner Callum Geldart was quickly on to Dan Peace's short first delivery as he sent it high over the backward square leg boundary to open the Denby Dale reply. The openers battled on for seventeen overs and put on 44 for the first wicket. Jack Oldham relieved Dan Peace but it was the introduction of David Rishton that resulted in the rapid fall of wickets. Joe Law caught both openers and suddenly the score collapsed to 60/6 with David taking all of them, including a third catch to Joe. The latter was featuring prominently in the game and he still had a further significant part to play. David took 6/8 from 11 overs before Joe took over. His long wait for a first team wicket came to an end when his eleventh ball saw Andy Craven drive a ball to Eddie Haigh in the covers. His next delivery saw his second victim when Jim Stanley chipped a ball straight to mid wicket where David Rishton returned the catching favours. No hat trick followed but the hosts were well short of their target, all out for 106 with Lee Booth also chipping in with 2/16. Russell Mottram was the fifth debutant of 2006.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; John Eastwood; Kris Thackray; Joe Law; David Rishton; Mark Hill; Russell Mottram; Dan Peace; Lee Booth; Tom Sykes (w/k).

**Sunday September 17th
v. Cawthorne (home)**

'Jack is certainly the lad in final showdown.'

Although high cloud rolled in as the day wore on, this was another pleasant late summer afternoon to greet players and spectators for the last game of the 2006 season. Both sides had changes because of being represented in the Central League team in the Leeds Area cup final. In Thurstonland's case the redoubtable trio of Lee Booth, John Eastwood and David Rishton were the players concerned whilst Dale Skelly, Sam Wilford and Kevin Rank were absent from the Cawthorne ranks. Having captained the second team this year, Neil Booth made his seasonal debut and was put in charge of the senior eleven.

Jack Oldham and Eddie Haigh began the game facing Chris Mott and Steve Glover. A rather steady start saw the score reach 21 in the eighth over when Eddie having just hit a second well timed four lofted an intended drive into the covers of Chris Mott where Tom Barker took the offered chance. Eddie's 14 took his seasonal tally to 667, a valuable contribution to the cause. The rather slow pace and slightly variable bounce of the end of season wicket quickly saw the demise of Kris Thackray who recorded his only duck of 2006 when an extravagant leg side heave suffered from radar and altimeter failure resulted in him being comprehensively bowled. Cousins Jack and Sam Oldham had to battle for runs even when Gary Kilburn with his off spin took over from C Mott. It was the latter's role as fielder that contributed to Sam's downfall after he had made 11 when the persevering Steve Glover claimed his first victim as the ball was skied to extra cover.

The most significant partnership of the innings then followed as Tom Sykes, promoted in the order once again, batted confidently and actually outscored Jack during their stand of 41. Tom was lucky to survive a 'Chinese cut' for four to open his account but after that let off he played some pleasing shots off the front foot.. The arrival of Jamie Holling in the attack in relief of Gary Kilburn was, however, his undoing as the former's first ball to him saw him comprehensively bowled for a valuable 25. The total was 89/4. Apart from his third six in successive games, Jack moved his score along in ones and twos showing his usual patience but his dismissal, caught at mid wicket for 33, saw the rapid end of the Thurstonland batting as Steve Glover (5/30) and Jamie Holling (3/8) quickly brought matters to a conclusion at what always seemed a rather below par total of 107.

Greg Holmes immediately had Chris Mosley dropped twice off the second and third balls of the Cawthorne reply, first by Eddie Haigh off what seemed a fairly routine slip catch and then the seemingly infallible Jack Oldham dropped another harder offering as he dived forward in the covers. Darren Skelly also survived a missed catch off Kris Thackray before Chris Mosley offered yet another opportunity. All this was in the first eight overs when the actual score of 12/0 could easily have been 6/4. Mark Hill at square leg managed to cling on to the fourth chance offered by the unusually generous Mosley whose 12 was, to say the least, one of the streakier innings from one of the better batsmen in the league. Darren Skelly was then joined by the slight figure of Lewis, his fourteen year old nephew. After a hesitant opening the latter soon played a fine range of shots in all directions and looks to be a player with plenty of promise. Greg Holmes was relieved with figures of 0/13 from seven overs which did him no justice at all. Neither Dan Peace nor Joe Law troubled the increasingly fluent Skelly family partnership who looked capable of reaching their team's target without being separated as the total reached 79/1 at the end of the 21st over. Jack Oldham's first ball saw Darren Skelly caught for 35 and his next over saw him dismiss Lewis Skelly, caught behind for 31. Two further wickets saw him end with 4/4 and with Ashley Armitage taking 2/25 there was suddenly the faintest glimmer of a shock win but Cawthorne prevailed on 109/7.

Team: Jack Oldham; Eddie Haigh; Kris Thackray; Sam Oldham; Tom Sykes (w/k); Joe Law; Mark Hill; Neil Booth; Dan Peace; Greg Holmes; Ashley Armitage.