

Lowerhouse Cricket Club Match Programme

CLA^{UK}



IF IT'S BUFFETS
OR
WICKETS
I'M YOUR MAN

Lowerhouse

v

Ramsbottom

Sunday 18th July 2010



THE TEAMS

MEET THE TEAMS

LOWERHOUSE

Cottam
Bailey F.
Beneduce
Bleazard
Finch
Heap
Hope
Martin J
Russell
Whitehead
Heal

Ramsbottom

Fielding
Bell
Bell
Webb
Pilling
Hakin
Dentith
Brown
Counce
Haslam
McMillan

Editor - Mark Whitehead,
The Future - Stan Heaton
Letter From A Lifer - Paul Hargreaves
Meet The Teams - Paul Hargreaves
Design - Helen Laycock, Printing - School Stars

Third placed Ramsbottom are today's visitors to ninth placed Lowerhouse. Rammy have been very busy boys in the last couple of weeks in the quest to monopolise this season's silverware. They've had 2 fairly comfortable, routine league outings. One of them a 6 wicket victory against Bacup and last Sunday Enfield succumbed by 49 runs. Long term sub-pro Francois du Plessis signed off with 51 and 6-65 and leaves the team in a uniquely strong position. There was, though, nothing routine about their Worsley Cup semi-final versus Burnley. A thrilling 191 run partnership between Du Plessis(111) and Fielding(95) took them from the dire straits of 8-4. The final 250 target looked formidable but with little assistance the lion-hearted Behardien gave the home side a mighty scare with a brilliant 175. He didn't deserve to finish 2 runs short; his amateur team mates did. Rammy also won the 20-20 final defeating that trophy free zone that is Church C.C. Church's 97 was under par but in atrocious light a captain's knock by Fielding ,of 64 not out may have saved Rammy's bacon. The ' House have had a mixed time of it. It was a fantastic chase to reach the 264 target set by the Hassy reptiles. Crucial stands for the second and third wickets between Heal and Finch, and Heal and Bleazard respectively helped win the day. The pro showing his best form so far was out 9 runs short of the century mark. There was a case of the hiccups when the always competitive Dearden took 3 wickets in 4 balls but the target was attained in the final over. Last Sunday the Martin brothers played pleasing cameos but, in truth, 'House was outplayed by a keen and well-drilled Nelson side. Seedhill is only rarely a happy hunting ground for us and even superfan Charlie Chippo and his cohorts were in a rare subdued mood throughout proceedings.

Ramsbottom C.C. is a middle ranking team in terms of the honours they've won. They'd probably be ranked in the lower echelon but for there great recent record in the Worsley Cup. Rammy have won the Cup 7 times of which 5 have been in the last 13 seasons. The last 2 wins, in 2005 and 2009, have a symmetry. Todmorden was defeated on both occasions with David Bell winning man of the match awards. The club have employed many big name professionals. These include Seymour Nurse; Ian Chappell; Clive Rice; Wasim Raja; David Hookey and Chris Harris. The latter was very popular, both for his personality and his achievement of the 100 wickets- 1000 runs double. Only Pepper, Hazare and Colin Miller have done this feat.

This year Rammy is in contention for it's fifth League title. The club were winners in 1921 and 1925 when W.E. Hickmott was pro. In 1974 a 49 year drought was ended with Aussie Ray Bright the professional. He took a vital 75 wickets at a little over 10. In 1992 another "slow" left-armed Keith Arthurton was paid man and the team pipped Hassy in a closely fought race. Actually Arthurton darted the ball in at a very rapid pace. So much so that my favourite baseball pitcher, southpaw Jon Lester of the Red Sox, would be envious of Arthurton's speed. An important part of the 1992 side was a 19 year-old more orthodox slow left-armed in Jonathan Fielding. After a storied career as a professional in various leagues Fielding as returned to where it all began for him. He is still a very effective player and is well ahead in the bowling list for both amateurs and pros. That said am I the only one who is concerned that he is paid to coach at Rammy but he plays for free. Would he still get the same fee if he just coached and played for another fee elsewhere on a week-end? You decide. This reminds me of when I first came to watch the 'House. In those bygone days when I was a free man not a lifer, clubs couldn't charge for sporting events on Sundays so they sold you a scoresheet and that allowed entry to the ground. The paying of players as coaches not players is the same sort of legalistic semantics. I'd like to call it another name but Mark runs a family programme and I have previous in the transgressing department. Anyway we can talk about shamateurism in a future lifer column when I'm allowed to get controversial again! I'd just like to tell what I thought was a funny story on the subject. In 2006 I had the choice between Burnley v Nelson (Worsley Cup final) or Clitheroe v Great Harwood (Ramsbottom Cup final). Like any self-respecting 'House supporter I went to the latter game at Back Lane, Baxenden. The always vociferous Great Harwood fan base started singing "we've only got one pro". This referred to Pandey the ex-Tod man. Not being a Ribb league expert I sought an explanation. I was told the club from Chatburn Road paid 3 of it's players. An eavesdropper said to his pal why do Clitheroe have 3 pros? Without batting an eyelid his mate said in a dry laconic voice "well they can't afford 4".

Let's hope 'House can continue their good recent performances against the leading sides. We gave East Lancs a mighty scare and like David we brought down the Goliath that is the Haslingden reptiles.

THE FUTURE

NEWS

Congratulations to Josh Lavin who in addition to having been selected for the County under 15s has trialed for the North of England.

Deepest commiserations to Jack Edgar who has suffered a reoccurrence of his knee problem and is likely to be out for the season.

Congratulations to Amelia Ripley and Maddy White who have been selected for Lancs under 17s girls, as under 14s.

Oliver Bayliff, Rhys Woodworth, Joe Martin, Jonny Whitehead, Josh Lavin, Dec Bailey and Ismael Khalil have all been approached to represent East Lancashire at the County under 16 Festival.

Jonny Whitehead, Fergus Bailey, and Joe Martin have been approached to play for the Lancashire league under 17 team v the XL club at Burnley on August 4th

Max Howells has left the club to join Padiham. Cricket manager Stan Heaton explained that Max felt that his opportunities were limited at Lowerhouse and that he needed a change of club to perhaps change his luck.

I have done my level best to persuade Max that a move was not necessary as he had pushed the door open here and it was just a case of stepping through it but I think he had set his heart on returning to his first club. He goes with our best wishes for his future.

LHCC 2XI - 193-8

Nelson 2XI - 194-2

Matt Walker 42
Rhys Woodworth 30
Oli Bayliff 29
Josh Lavin 20

Jack Herbert 2-40

A familiar theme in recent weeks. Still without many regulars the boys battled hard against a Nelson side that had the benefit of the experience and ability of couple of senior players.

Positives included the return of Matt Walker who with careful strapping can bat and field but is still unable to bowl ahead of his operation.

Nelson were very complimentary of our juniors who pushed Nelson to the final overs despite the victory looking an easy one.

Our ground fielding in particular was very good.

LHCC 3XI - 104 - all out

Enfield 107 - 3

Dec Bailey 28
Corey Hope 23
Matt Hay 19

A simply abject batting display with only a stand of 42 between Hay and Bailey to commend.

THE FUTURE

Continued

LHCC U15 Sharks 115- 7

Nelson U15 - 106-9

Dec Bailey 38
Ismael Khalil 24
Max Humberstone 12
Jack Herbert 11*

Josh Lavin 2-10
Ismael Khalil 2-12

Key early wickets thus removing the Nelson dangermen was the key to this victory. After early season depletions the side is now in full flow

Burnley U13 Full 89-9

LHCC 13 Panthers 93 - 1

James Ridehalgh 3- 19

Harry Spark 30*
Harry Halstead 27
Joe Bayliff 11*

Harry Spark enjoying a good opening partnership with Harry Halstead. The hard work was done with the bowling in restricting Burnley. A good fair game as usual against Phil Broadhurst's team with both sides using 7 bowlers each and sharing the play around each team

LHCC U11 Bears 268 - 4

Longridge u11 (1) 202-9

Christian Butschok - Brain 24*
Jack Moodie 13*
Danny Faulkner 13
Joe Halstead 10*

Joe Halstead 4-8
Christian Butschok- Brain 2-8

Despite a poor start with the bat the final pairs produced a defendable score. The bowling was sensational with the stumps struck no less than 8 times. Christian Butschok - Brain again reminded everyone of his invaluable contribution to the batting

Rawtenstall u11 (2) - 217 - 7

LHCC u11 Koalas 231 - 5

Aaron Morris 2-7
Laura Burrows 2- 11

Herbie Farnworth 14
Georgina Clough 10*

This team of novice cricketers continues to grow in confidence and stature. Successful debuts from Laura Burrows and Lauren Blackburn

LHCC 9s 263- 2

Baxenden u9 213 - 7

Ben Woodall 20*

Sam Harrison 2-6
Caleb Greenhalgh 2-8

4 players made debuts including 6 year old Jack Spence and 7 year old James Bridge who both put in good technical performances - as did other newcomers Harrison Yeoman and Josh Moodie. The older lads didn't disappoint either with Jake Turner producing a good all round performance especially in the field.

Ben Woodall added to his growing wicket keeping tally with 3 more victims.

LETTERS FROM A 'LIFER'

Continued

By Life-Long 'house' Fan Paul Hargreaves



It's the half-way stage of the Lancashire League season and it's time to take stock. When the year began we did a feature in the programme assessing prospects and now it's time to grade each team's efforts. Grades will be based not only on each team's performance, but also on what could be reasonably expected of them. A star performer will also be named for each team and we'll do our best not to go for professionals, at least where possible. I think a feature of the season for me has been the very ordinary bowling of the league's pro contingent but that as led to some high-scoring extravaganzas and we all tend to enjoy that. ACCRINGTON - undoubtedly the biggest disappointments. Graham Lloyd and David Ormerod are still leading the amateurs, albeit at a reduced level. No blame is attached to pro Will Driver, who is on pace for 1000 runs. After 2 Championship wins their place in the bottom half is shocking. Star man: Will Driver. Grade F.

BACUP - a young team that is struggling to compete. Their cup semi-final loss was heartbreaking and prevented confidence from building. Pro Michael Smith is highly promising and could be an Aussie international one day. There is little in the bowling to frighten opposing batsmen. Star man Paul Gallagher, a talented young opener. Grade: E.

BURNLEY - Along with Church they are unusually a better bowling team than batting. Their pro Behardien's knock of 175 in giving Rammy a mighty scare in the Cup semi will always be remembered by Turf Moor fans. In games where he has failed then any low score is possible (e.g.30 all out versus Church) B.Tripathi and James Capstick are having decent seasons. Star man: Behardien. Grade B minus.

CHURCH - A mid-table team who rely on pro Luke Woodcock's steady batting. Mirza and Fergusson, to be fair, give valuable support. Levi Woolfenden is as promising as any as a medium pace bowler. Their loss in the 20-20 final means their trophy drought remains by far the longest in the league. Star man: Andrew Bentley. Grade C plus.

COLNE - Disrupted by talisman Anwar Ali's late arrival their league campaign is disgracefully bad. Much of that is forgotten as they get the daunting task of going to Acre Bottom in the Worsley Cup final. Their amateur bowling is amongst the worst in the league. Star man: Matt Wilson, an entertaining see it-hit it batter who is having a great year. Grade D (a definite F without cup exploits.)

EAST LANCS - Dad's Army continue to march on. John Turner and veteran David Pearson are getting it done with the bat and Paul Kelly and Sid Patel with the ball. The disruption of their professional situation hasn't knocked them off course and they should contend all through the season's second half. Star man: John Turner. Grade A.

ENFIELD- Some teams allegedly play with more than one pro but to all intents and purposes this team play with none. For all that they impress as a team of triers and will finish several places off the bottom. Star man: Liam Jackson. Grade D plus.

HASLINGDEN - The reptiles are in strong contention again. Pro Phil Hayes, Steve Dearden and Graeme Knowles cement a formidable batting line-up. Dearden and Read lead the bowling which showed weakness against the 'House when they couldn't defend 263. Star man Steve Dearden. Grade A.

LOWERHOUSE - The 'House's problems are inconsistent batting (nobody over the 300 run mark) and bowling that rarely slows anybody down. That said young Fergus Bailey has been a revelation and Jonny Whitehead could be in that category too before long. Joe Beneduce rates a mention for clutch hitting and Chris Bleazard is still a feared opponent as he approaches 14000 league runs. Star man: Jonathan Finch is an easy pick. Grade C.

NELSON - I badly under-estimated Nelson and they are having a more than reasonable season. They share the wickets out with Halstead and Meade doing O.K. David Crotty is doing well with the bat but just misses star man which goes to Stuart Lemon. Grade B.

LETTERS FROM A 'LIFER'

Continued



RAMSBOTTOM- Winners of the Ron Singleton trophy, the 20- 20 cup and heavy favourites to retain the Worsley Cup. They are in a great position league-wise to pull off a unique quadruple. Jonathan Fielding is clearly the most effective bowler in the league and the only one who could attack the 100 wickets mark. Rammy's achilles heel is possibly in batting. Jamie Pilling isn't setting the league alight and they have had a few off-days in this department. Star man: Fielding is both Rammy's rock and cement. Grade A minus.

RAWTENSTALL- Another team doing better than expected. Just as he has for the last 90 years Keith Roscoe is Rocky's leading bowler. Andrew Payne is their major run-getter for the fortieth year running with young Rushmore showing enough to suggest he could take over in 30 years time. With the new clubhouse up and running Rawtenstall have plenty to smile about but can Payne and Roscoe(or clones of the two) go on forever?. Star man: the great K. Roscoe. Grade B minus.

RISHTON - Their South African pro Agathagelou looked a batter of ability in our first game of the season, until a great Joe Martin stumping led to his demise. He has played for Lancs seconds and it will be interesting to see if he follows Du Plessis by getting a contract with the County. Rishton is under-strengthened in amateur talent but Hamill may be a cricketer to note for the future. Star man: Agathagelou. Grade D.

TODMORDEN - Currently the hottest team in the league as they recover from a tardy start. Nick Barker and Simon Newbitt are productive batsmen but the story over the border is pro David Weise. He has 3 league centuries under his belt and over 40 wickets and rates the best player in the league (would J. Fielding the leading amateur be second?) Star man: Weise. Grade B.

It's only fair to grade myself on my pre-season predictions. I think I was right on the majority but these stand out as failures. I over-estimated Accy and Colne and did no justice to Nelson and Rocky. Grade C.

Let's hope for a great closely fought end to the league season which like last year, may well go to the final week, with all teams playing hard to the end. After all there's plenty of time for the players to rest and sleep come mid-September.

SPONSORSHIP

Lowerhouse CC are delighted to announce a ball sponsorship deal for the 2010 Lancashire League season with local company Runnerprint Winner.

Runnerprint Winner are probably Britain's premier supplier of screen and sublimation printed running vests to charitable organisations and athletic clubs and T-shirts to athletic events.



As part of a double deal, Runnerprint will also sponsor the 2010 T20 home games against Burnley and Todmorden.