

2001 Double Winners - Ashley Pamment

Any Scholes supporters who thought their team had reached a pinnacle in 2000 were to be rewarded even further in the 2001 season when the club in its 125th year went on to complete the championship of the Huddersfield League (now renamed the Premiership) and the 2nd XI championship completing surely the most successful season for the club ever.

As always changes to the squads had been made with Steve Whitwam one of the league's most promising young players joining from Golcar to replace Chris Stockdale. In pre season Scholes and KirkBurton were the fancied teams and when Scholes won at Chapelgate on the first day of the season the stage had been set once again for a successful season. Steady progress was maintained and Elland soundly beaten with the classy Wasim Jaffer again leading the assault of the league's bowling attacks. Apart from a setback at Delph and Dobcross in May no other league games were lost and around the halfway mark progress was being made on three fronts with victories also taking the club to another semi final place in the Sykes Cup for the third time in three seasons. Unfortunately an upset was on the cards as a rare Jaffer duck brought defeat at Lascelles Hall.

Through winning the league the previous year the club had once again entered the Yorkshire champions trophy and an early win against Easingwold from the York Senior League brought a home tie against the mighty Sheffield Collegiate of the Yorkshire League, the current National club champions. In an outstanding game Scholes were set over 260 to win and were victorious with a real team effort securing victory, (perhaps Scholes greatest ever?) in the final over. The semi final against the Bradford League champions Pudsey Congs produced another excellent game with Scholes just losing out to outstanding opponents.

Back in the title race the team were clear at the top and came into the penultimate weekend needing to complete victories at Elland and Delph to complete the second title in a row. A hard fought victory at Elland set up the home game with Delph the following day when in front of an expectant crowd Delph were close to spoiling the party until outstanding bowling spells from Andy Hutchison and Anthony Coldwell brought victory, joyous celebrations and the championship. Throughout the season Jaffer had again been the league's outstanding player averaging exactly 100 (1379 runs) and winning the Yorkshire Post overseas player of the year award. He had been ably supported by three other batsmen in the league's averages; Steve Whitwam (800), Dave Weston (750) and Nick Bisby (600). In a magnificent team effort however all the squad made vital contributions and fully deserved the Yorkshire Post team of the year award, which came their way.

It had been an outstanding year again in the life of Scholes CC and the club would forever be in the history books as the final winners of section A and the first winners of the new Drake's Premiership!

The Future

Sitting quietly watching the rain swirling around on a cool March afternoon, reflecting on the season which ended last September is a wonderful experience. Flicking through the tatty blue scorebook, mulling over victory after victory, performance after performance is great. Doubly satisfying is the knowledge that next month will be April and we all know what that means. Green wickets, shiny red corkies, new bats, pads, whitener, full bottles of shampoo. All these telling signs approach quicker than a speedy leg cutter. The "real" beautiful game is back.

On the face of it last season appears to have been a relatively smooth passage to another Championship – the first ever Premiership! The blue book doesn't lie as we encountered all our rivals and with apparent ease cruised through a season without drama, panic or event. If only that were true!

From first fixture to last, match-winning performances litter every game. Consistent achievements from every batsman, penetration from every bowler, the odd dropped catch (but not many), and an undying spirit and belief that sets us apart from the rest. In addition we managed to enjoy every minute of our Saturdays, playing cricket in the manner it was intended. Our achievements should be enjoyed. We have a great team and everyone knows their role. A quiet belief drew some games back from the abyss and a freedom of spirit enabled us to inflict the odd crushing defeat on bewildered opposition.

We were pushed all the way by determined opposition and a magnificent final weekend was needed against two sides who have their eyes on our crown.

Our approach will be similar, the opposition slightly different ...but the beautiful game remains the same. Let's all try to make the end result the same.

Good luck to everyone at the club!

We boast, in the present squad, more fantastic players like Simon Parkinson, Dave Weston, Steve Whitwam, Coddy (the legend – if you are reading this magazine in the year 2055 he's the one immortalised in the big statue outside the clubhouse),

Andrew Hutchison, Tom Weston, Nick Bisby, James Noble, Ian Bray, Kristian Whittaker and present Captain Ashley Pamment. With this squad we should be able to make the magic last a while longer.



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