

2nd eleven - Mel Booth

MUCH fun has been had by the second XI down the years — and much success. That is especially so since the club moved into the Huddersfield League, but many loyal servants played back in the 70s and 80s. At one time, the club had Dave Booth, Stuart Booth, Mel Booth, Steve Booth and Hedley Booth on the books, in addition to Daryl Brook, Nicky Brook and Brian Brook. While men like Brian Cartwright — a good player himself — gave backing as president and David Keys as chairman, lads like John 'hotdog' Roberts, Brian Hinchliffe, Toj Hinchliffe and some of the new juniors made up the Seconds. Players like Tony Copping, David Oliver, Neil Gledhill and Len Barson (from Holmfirth High) did good service, as did the likes of Roger Barritt, who also played in the senior side. Bert Hellawell was captain for many years and Steve Wadsworth his vice Mick Haigh, who tragically died a few years ago at the age of just 43, Ray Horrocks (who now does the ground) and others flitted between second team and first team along with the likes of Donald Ellis, who continued playing and plying his trade into the Huddersfield League — "they can't hit 'em a foot down't leg side" he would chortle. Ellis played in the club's first Huddersfield League final, the Paddock Shield at Broak Oak in 1990. The home side posted 240 plus and, after losing early wickets, it was too big an ask for Scholes, despite 66 from Mel Booth and 34 from Mark Turner. Scholes were back to win the trophy for the first time, however, two years later when — with a strong side including Ashley Pamment and Anthony Coldwell — they completed the double. Skelmanthorpe were vanquished on their own patch — David Wild scoring a 50, Paul Hertzberg breaking a thumb and Pamment (who claimed valuable wickets) barging over Bevis Moynan in one famous incident. Skipper John Belfield picked up the Shield. By the mid 90s, Belfield had become more influential with the ball than the bat — he often opened for the first team in Central League days with plenty of success — and he was in the team which recorded perhaps their most remarkable success in 1996 — the year the firsts picked up the Sykes Cup for the first time. Playing a highly-fancied Elland in the Paddock Shield final at Chapel gate, Scholes were struggling to what looked like a total of only 120 or 130 when Ervin Clarke launched the sort of onslaught you remember for ever (like Steve Booth against Armitage Bridge when promotion was won to the top flight). Clarke smashed six after six off Nolan Bottomley to finish with 37 not out and lead his team to 164. Elland made steady progress towards the target and, in the last over, Ian Westoby clouted Steve Booth so that only four were needed from the last two deliveries. Booth bowled last man Rob Keywood to spark a delirious pitch invasion. Clarke, who also had four wickets, was rightly voted man of the match. Perhaps the most intriguing season of all was 1998 when the 2nd XI competed in Section B against 1st XI's. Most people feared the worst but the club's strength was revealed for all to see as victory after victory propelled the team as high as 3rd before finally finishing a very creditable 6th. The Shield win against Skelmanthorpe in 1998 was

much more straightforward — Johnny Doman taking seven wickets — while the Seconds were unlucky to lose out in the final to Honley in 2000, going down by just one run. It's in the League where the Seconds have been most productive of late, winning the title in 1999 and again in 2001, with the bowling of Clarke and Booth prominent and the batting of prolific Nicky Brook instrumental. His sons Tom and Josh played against Golcar in 2001, so the family line at Scholes is set to continue for many years. In 2002 Glen Swindell takes over as captain, the time has now come to develop new young talent to take Scholes to future glory!



**FIRTH PARISH
FINANCIAL SERVICES LIMITED**

**Robert Keywood
Director**

5 Eldon Place, Bradford, BD1 3AU

Telephone: 01274 727767 Fax: 01274 308313 Mobile: 0777 5507111

e-mail: robert.keywood@pimail.co.uk

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