

THE 3RD TEAM — 1997 - 2008

The idea of forming a 3rd team, discussed at length in 1997 before it went ahead, was a bold step forward which has paid huge dividends for the club. This attractive ground at Ripley St. Thomas School became, and has remained, the team's "home".



The first match was played on 2nd May 1998, and the victory over Milnthorpe 2nd not only brought great delight but also demonstrated the basis of the team's value to the club: young David Bradshaw with 37 was the top scorer, and veteran Bill Jacques took 4/8 off 11 overs. This balance of youth and experience has remained the underlying structure of the team. Good results and individual performances continued throughout the first season. Among the young bowlers were 14-year-old Tom Jacques (29 wickets ave. 11.69, best 5/21), David Bradshaw with 8/28 v Forbo and Tom Battarbee with 3/4 v Bentham 2nd. Danny Hagen, who was to play for Lancashire 2nd XI a few years later, made 34no v Holme 2nd. But no-one could do better than the old master, for Bill Jacques' 35 wickets in league matches only cost 155 runs and he was top of the divisional averages. There were 12 wins from 18 matches, and 2nd place in Division 5 meant promotion after only one season. The standard of play in the higher division provided a much greater challenge and we had few easy victories, but the young players undoubtedly gained from this. In 1999 and 2000 two senior players who were to contribute much in the future began to appear regularly for the 3rd team, namely Graham Rand and Simeon Glen.

Relegation back to the 5th division for the 2001 season restored the team's fortunes in the sense that 9 of the 12 league games were won, but there were too many very weak opponents for there to be a true feeling of fulfilment. It was the year of the Foot & Mouth crisis and some games were cancelled. Nevertheless there were some good personal performances, and subsequent seasons showed that these were a real indication of ability. Ben Hornby and Graeme Swindlehurst had fifties, and with his father Geoff, Ben (74) contributed to an opening stand of 133 at Arnside. Graham Rand's 40 wickets at 5.23 provided a foretaste of the late blooming in his remarkable career. We received the John Thexton Memorial Trophy which is awarded to the divisional champions obtaining the highest percentage of the available points.

The 5th division was abolished for the 2002 season, so there were 18 clubs in an expanded Division 4, and it was a splendid achievement to finish 2nd, only 4.5 points behind the leaders. Promotion was denied because the 2nd XI were still in Division 3. Against Kendal 3rd on 6th May, Alan Mouldsdale (98no) and Tony Richmond (38) added 109 for the 5th wicket in a total of 203/6. Ben Hornby took the batting award for the season, and Graham Rand was again foremost with 31 wickets, ave. 10.00.



15-year-old Ben Collins
his 9 wickets for 2 runs
is the best analysis
in the club's history

In 2003 Russell Parkinson played in many of the matches, scoring 461 runs in the league, including 118no in a stand of 133 for the 3rd wicket with Ben Hornby (58) against Cartmel 2nd, and 100 against Bentham A. In that match he was joined by Stephen Yates (104no off 61 balls) in a 2nd wicket stand of 138. Graham Rand had another fine season with 36 wickets at 6.61, and among the junior players doing well was Ben Collins. It was to be Ben in 2004 whose bowling feat hit the headlines when he took 9 for 2 against Morecambe 4th, beating the 9 for 4 achieved by Billy Wildman* in the 3rd division of the Lancaster and District League in 1930. Another headline came for Scott Lee who hit 143no at Netherfield. In 2004 Graham Rand again captured the bowling honours with 37 wickets at 6.54.

*According to some handbooks of the Lancaster & District league, Billy Wildman took 9 for 2 against Halton in 1951. This is incorrect, for we still have the scorebook which credits him with not nine but seven wickets. In an interview with the Lancaster Guardian in 1954 he did not claim this as his best bowling performance, but instead mentioned 9 for 13 v Halton in 1949. He seemed to have forgotten his 9 for 4 in 1930!

The 3rd XI finished in a modest position in the 4th division in 2005, though it was a year bringing some outstanding individual performances. Geoff Hornby had some excellent innings, including 80 at Ripley against Bolton-le-Sands, and Simeon Glen hit 90 in the cup v Bare 2nd and 98 in the league v Holme 2nd. Stephen Yates hit 125 and Graham Wilson 50 out of a massive 254/4 off 25 8-ball overs in the cup against Silverdale. There was good bowling by young bowlers, particularly David Jack, but the best analysis was Chris Kinson's 7 for 6 v Bare 2nd. Stephen Yates won the batting, and Kev Buckley the bowling, awards for the season.

Simeon Glen was in great form in 2006, and Graham Rand's bowling (45 wickets at 8.87) was once again a model for the young players, among whom Matthew Liptrott, Matthew Jones and Alex Bantleman did well. Sunil Cherukuri hit 99 v Carnforth 3rd, and Geoff Hornby had another good season with 373 runs at 24. 87. In 2007 Graham Rand (35 wickets at 8.46) and Mike Bailey (35 at 9.29) dominated the bowling, and Simeon Glen was again the leading batsman. But the innings best remembered was Bill Jacques' 57no at Kirkby Lonsdale. Kirkby had scored 152 (G Rand 6/55, W Jacques 2/17) and Shireshead were struggling at 98/8 when Bill was joined by Matthew Liptrott. By this time Bill needed a runner, but he batted securely and Matthew played faultlessly for 27no, victory coming in the 42nd over. Tom Jacques, returned from studies in the USA, hit a commanding 109 v Leven Valley on 1st September.

The 3rd XI climbed to fifth in the 4th division in 2008 and there were some outstanding personal achievements. Liam Parkinson scored 200 runs without conceding his wicket on 24 & 26 May. In a league match at Arnside he reached 112no, adding 152 for the 5th wicket with Peter Dodd (35no), then on the Monday in the cup v Carnforth 3rd, his 88no contributed to a 3rd wicket stand of 158 with John Bleasdale (52no). Robert Skipworth hit 86 at Heysham, John Bleasdale struck 81 at Coniston, and there were some spirited innings by captain Tony Richmond. Once again, however, the reliable performances of Geoff Hornby took the batting award. Mike Bailey had a good season with the ball including a hat-trick v Trimpell 3rd, but yet again Graham Rand topped the averages with 30 wickets at only 3.17. As far as we can ascertain, this is the lowest seasonal average by any bowler in any division since the formation of the South Lakeland/Westmorland league in 1975.

For the 3rd XI, from 1998 (when he played in one game) to 2008, Graham took 322 wickets at an average of 7.58.



THE 3RD XI AT BARE IN 2007 ON THE OCCASION OF GRAHAM RAND'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

Ben Collins Edward Phillips Chris Gardner Ainslie Pye Simeon Glen Sam Clarkson Lee Mallion Margaret Mansfield (scorer)
Simon Brayfield Graham Rand Tony Richmond Peter Dodd



GRAHAM RAND BOWLING ON HIS 60TH BIRTHDAY

Earlier he had taken the wicket of John Leamon with his first ball of the day