

1997 — REBUILDING CAN BE FUN!

There was no despondency in the air following the relegation, and the 1st XI, with captain Mark Sutcliffe, set about the task of returning to the 1st division without delay. From the outset they were top of the table and they completed the season undefeated in the league, and won the divisional cup. Tim Mansfield (711 runs at 30.9, 51 wickets at 8.35) had a great season, and Phil Oliver made his presence felt with bat and ball, scoring his maiden century and finishing at the top of the divisional bowling averages. Terry Dickinson had 33 wickets in the league at just 10.30, and Michael Armstrong found great form, hitting 4 fifties. At Trimpell on 30th August 524 runs were scored, a record run aggregate for the league (Shireshead 360/8, P Oliver 107 off just 44 balls, T Mansfield 88, M Sutcliffe 71no; Trimpell A 164/8, P Yates 3/42). Paul Yates (60) led the way in the league cup final as Shireshead made 136/9, before dismissing Coniston for 39 (P Oliver 3/13).



WINNERS OF THE 2ND DIVISION CUP IN 1997

Angela Murphy (scorer) Chris Kinson Mike Park Tim Mansfield Simon Moulson Brian Danson Michael Armstrong
Harry Murphy (wk) Steve Parkinson Phil Oliver Paul Yates (capt) Terry Dickinson

1997 was a poor season for the 2nd team and they narrowly avoided relegation, but the home match against Sedbergh was notable, for Matthew Yates (50) and Andrew Cragg (102) added 157 for the 3rd wicket.

The Village Knockout provided a memorable location for a match in early May 1998. The ground at Foulridge is on a hill, and slopes so steeply on one side that a fielder on the boundary can scarcely see the action in the middle. Paul Yates (52) and Mark Sutcliffe (92) contributed 143 off 30 overs for the 1st wicket, then Phil Oliver had 5 sixes in his 41no, as Shireshead reached 257/4 off 40 overs. The home side were then dismissed for 90 by Simon Moulson (5/20) and Danny Hagen (4/14). There followed wins against Silverdale (Tim Mansfield 4/22) and Sedgwick, where Paul Yates made 73, leading to a good contest against Salesbury in the area final when Shireshead successfully chased 160 with 2 overs to spare. This led to a visit from Wolviston in County Durham on July 5th which we lost by 33 runs, but once again in this competition we had enjoyed the opportunity of encountering a team from a different part of the country. In the league, the 1st XI did well back in the 1st division, finishing 3rd, and Mike Park enjoyed a good season with bat and ball. The 2nd team improved on the previous season, finishing in mid-table in the 3rd division, with John Coates (batting) and Chris Kinson (bowling) leading the way.

In 1999 the 1st XI finished in fourth position, and the 2nd XI in 6th. It was a prolific season for some of the batsmen. Phil Oliver for the 1sts, and John Coates and Brian Danson for the 2nds, each scored over 500 runs in league matches. At home against Sedgwick, Phil hit eight sixes in a 40-ball 85no, Brian Danson took a huge 146 off Esthwaite Vale, and John Coates was unlucky to fall for 97 against Provincial. Progress was good in the Hackney & Leigh KO until the semi-final at Coniston, when A Knipe (50) and Gus Fryer (95) hit out and Paul Yates was the most unfortunate among our bowlers, conceding seven sixes in two 8-ball overs. Despite the high target of 175, Michael Armstrong and Mike Park batted well and we fell short by only 15 runs. The most notable single performance of 1999 was Tony O'Mahony's 9/24 against Carnforth in a 3rd division league match at Clifton Park on 21st August.

The new millennium began with another satisfactory 4th position for the 1st XI, and a modest but safe place for the 2nds. Mark Sutcliffe had a splendid year in the 1st XI, scoring 498 runs at 41.50 in the league, and 619 in all matches. He ended the season with four 50s in consecutive innings. Other big contributors were Michael Armstrong and Colin Twiname, and yet again Mike Park impressed as an all-rounder. It was, however, Sean Twiname who took the 1st team bowling award with some good performances late in the season, including 6/35 at Bare. There was a dramatic 1-run victory at Clifton Park, when Arnside were bowled out by Tim Mansfield (4/38) and Phil Oliver (5/23). Chasing 133 to win, Arnside were confident at 131/7 as Phil began the final over, but he achieved a hat-trick, all clean bowled, with his first 3 balls. For the 2nds, young Tom Battarbee made 340 runs at 37.78, with a top score of 95, and Dave Jack and Chris Kinson were the leading bowlers. The 2nds had a good run in the divisional cup, with wins over Heysham, Holme (S Moulson 6/15) and Bentham, but lost to Sedgwick in the final at Warton.

With only seven wins in 2001, the 1st team were 9th in the league, though well above the danger zone. It was a good year for the Twinames: Colin had five 50s and topped the averages, and Sean had 30 wickets in league matches. Yet again it was Phil Oliver who dominated as a bowler, but Paul Yates also took over 30 wickets and had a good time with the bat. For the 2nds, Alan Mouldsdale topped the batting averages, but it was young Tom Jacques who attracted the greatest attention with several splendid innings, including 88 against Carnforth. Nick Green was unlucky to be dismissed for 99 at Holme on 4th August.



**THE 1ST XI IN 1998 ON THE OCCASION OF THE MATCH AGAINST WOLVISTON IN
THE VILLAGE KO**

Umpire Colin Twiname Phil Oliver Paul Yates Mike Park Tim Mansfield Matthew Yates Harold Thompson Umpire
Angela Murphy (scorer) Michael Armstrong Mark Sutcliffe (capt) Terry Dickinson Simon Moulson Harry Murphy (wk)

The 2nd team appeared in the 3rd division cup finals for three consecutive years from 2000-2002. They had lost to Sedgwick in 2000 and again in 2001, and there was delight when Andrew Cragg led his team to a memorable 66-run victory over Warton in the final at Heysham on 15th September 2002. For Shireshead, John Coates (60) and Simon Moulson paved the way to a challenging 171, then a superb bowling performance from Dave Jack (5/21) won the day after Warton, proceeding well at 92/2 in the 15th over, were reduced to 93/6 by the end of the 16th. In the league, Tim Mansfield was the leading batsman with a top score of 84, and there were fine bowling performances by Dave Jack and Alan Mouldsdales.

The 1st XI improved slightly in 2002, climbing to 7th position with seven wins. Phil Oliver hit a spectacular 93 off 75 balls with 6 sixes at home against Westgate in the first match on 27th April. Shireshead won by just 14 runs, and there had been much pleasure when Sean Twiname bowled Peter Wilson for a duck. Of all the players encountered in the league, it is Peter Wilson who has been the bane of Shireshead over the past decade. In June 2001 he took 5/56, then scored 93 in our defeat by 6 wickets. It was specially gratifying that Phil exactly matched that innings on this occasion. Mike Park with 342 runs at 24.43 and a top score of 72 was the leading batsman in league games. The Village Knockout on 4th June was a true nail-biter. Shireshead had scored 137 (S Holmes 40, P Oliver 29) and Salesbury were strongly placed at 130/6 as Tim Mansfield (6/18) began the final over. His first three balls produced wickets, one bowled and two deftly stumped by Steve Holmes. Then the no.11 batsman squeezed a single, to give J Wharton (82no) the opportunity to hit out and win the match off the last ball.

In 2003 the 1st XI won only 4 league games and finished 10th, just avoiding relegation. This was despite some excellent batting during the season, particularly from Colin Twiname and Michael Armstrong. Colin had only partially recovered from a severe facial injury sustained during a match when he contributed a superb 128 to a total of 244, but Warton nevertheless won the game by four wickets. Michael made 119 against the strong attack at Windermere, but we failed to overhaul their massive 292/8. The 2nd XI won 11 league matches and finished in 3rd position, thanks to some splendid batting by the very popular Queenslander Eugene Diatloff (327 runs at 46.71) and the dependable John Coates (428 at 32.92). John Asquith took 34 wickets at an average of 8.76, and once again Dave Jack was always menacing.

The 1st XI remained in the lower half of the table in 2004, with just 5 wins. Colin Twiname had another good season, with 526 runs at 25.05 and a top score of 84, but the other batsmen did not perform at their best. Phil Oliver took 39 wickets at 10.95 and the leg-spin of David Carter brought him 34 wickets in league matches. The 2nd XI continued to improve and gained a very well-deserved promotion. A huge contribution came from the spin combination of Alan Mouldsdales (39 wickets at 8.95) and captain Simon Moulson (38 at 8.97). Tim Mansfield had innings of 93 and 104no, heading the divisional averages with 48.00, and John Coates and Keith Oldham made substantial contributions including a fine 2nd wicket stand of 106 at Windermere. It was encouraging to see fine performances from young players such as Duncan Singh's 59 v Arnside at Clifton Park. On 14th August at Arnside, the home team were bowled out for 53, and thanks to Mike Whalley's explosive 47no, we won by 10 wickets in only 5.3 overs.

Windermere had finished 3rd in the first division in 2004, and were to become champions in 2005, but they must have had some misgivings about their chances after their encounter with Phil Oliver (8/8 off 9.3 overs) in the first match at Clifton Park in April 2005. In truth, this was one of only six league games won by Shireshead in that season, compared with 17 by Windermere, and yet there was much to give encouragement for the future. Mark Sutcliffe scored a splendid 92 against Sedgwick, then in the sunshine at Arnside on 20th August, Tom Battarbee, back from Oxford University, hit an inspiring 134no (17 fours) in an opening stand of 169 with Michael Armstrong (66). This was Michael's highest in a season of great consistency which brought him 411 runs (ave 27.40) in the league. Paul Yates and young Ben Hornby also did well with the bat, and once again the dependable Mike Park headed the bowling with 36 wickets in the league at 10.72. After the spectacular start, Phil Oliver had a modest season by his high standards, but he reminded us of his charisma at Kirkby Lonsdale on 27th August when, coming in when the loss of two quick wickets had left the score on a precarious 95/8, he hit 74 in 37 minutes with ten fours and four sixes, to add an unbroken 113 for the 9th wicket with Tim Mansfield (30no). In the Hackney & Leigh all-club KO, there was another victory over Windermere on 5th June after Mike Park hit a splendid 79no, but defeat followed at the hands of Westgate in the next round. Despite Mike Park's splendid bowling (6/17 off 5 overs) in a 20/20 evening contest in the Village KO, we lost by one run to Kirkby-in-Furness.



Colin Twiname

2006 brought a climb of two positions to 4th in the league for the 1st XI, with nine wins and two winning draws. There was some splendid batting, led by Colin Twiname (112no v Bare), Phil Oliver, Paul Yates and Michael Armstrong. In the league it was a season for the spin bowlers, where Alan Mouldsdale (42 league wickets at 10.79) was often pivotal, but was well supported by David Carter whose best was 6/23 in the Village KO against Sedgwick. This was the first win in an outstanding progression in that competition. The next round was at Burneside, where 169/9 proved too good for the hosts as Phil Oliver took 4/15 and David Carter 3/17. This led to a visit to Kirkby-in-Furness, where Tom Battarbee (78) and Paul Yates (53) added 127 for the 3rd wicket in a total of 201/6. In reply, Kirkby fell for 112 (Alan Mouldsdale 4/34, Mike Park 3/20) and this win gave us the area championship, and a next round in Northumberland on the beautifully located ground beside the castle in Warkworth. Here, Phil Oliver's innings was so remarkable that it will remain in the club's memory for many years, and the home team and spectators are unlikely to forget it. He came to the wicket at 110/5 and remained for only 34 minutes, enough time to hit ten sixes and two fours in a score of 81*. Stories soon proliferated about the castle receiving its worst bombardment for over 500 years! This victory took Shireshead to their furthest stage in the Village KO in the club's history, and there was great excitement about the visit of Houghton Main from South Yorkshire — and perhaps there were more than a few visions of a trip to Lord's. Houghton Main scored 159 (Phil Oliver 5/57), by no means a formidable total, but Shireshead began disastrously and by the 16th over the score was 48/7. However, Colin Twiname (66) was still there and with Tim Mansfield (40) the two "veterans" added 80 for the 8th wicket, and Shireshead finished on 140. Houghton Main went on to Lord's where they were winners. There have since been many "if only" debates, but also a feeling that the ultimate honour for a village club is not entirely beyond our reach.

*Phil's exploits bring to mind three encounters we had in the Village KO with "Big Joe Rooney" of Cleator Moor. This red-headed giant was interviewed in 2007: *"Once we were playing in the village competition at a place called Shireshead. It was rain affected and they got a decent score. Geoff Kelly was batting for us but there was only half a dozen overs left, we needed 40 odd runs and it was getting darker and darker. I shouted to Geoff 'stand on your wicket or get yourself run out or we are not going to win this match'. Geoff shouted back 'I can't do it' but he got caught on the boundary and I got in. It was six, six and six, some of our lads went into the next field to retrieve the ball."*

Yes Joe, we remember it well — it was 30th June 1985. You scored 37 in 17 minutes before you were bowled by Stuart Dennison. Cleator won that game, but we won in 1990 with Ray Blackwell!

After the excitement in the Village KO in 2006, we were back to basics against Threlkeld at Clifton Park on 22 April 2007. The visitors scored a commendable 214/7, and after an opening stand of 58 in 36 minutes by Colin Twiname (38) and Michael Armstrong (36), wickets fell at regular intervals. But Ray Riley (50 off 53 balls) kept the innings together and a little flourish at the end brought the score to 214/6. Unfortunately this narrowest of wins, on fewer wickets, was to no avail, for it was followed by defeat at Burneside. The main features of 2007 were, however, the greatest success in the league since 1990, and victory in the 1st division cup. The match at Warton on 5th May was a crucial one. It marked the first appearance of a 21-year-old Indian all-rounder who was to become the outstanding player of the season.



Rahil Shah
It's not snow—it's the rolled up covers at Sedgwick!

Rahil Shah had played cricket at a high level in India, and was taking a postgraduate course at Lancaster University. In this match his left-arm spin bowling (alongside a fine spell by Alan Mouldsdale) nearly brought us victory, but Warton scraped home by just one wicket. This narrow defeat was to look very costly at the end of the season.



Alan Mouldsdale

The league game at Westgate demonstrated the value of high-class spinners. Shireshead managed only 109, but from the outset Westgate struggled and settled for a draw with 88/8 off 45 overs. Rahil's figures were 21-7-38-4, and this exceptional economy became familiar throughout the season. In the opener of the Hackney & Leigh against Cartmel, another visitor from India, Sunil Cherukuri, excelled with 4/9. Then in the next round, after Windermere had scored 154/7, Michael Armstrong (65no) and Rahil (73no) made 157/0 in 21.2 overs. In the league against Bolton-le-Sands on 16th June, young Robert Jacques hit an imposing 58no, and for Rahil the outstanding league performance was at Kirkby Lonsdale where he hit 72 and took 7/17. Defeat by Westgate brought an end to hopes of winning the Hackney & Leigh trophy, but all went well in the Oversands 1st division cup. The final was at Silverdale on 5th August and Shireshead made a useful 154/7 (Colin Twiname 42) and the star-studded Warton side capitulated to the spin of Robert Jacques (5/28). But finishing in 2nd place in the league, just 6 points behind Warton, brought that early defeat to mind.

2008 was a disappointment for the 1st XI after the excitement of the previous season, though with eight wins and just four defeats leading to 4th position in the league it was a strong performance. There were some very good personal achievements. Tom Jacques' off-spin destroyed Sedgwick in the first match, and his 8/32 may be the best by a slow bowler for the club in modern times. Two weeks later, Tom scored 95 off 105 balls v Arnside, and followed this with 4/59. Phil Oliver hit 60no off 34 balls in a cup match against Trimpell, who were quickly bowled out by Phil Savage and Tom Jacques. Paul Yates bowled only occasionally, but took 5/13 to crush Ambleside, and David Jack (jr) had a fine spell (4/26) at Arnside. It was, however, the pace bowling of Phil Savage that dominated the second half of the season. His 7/28 against Milnthorpe's very strong batting line-up was outstanding, and he fully deserved the 1st team's bowling award for his season's achievement. Once again, the batting honours went to Colin Twiname who made 444 runs at 31.71, but Tom Jacques had 484 at 24.20 and for this and his fine bowling was Player-of-the-Year.



Tom Jacques



Phil Savage

2005 to 2008: THE 2ND XI IN DIVISION TWO

The team's previous experience in this division had not been comfortable, but two wins to begin 2005 provided some reassurance. John Asquith had 48no in the first, and took 5/15 in the second. On 14th May at Netherfield, Simon Moulson had a personal best 122no in a score of 212/2, but the game ended as a draw. Shireshead made only 107/6 off 45 overs at Westgate, but this proved enough as the opposition were bowled out for 102, Liam Parkinson taking 5/24 in 12 overs. There was an overwhelming win over Cartmel in the divisional cup (Shireshead 155, Cartmel 45 [Tom Jacques 3/8, Ben Collins 3/24]). Ray Riley hit a fine 62 in a win at Trimpell, followed by 59 at home against Netherfield as Mark Sutcliffe (75no) led a successful run chase. Robert Charles made 59 at Ambleside, then Tom Jacques hit eight sixes in quick time to reach 107 in the cup against Ibis. The batting of the young players impressed, but Alan Mouldsdale took the bowling honours, heading the divisional averages with 61 wickets at 9.23.

Phil Savage began 2006 with 5/29 against Bolton-le-Sands and continued to bowl well all season. There were fewer notable personal performances, but Phil Oliver in a special appearance against Milnthorpe at Clifton park hit 80no with 6 sixes. In a high-scoring game against Warton, we failed by only 3 runs to overhaul their 236/6, despite a fine 64 from Mark Sutcliffe. Duncan Singh hit 66no against Netherfield, and Robert Jacques had 5/38 at Ingleton. In 2007 there was some fine batting from the younger players (fifties from Robert Jacques, Duncan Singh, Tom Jacques, Graham Wilson and David Jack who won the batting award). There was delight when Jack Dodd took 6/57 at Coniston, then made a patient 10no in a 10th wicket partnership of 52 with David Jack (45no) to bring the narrowest of victories. The highest score of the season was 268 against Cartmel in the last game, who replied with 153 all out. For the second season running, Malcolm Taylor took the bowling award.

2008 began with dismissals for 36, 46 & 79 in the first three matches, leading to overwhelming defeats. But then there was some memorable batting, beginning with Graeme Swindlehurst's 118 against Ibis, followed by Sunil Cherukuri's 114 v Cartmel. After Simon Moulson hit 73, Warton were bowled out cheaply by Graham Rand (6/15). Considering the dreadful start, finishing 3rd place in the league, and enjoying the best ever season for the 2nd XI, was a brilliant achievement.



TEN OF THE PROMINENT 2ND XI PLAYERS IN 2008

Chris Kinson Simon Moulson Duncan Singh Graeme Swindlehurst John Coates Sunil Cherukuri Phil Savage
Simeon Glen Jack Dodd David Jack