



**Emley Clarence Cricket Club**

Upper Lane, Emley, Huddersfield. Est. 1887

[www.emleyclarence.org.uk](http://www.emleyclarence.org.uk)

# JUNIORS TASTE SUCCESS



Emley Clarence's junior section emerged four years ago when the club advertised cricket for youngsters around Emley and the surrounding villages. The initiative was to be an enormous success.

This success was evidenced when last season, the under 9s team won the end of season Champions of Champions tournament to be declared the best Under 9s team in Huddersfield.

By the time the new season begins in May 2009, the club hope and predict to have somewhere in the region of 50 or 60 juniors all signed on for the club. This would be their biggest season to date in terms of numbers and will allow more competition for places, ultimately resulting in an improved standard of cricket.

Craig Stratford, one of the junior coaches talked about retaining the junior players. 'That [retention] is the aim of the juniors, to feed them into the 2nd XI and then hopefully through to the 1st team.' This is a key issue in local sport, especially at junior level; it is increasingly difficult to hold on to young players over a long period of time.

One of the fundamental problems is that, currently, Emley don't have a team that could bridge the gap between the juniors and the 2nd XI. Stratford says: 'If you have an under 17s, it is a lot easier to feed the players through into the seniors because that's the usual age for them to progress.' He continues: 'Having said that, we currently have three or four players in the under-15s who are ready for the step up to the 2nd team.'

Currently, Emley run teams for under 9s, 11s, 13s and 15s, which means a high level of dedication from the coaches and many other people at the club. That commitment to the cause is a huge part of the junior set-up. 'We need to start getting all the parents to come and watch and get them more involved in the juniors set-up. It helps if the support is there from outside the club as well as from the coaches.'

## SEASON 2009

# Plans afoot for new clubhouse

The vast majority of Clarence's sponsorship emanates from local businesses around Emley and the surrounding villages. Over the years, welcome contributions have been received from local businesses and restaurants - the acquisition of these stemming literally from a 'knock-on-door' request!

The money provided is used to fund the running of the club throughout the year, fund the promotion of the junior section and will also contribute towards the plans afoot to extend the club's current pavilion.

It is projected that the new clubhouse at the ground will cost the club in the region of £30,000. Although daunting, this isn't a figure which is unrealistic, especially with the help of sponsorship, fundraisers and external funding. The club have submitted an application for some more funding through grants to help us build the clubhouse. It's important because it will allow the club to start making money from our own facilities.



The clubhouse, along with a newly-fitted bar, will be the foundation of Emley's independent-funding source and, although financially overwhelming at this point, it will hopefully develop to be a worthwhile investment. However, if Emley are to maintain their success in the near future, it is clear that fundraising and sponsorship

Current sponsors include:-

- Kingfisher Restaurant and Takeaway
- Shire Timber & Truss Limited
- Simpson Wood Chartered Accountants
- Wyder Engineered Timber Systems Limited
- HD Connect Limited
- Hoyer UK Limited
- Howarth Timber Limited
- Emley Food and Wines Store

## CLUB OFFICIALS

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