

CRICKET

Focus on - Bridgeholme

Nothing run of the mill at Station House

This is the latest in our series on Calderdale clubs, produced by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University. It will continue every Saturday through the summer.

THERE is no place called Bridgeholme, so how did Bridgeholme Cricket Club acquire its name?

The club originated directly from local industry in Eastwood, near Todmorden.

The cricket teams from Moss Brothers, Bridgeroyd Mills and J.J.Tatham Ltd, Nanholme Mills, joined forces to form one club in 1950.

The name 'Bridgeholme' was invented by combining the names 'Bridgeroyd' and 'Nanholme'.

These two mills still exist today, although Nanholme is now re-named Springholme and is owned by Pickwell-Arnold.

The club had no ground during its first season in 1951 - its only year in the Todmorden and District League - and played all matches away.

Preparation of the Station House ground next to the Hebden Bridge-Todmorden road had been underway since the summer of 1952.

Drainage, levelling and the laying of the square had been the priorities.

In January 1954 an application to enter the Halifax Parish Cup was rejected, in part because the ground was deemed 'unfit'.

However, five months later Bridgeholme were selected to host the Hebden Bridge League's knockout final between Heptonstall Slack and Birchcliffe.

Further improvements saw the club admitted to the Parish Cup and Halifax League for 1956.

Bridgeholme played their first match in the Halifax League at Blackley on Saturday 21 April 1956, losing by 45 runs.

For most of the next four decades, Bridgeholme played in the Halifax Amateur Cricket Association.

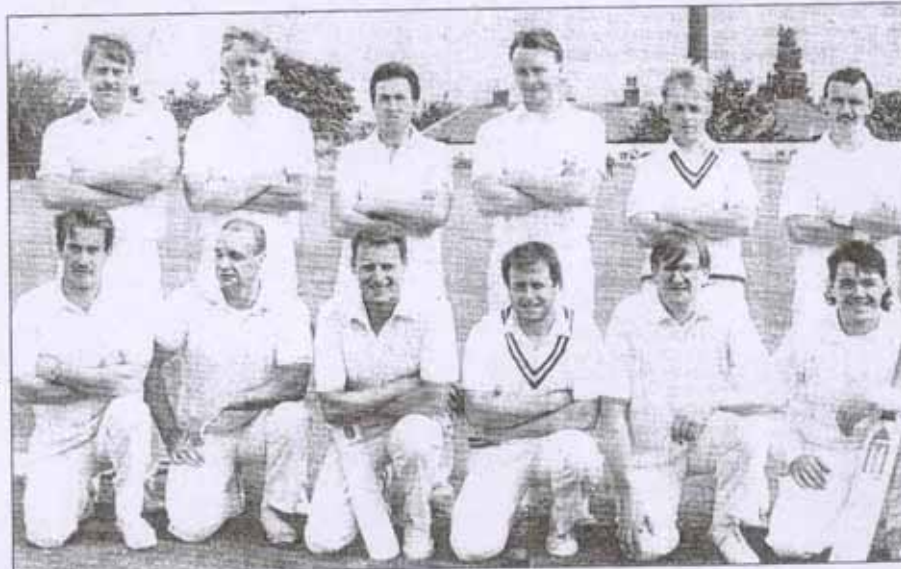
But the resignation of Barkisland from the Halifax League in 2000 left a vacancy in that competition.

Bridgeholme applied and were willingly re-admitted.

All the omens seemed right. They fulfilled all the criteria of playing on their own ground, having a good pitch and running two teams.

Bridgeholme do not have an official nickname but they are often referred to as 'Todmorden's Cinderella Club'.

The last of the town's many all-amateur clubs, Bridgeholme are somewhat dwarfed by the town's other two clubs, Todmorden and Walsden, but they now hold



Proud: Bridgeholme's 1991 Collinson Cup winning side

their own.

Also, in Keith Hudson they have one of the hardest working stalwarts in the Halifax League and in Station House one of the most attractive and well appointed cricket grounds in Calderdale.

The future looks very bright.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1950
Ground: Station House
Greatest Moment: Rejoining the Halifax League
Local Hero: Keith Hudson - award-winning club stalwart

Bizarre Fact: In their first ever match, Bridgeholme bowled Cross Stone out for 19!