

Meltham Mill's exact beginnings are unknown, but it is believed that the club came into existence in the 1840s. They had their headquarters in a large field near to Thickhollins Hall, and after a few years there, they moved to Thickhollins Park. In 1861, they transferred their activities to the ground at Meltham Mills, where Lawton's Carpets now stands.

Not much is known of the early days of the club, save that they were one of the leading clubs in the district, and were considered good enough to play all the best teams in this part of the county. In the late 1860s clubs were beginning to engage professional cricketers, and Meltham Mills engaged as professional Ephriam Lockwood, of Lascelles Hall,

Foremost among the earlier cricketers of the club was one Joe Hirst, who played with the side for over thirty years. As late as 1893 "Old Joe" as he was known turned out with the "Millers" in Lumb Challenge Cup-ties.

In 1893 extensive improvements were made to the ground, and to defray the large expenditure incurred in these, a bazaar was held which was opened by Colonel Charles Brook director of Messrs Jonas Brook & Bros. The improvements were stated to be necessary, and consisted of relaying the entire ground and completely fencing it in.

Meltham Mills were original members of the Huddersfield and District League, and in the year of the League's formation they finished, in the third place with 22 points. Armitage Bridge and Slai-thwaite tied for first place with 24 points.

Meltham Mills headed the League in 1895, which was the first season medals were presented to the winners.

They played two memorable matches in this season with the runners up—Armitage Bridge. The first which was played at Armitage Bridge, was remarkable for a sixth wicket stand, between Sam Malthouse (the professional) and Charley Johnson, who came together when five wickets had fallen for 44 runs, and took the score to 271 without being defeated. The other match was played at Meltham Mills and was remarkable for the low scores made by each side. Armitage Bridge had the assistance of R. Moorhouse and Schofield Haigh and Meltham Mills had Thomas Henry Hirst. Meltham Mills batted first and could and could only get 63 runs, but this was 11 too many for Armitage Bridge.

The Millers look upon the match with Kirkheaton on the Armitage Bridge ground in 1898, when the two clubs tied for first place, as the most memorable in the history of the club. The attendance at the match was about 2,500. By their victory in this match Meltham Mills became the holders of the Byrom Shield in the second year in which it was held for competition.

This was Sam Malthouse's last season as professional at Meltham Mills. He was certainly one of the best professionals that ever came into this district. He was at Meltham Mills for fourteen seasons 1883-1891, and 1894-1898.

In the years following 1898 the club had a rather lean time, and eventually they were relegated from the League to the Alliance. Their first season in the Alliance was in 1906. In 1911 they headed the table, in this season they won the Kenyon Lockwood Cup, the first time it was competed for.

Meltham Mills were re-admitted to the League for season 1914, and have continued to be members up to 1939, when D.B. Tractors took over the club.

Ever since its existence the club have been well supported financially by Messrs Jonas Brook and Bros Ltd, later the United Thread Mills Ltd, and the directors of the company have always taken a keen interest in its welfare.

The club was always served well by its officials, such as Messrs Joseph Henry Preston, John J. Lodge and Mr. John W. T. Preston the treasurer for many years was in every sense of the word a real friend

Meltham Mills cont.

The second eleven were champions of their league in 1922, 1928 and 1931.

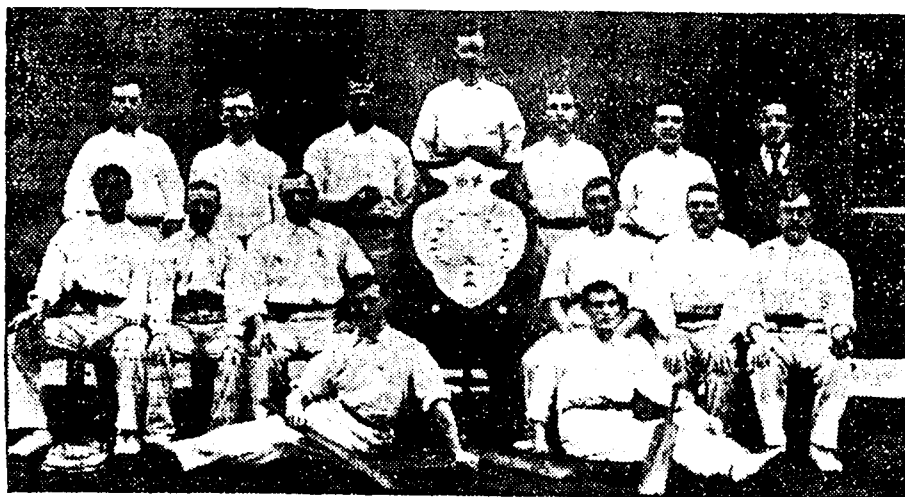
On Saturday 23rd May 1925 a new pavillion was opened, the gift of Jonas Brook & Bros Ltd. This was opened by Mrs C.J.Hirst. The new building was very commodious and the old pavillion, presented to the club by Colonel Charles Brook, was then used as the tea-room.

The Meltham Mills Club ceased to exist at the end of the 1939 season. The meeting at which the decision was made was held in the Meltham Liberal Club on Sat. 2nd March 1940, and Mr. J.J. Lodge who presided, referred to the melancholy circumstances under which they were meeting. It was specially sad to supporters like himself, who had followed the progress of the club for many years. During the past season, due largely to a falling off in membership owing to the closing down of Meltham Mills, and also the loss of a valued and keenly interested vice-president and patron it was decided to close the club.

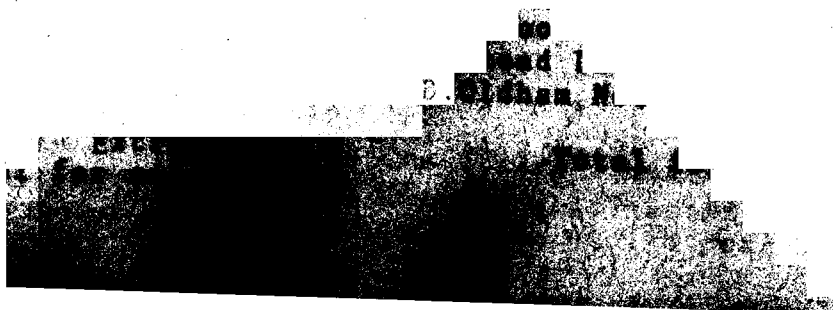
The secretary reported that Messrs David Browns Tractors Ltd. were now taking over the cricket field and the club.

The company soon started to make improvements to the ground, and since 1940 Tractor Teams have carried on the tradition of good cricket, so long associated with this ground.

On September 1st 1963 the last match was played, because D.B.T. wanted the ground for further extensions to their works, so it was "Goodbye" to cricket at Meltham Mills, scene of some exciting matches for over 100yrs.



The Meltham Mills team that won the League Championship in 1898. Top Row (left to right): John Shaw, W. Whiteley, Sam Hirst, G. H. Wood (capt.), J. A. Dyson, P. Sykes, and H. A. Stead (scorer). Middle Row: G. Johnson, G. Brooksbank, S. Malthouse (pro.), H. Dyson, J. H. Haigh, and C. E. Stead. Bottom Row: T. Bond and G. Mozley.



On Saturday 28th May, the members of this club had the pleasure of opening a new pavillion erected for them by that liberal and benevolent gentleman, Charles Brook jun., of Meltham Hall. A substantial repast had been prepared for the occasion by Mr. Hirst of the King's Lifeguards Inn, Meltham Mills, which was spread in the pavillion. The members of the club commenced the day's proceedings by a friendly game at the noble sport of cricket after which about 30 of the members and friends sat down to dinner, among those present being Charles Brook jun., Edward Brook, Bent House, Messrs T.D. Scholes, Charles Hirst & c. Dinner over, the usual loyal toasts having been given, Mr. Bentley (president of the club) expressed the gratitude felt by himself and all the members of the club to Mr. Brook for his great liberality towards them on many occasions but especially for his gift of the pavillion. In reply Mr. Brook spoke in very affectionate terms, remarking - what has been proved over and over again that he was always ready and willing to forward the happiness and pleasure of his fellow men in any way that he possibly could. He commended the game of cricket as being amongst the foremost of our national amusements. The pavillion has been built by Mr. Wm. Myers, and is both an elegant as well as commodious structure. It is a gift in every way worthy of the liberal donor.

One of the last matches Meltham v Meltham Mills

June 6th 1938

Meltham		Meltham Mills					
J. Brook	B Carter	11	L. Earnshaw	C. Brook	B. Garside	7	
F. Q. Woodhead	B Carter	16	N. Booth	B. Woodhead		1	
V. Sanderson	B. Carter	0	J. W. Heptonstall	B. Woodhead		4	
H. Stead	B. Carter	8	W. Sykes	C. Hirst	B. Garside	15	
J. Hirst	LBW. B. Carter	1	J. R. Wood	C. Woodhead	B. Brook	40	
T. Leonard	C. J. A. Wood	B. Carter	32	N. Stead	C. Leonards	B. Brook	36
J. A. Holmes	B. Carter	11	H. Oldham	Not Out		17	
A. Taylor	Not Out	36	G. Carter	L. B. W.	B. Garside	14	
A. Carratt	B. Carter	3	H. Hirst	B. Garside		0	
F. W. Garside	C. Carter	B. J. A. Wood	4	J. A. Wood	Not Out	10	
J. Brown	C. J. A. Wood	B Carter	12		Extras	9	
	Extras	13		Total For Eight Wks		153	
	Total	147					

Tuesday June 7th 1938

Meltham		Meltham Mills				
J. Brook	B. Carter	5	N. Booth	B. Woodhead	"2	
F. Q. Woodhead	B. Carter	88	L. Earnshaw	C. Hirst	B. Woodhead	15
A. Taylor	B. Carter	58	J. W. Hepstonstall	B. Woodhead		0
T. Leonards	B. Carter	7	W. Sykes	Not Out		61
J. Hirst	C. Oldham	B. Carter	32	J. R. Wood	LBW. B. Carratt	24
J. A. Holmes	B. Carter	12	N. Stead	LBW. B. Carratt		6
H. Stead	Not Out	2	B. Oldham	Not Out		32
V. Sanderson	Not Out	10		Extras		6
	Extras	9		Total for 5 wks		156
	Total for six dec.	223				