

CRICKET

Focus on - Badger Hill

Happy days at the Hill

Badger Hill C.C. were originally known as Rastrick New Road Sunday School C.C.

The earliest surviving minute is dated 1896, when those in attendance voted to have a cricket club for another year.

This appears to have been an annual practice until 1900

when the vote appears to have been dispensed with.

The club was an integral part of both Rastrick New Road church and the local community.

Fundraising brought the whole community together in well organised occasions such as Minstrel Shows and 'At Homes' events.

The club didn't raise funds just for itself either.

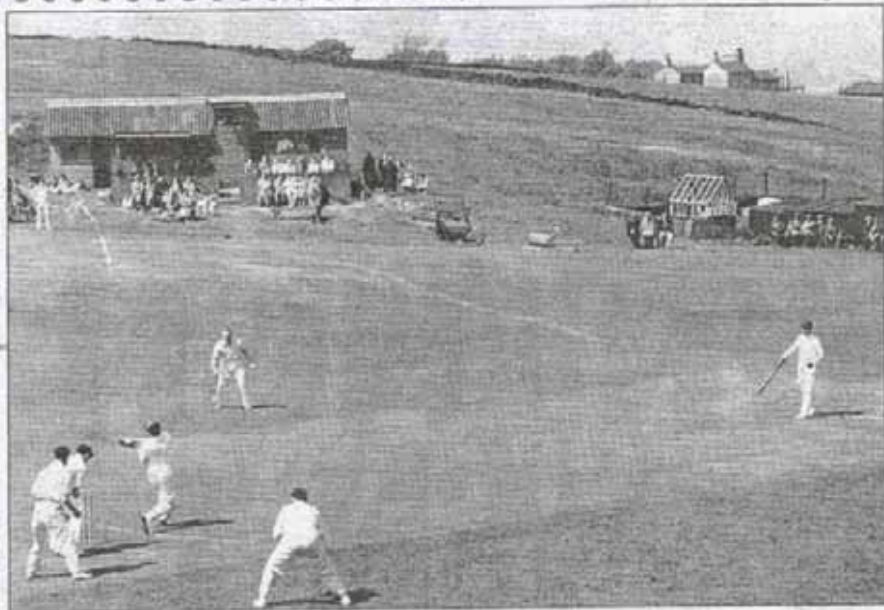
Charity matches were played to raise money for various causes.

Rastrick New Road Sunday School fielded a Ladies team in the 1930s, and in 1937 the men of the club claimed four pieces of silverware.

They also won the



Old boys: A team picture from 1921, when the club were known as Rastrick New Road



Idyllic scene: the Badger Hill ground in the 1950s

Huddersfield Association Lumb Cup 17 times between 1923 and 1983.

The club's ground flooded in 1972. Later, in 1987 Rastrick New Road Sunday School C.C. expressed their desire to play cricket on Sundays.

The Sunday School, however, were opposed to this, and the club faced a difficult decision - stay with the Sunday School and don't play on Sundays, or go it alone?

Following much soul-searching, the club decided to break away. They re-named themselves Badger Hill CC after the name of their ground.

On June 3, 1989 tragedy struck when Trevor Bottomley died during a match. Trevor had been a hardworking and

long-serving member of Badger Hill Cricket Club both on and off the field.

In the mid-1990s, Badger Hill graduated into the Huddersfield Central League after decades in the Huddersfield Association. This meant away matches in Batley, Dewsbury and on the outskirts of Wakefield, Barnsley and Sheffield.

In 2002 vandals torched the 'old' clubhouse. Many Badger Hill players felt that after the fire the end was near for the club. But not everyone was prepared to give in.

Club members spotted two cabins in the local paper, free to anyone who could take them away.

And so the club was able to make a new start.

The 15th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1885
Ground: Badger Hill, Rastrick
Local Landmark: The Sun Inn
Nearest Other Club: Rastrick
Greatest Moment: Winning the 'Quadruple' in 1937
Local Hero: The late Trevor Bottomley - legendary club stalwart
Bizarre Fact: Winston Samuda took over 1,000 wickets for the club between the 1970s and 1990s and also took hat-tricks in successive matches.