

Focus on - Barkisland Cricket Club

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

Future bright at Woodfield

Barkisland Cricket Club was formed in 1899. It originally played its home matches at Norland Moor.

In 1906 Barkisland were playing in the Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association League.

According to Stanley Palmer, six local teams were members of this league in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. They were Barkisland, Zion, Soyland Town, Stones Wesleyans, Rishworth and Ripponden Conservative Club.

The club applied to join the Halifax Parish Cup in 1938. A year later, in 1939, they joined the Halifax Parish Cricket League and played in the Halifax Parish Cup for the first time.

In 1941, as war raged across Europe, Barkisland scooped the Halifax League championship. The club also withdrew from the Halifax Parish Cup competition.

Barkisland rejoined the Halifax Parish Cup in 1946. A year later, in 1947, they bagged the Halifax League Division One championship.

The club balance sheet for 1956 indicates that whist drives and dances were a key source of income - and this helped the committee meet the cost of kitchen crockery, talent prizes and gas.

Remarkably, a year later, in 1957, there were three pairs of brothers in the Barkisland team: the Schofields, Hallowells and Tennysons.

In 1975 the new pavilion was opened, with a little bit of help from Australian cricket legend Dennis Lillee.

Club members had been working on the building since 1970. One said: 'A builder provided the shell - we did the rest!'

Barry Tennyson skippered the 1st XI to the Halifax League championship and Halifax Parish Cup 'Double' in 1977.

The new hi-tech scoreboard was a massive coup for the club - members erected it and then wired it up in 1983.

The club celebrated its centenary in 1999. Barkisland's decision to leave the Halifax League, and move into the Huddersfield League in 2001, was indicative of their ambition and aspiration.

Barkisland are an extremely go-ahead organisation: the club tracksuit carries an array of sponsors' logos and the matchday programme is a colourful, glossy and professional publication.

And the Woodfield ground is a picture postcard venue - representing all that is best in local league village cricket.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1889

Ground: Woodfield, Scammonden Rd.

Former ground: Norland Moor

Nearest landmark: The local parish church, Christ Church

Nearest other clubs: Stones, Greetland, Triangle

League: Drakes Huddersfield

Former Leagues: Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association League, Halifax and District Cricket League, Halifax Parish League

Greatest moment: Winning the Halifax League and Parish Cup 'Double' in 1977

Local hero: Barry Tennyson - former trophy-winning skipper and now chairman of the Halifax Cricket League.

Bizarre Fact: In 2005 a home match was interrupted when landowner John Maude drove his 4x4 vehicle onto the wicket



Seeing triple: The Schofield, Hallowell and Tennyson brothers who all represented Barkisland in the 1957 season. Harry and Tom Schofield are at the back, Herbert and Eric Hallowell are in the middle and Terry and Barry Tennyson are at the front