

## BLACKLEY CRICKET CLUB.

Founded 1869

The First records of Cricket being played in the Village is on the 7<sup>th</sup> May. 1869. when Blackley United played ELLAND at Elland. The scores being 15 and 35 respectively, according to the Halifax Courier. The following year again according to the Halifax Courier. BLACKLEY UNITED Played their First Home game, against LINDLEY UNITED. The home ground then was at the top of South Lane, known simply as the Blackley Field. Sometime before the End of the Century, the Club moved to it's present location, and the original land was sold for Building land, and the Row of houses at the top of South Lane were built.

Around 1880 Blackley joined LEAGUE CRICKET, but which league remains a mystery, rumour has it that there was a West Vale League, and this included several of the present day Halifax League Clubs. But all this is speculation as records of the Elland newspaper which was said to contain this information are lost. At that time there was no pavilion. Just a Hut for the Players to Strip in at the bottom corner of the Field. Behind The Golden Fleece Inn.

The CRICKET FIELD is presently situated at....LINDLEY ROAD. BLACKLEY. ELLAND. West YORKSHIRE. Between the Towns of HUDDERSFIELD and HALIFAX....The original Brick Pavilion.... known as the Tent....Built in 1901 and [Demolished 1978]

Blackley at this time played in the HUDDERSFIELD ASSOCIATION CRICKET LEAGUE.

1936 Blackley C.C. Won the LUMB CUP captained by Reggie G. Brook on the then Britannia works ground at Salendine Nook, Ten years later, on the 6<sup>th</sup> July 1946 Blackley Lost in the Lumb Cup Final to Blakeborough's on the I.C.I. ground Leeds Road, Huddersfield. Scores Blackley Cricket Club. 111 all out – Blakeborough's 113 for six. On 22<sup>nd</sup> June 1946. Prior to the Lumb Cup Final with Rastrick New Road. Cricket Club. In the Semi Final. Blackley beat Rastrick New Road. Scores Blackley.c.c. 143. V Rastrick N.Road. c.c. 31 all out.

Blackley remained a member of the Huddersfield Association Cricket League. Until 1954.

In 1954 they became Members of the HALIFAX PARISH CRICKET LEAGUE.

Captained by Walter Carter and Vice Captain Reg. Williams. Who in actual fact took over the Captain of the Team, In the middle of the season as Walter Who had his own Milk round, found it difficult to arrive on time for some of the away games. The Members and Committee agreed for Reg. To takeover the Captaincy and Walter would become Vice Captain. Reg. Remained Captain for the next Two seasons.

In 1967 Blackley were promoted to the First Division. As Second Division. League Winners.

In 1985 saw Blackley Relegated back to the Second Division.

Mr Fred WILKINSON. Director of Samuel Wilkinson and Sons. And President of the Blackley Cricket Club. Handed over the Deeds of Blackley Cricket Club.Ground. Purchased from Mrs. Sutcliffe. To Vice President of the Club, to Mr G. Maurice LOCKWOOD.

BLACKLEY CRICKET CLUB, now Owners of the club, Decided that the First Job in hand, must be to level the Ground.

Ground Alterations and Improvements started in 1946. when the Ridge on the Elland side of the ground was levelled, and a new Entrance to the Field was made.

It was then decided to Build or Purchase a new Tea Room, which was Purchased and Erected 7<sup>th</sup> June 1951 just inside the field. At the New Entrance that was made to the Field.

It was then decided, to Try to obtain some Land behind the Golden Fleece Inn, from WEDSTERS BREWERY This was Achieved. So the next job was to start pulling down

WEBSTERS BREWERY. This was achieved, so the next job was to start pulling down the existing Low wall, that ran from behind the Golden Fleece Inn. Then we started digging into the Hillside, to extend the Field by Approximately 13 yards in the middle, running out to nothing behind the Public House. The Ground Improvement Scheme was given the Go Ahead by The WEBSTERS BREWERY and [1970] saw the start of the wall being pulled down. Wilkinson's Brickworks, dug into the hill for us with their mechanical large diggers and another idea became a reality. Now the wall was to be rebuilt, running as the original from behind the Golden Fleece Pub. Along the bottom of the hill. The next job was to lay new land drains as a lot of water soaked onto the field from the hill. The wall was completed in 1972. [With the help of the Ham Bothers, both playing members. Who had a building business in Bradford? Who also played Football for Bradford City? Which at that time was managed by Mr Willie Watson, who had played with Huddersfield Town. And lived at Laund Road. Salendine Nook.]

A New Pavilion was the next project. As pre-season 1972 preparations revealed that DRY ROT was apparent. So a project was planned to raise £5,000. By 1976 The FOUNDATIONS were laid, by September a shell of the New PAVILION was erected, but a storm in late October. Ripped off the roof and another Gail in November ended with the Prefab Building in a heap. There was much publicity in the local and national press. The then Elland Council relented, and allowed the Blackley Cricket Club to build A NEW BRICK PAVILION on the same foundations. Which pleased the Club no end, as this is what they applied for in the first place. [So it turned out to be a Good thing out of a Bad one. In fact a blessing in disguise, but a lot, yes a lot, of extra work had gone into the Building of the New Pavilion. With a waste of Money, into the bargain. Not to be Deterred, another Appeal was launched and the Response was overwhelming. With Grants from Calderdale Sports Council and the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council.

It was A Good Job Well Done.

Thanks were conveyed to all the helpers and many who gave us encouragement.

The Opening of the New Pavilion at a cost of well over £20,000 was on August 13<sup>th</sup> 1978.

And No we are not superstitious