

## **Local Press Equates Bridgeholme to Eastwood Cricket Club**

In September 1952 Bridgeholme Cricket Club had been in existence for two seasons. They began without a ground, playing all their Todmorden and District League matches away from home in 1951. Joining the Hebden Bridge League Division II in 1952, they acquired use of the notorious pitch at Cross Stone. In seven games there, all of them won, five of their opponents were bowled out for 22 or fewer, Old Town seconds managing a paltry 11.

By September preparations were underway to drain and reconstruct a cricket ground at Eastwood. The field was adjacent to one on which Eastwood Cricket Club had first played in the Calder Valley League in 1892.

The *Todmorden News and Advertiser* equated Bridgeholme with the old Eastwood Cricket Club and printed this photograph of an Eastwood team from the 1890s. It seems highly likely that S Sowden, left end front row, was the brother in law of Percy Sowden who helped to found Bridgeholme. S Sowden and Percy's father JN Sowden were in the Zion team which beat Mytholmroyd in the final of the Hebden Bridge League Cup in 1895.