

The Barkisland Connection

How did sudden prosperity at Barkisland Cricket Club affect the cricketers of Bridgeholme?

In the summer of 2000 Barkisland Cricket Club had an unremarkable season, finishing eighth, one place below Southowram and one place above Booth, of the 12 clubs in Section A of the Halifax League, a competition they had not won since 1985. Yet, with an influx of money and new players on the horizon, Barkisland resigned from the Halifax League to enter a higher tier in Section B of the Huddersfield League. The move has worked for them. Earning promotion in 2003, Barkisland finished fifth in Section A in 2004, the highest standing in the club's history.

Their resignation from the Halifax League in 2000 left a vacancy. Bridgeholme, who had left the Halifax League in 1984, applied and were willingly re-admitted. All the omens seemed right. Bridgeholme fulfilled all the criteria of playing on their own ground, having a decent pitch and running two teams. With facilities being re-built after the flood in June of that summer, the time seemed right for a fresh start in a higher class of cricket. It has proved to be a wise move. The club has held its own in Section B and the players have benefited from playing on better quality pitches.