

## CRICKET

## Focus on - Brighouse

## New era for historic club

Although it is generally recognised that the current Brighouse Cricket Club came into being in 1873, this date actually marks the year in which the club was re-formed and moved to their ground at Clifton Road.

Clifton Road was to become the home of Brighouse cricket until the beginning of the twenty-first century. It was

rented from Messrs J.B. Sugdens, and was later re-laid 'for cricketing purposes'. The first match was played on 30 May 1873.

The club's first professional was William Shotton from Lascelles Hall, Huddersfield. He was engaged in 1876, 11 years after the first of his two first-class appearances for Yorkshire.

Derby matches with

Rastrick were always keenly fought affairs, especially in the 1870s.

In 1893, Brighouse became founder members of the West Riding League, which was recognised by *Athletic News* as 'the chief organisation of its kind in the county'.

In the last summer of peace before the Great War, Brighouse CC hosted a special workshops competition, with

local works teams fighting it out for supremacy on the pitch.

Teams like Turner & Wainwrights, Mill Royd Mills, Beacon Dyeworks and Co-op Decorators took part.

The Brighouse club's first major successes in both league and cup competitions came in 1918 when they scooped the Yorkshire Council Championship and the Halifax Parish Cup.

In the 1930s women's cricket was all the rage in Brighouse and surrounding towns. *The Brighouse & Elland Echo* featured adverts for games, match reports and action photos in its pages - and Mona Greenwood, who went on to play for England, became the pin-up

girl of local cricket.

In winter 1958 Brighouse pulled off a major coup by signing Frank Lowson, the former Test batsman who had been released by Yorkshire.

Then, in 1960, for the first time since 1932, the Bradford League title came to Clifton Road. The team had achieved the remarkable feat of ending the season undefeated.

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s the club bagged a handful of Division Two titles, and a selection of individual batting awards into the bargain.

Brighouse eventually sold their ground to Tesco and left Clifton Road at the end of the 2002 season for new state-of-the-art premises at Russell Way.

The 17th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University



Trophy time. The Brighouse team of 1960 with the Bradford League Cup

Sitting pretty: Brighouse Ladies pictured in 1930



## FACT FILE

Founded: 1873  
Ground: Russell Way, Bradford Road  
Nearest Other Club: Lightcliffe

Greatest moment: The big ground switch at the start of the twenty-first century  
Local hero: Geoff Hirst - Bradford League-winning skipper in 1960

Bizarre fact: The new Brighouse Sports Club function room at Russell Way caters for private functions, corporate events, conferences, business training days, company seminars, weddings and funerals