

BRIGHOUSE CC

The Early Years

First move and a new beginning

FROM BRIGHOUSE ALEXANDRA...

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 the ground at Clifton Road.



In fact, Cricket had been played in the town for many years before 1873. During this time matches were commonly played on a ground behind the Parish Church and the sport was fostered by a number of influential local gentlemen including C. Jessop Esq, J. Milnes and J. Grinerod who formed a club called Brighouse Alexandra.

...TO BRIGHOUSE NEW ALEXANDRA

The Club was reformed in 1873 when the old Brighthouse Alexandra Cricket Club amalgamated with the Brighthouse Working Men's Institute.

The result was that Brighthouse New Alexandra C.C was born, and the new club rented a new ground, which was situated in a convenient location behind the Working Men's Institute's clubhouse.

Clifton Road was to become the home of Brighthouse cricket until the beginning of the twenty-first century. It was first rented from Messrs J.B. Sugdens, and after being relaid 'for cricketing purposes'. The first match was played on 30 May 1873.



Clifton Road – much later

The source of all knowledge!

1873 – RECORD BOOK OPENS

Those of us working on this Project, and anyone with an interest in Brighouse Cricket Club, owe a massive debt of thanks to Henry Marsden.

He painstakingly recorded the Club's history, in handwritten form, in a book entitled Brighouse CC & BC Records 1873-1933.

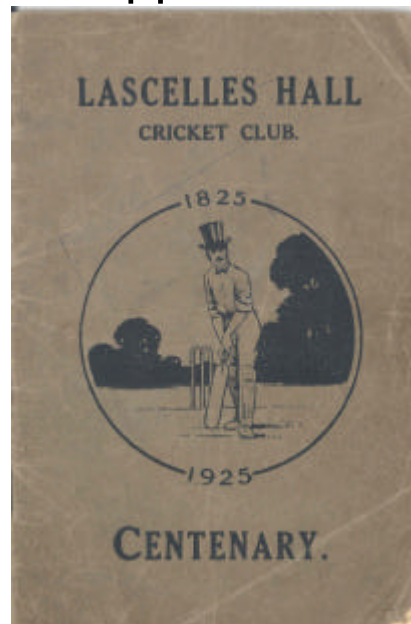
This book has provided us with much of the information for this exhibition and contains far fascinating information we could use.



Real progress

1876 – THE FIRST PAID PLAYER

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



The famous old club

His second came a year later when he was one of six players from Lascelles Hall who represented the County in a match against Gloucestershire at Clifton College.

His association with Brighouse proved to be long and successful. He played 12 seasons for the club as both professional and amateur, scoring 3,011 runs and taking 318 wickets.

Rastrick defeated!

1878 - THE FIRST DERBY MATCH WIN

Derby matches with Rastrick were always keenly fought affairs, especially in the 1870s. The first 2nd XI encounter took place in 1873.

By 1876 the two 1st XIs were playing each other and the first Brighouse victory came in 1878. Luke Greenwood, from Lascelles Hall, was engaged as professional. The occasion received special mention in the Club's 1873-1933 record book, as did the performance of that year's professional, the great Luke Greenwood.



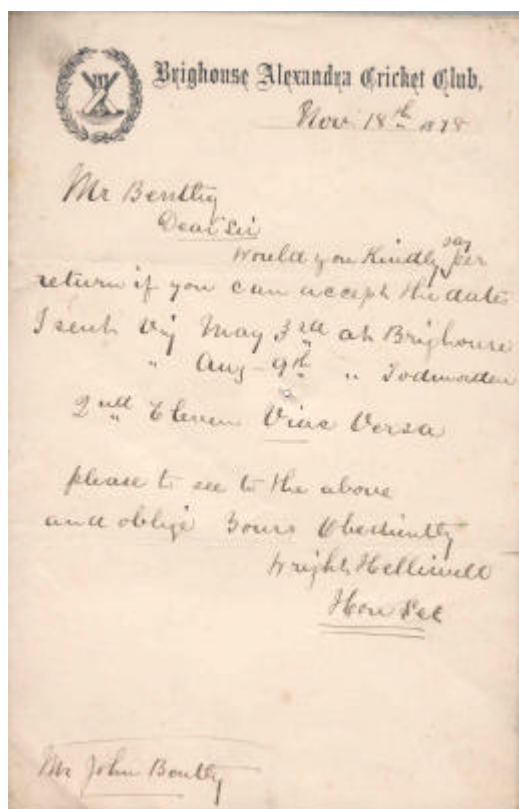
Greenwood was one of the great pioneers of early Yorkshire cricket. He was a regular in the county side from 1861 until 1875. In the Brighouse victory over neighbours Rastrick he scored 39 not out and took 5 wickets.

Home and away

1878 – TODMORDEN ENCOUNTERS

By the late-1870s the Club, which now went under the name Brighouse Alexandra, was becoming more established in local cricket circles.

This was clear from its expanding fixture list, which included matches against more prestigious opponents. One of the leading clubs in the North was Todmorden who were approached in 1878 to arrange two 1st XI fixtures and one 2nd XI match for the following season.



Letter to Todmorden CC, 18 November 1878

Brave new world

1893 – WEST RIDING LEAGUE

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

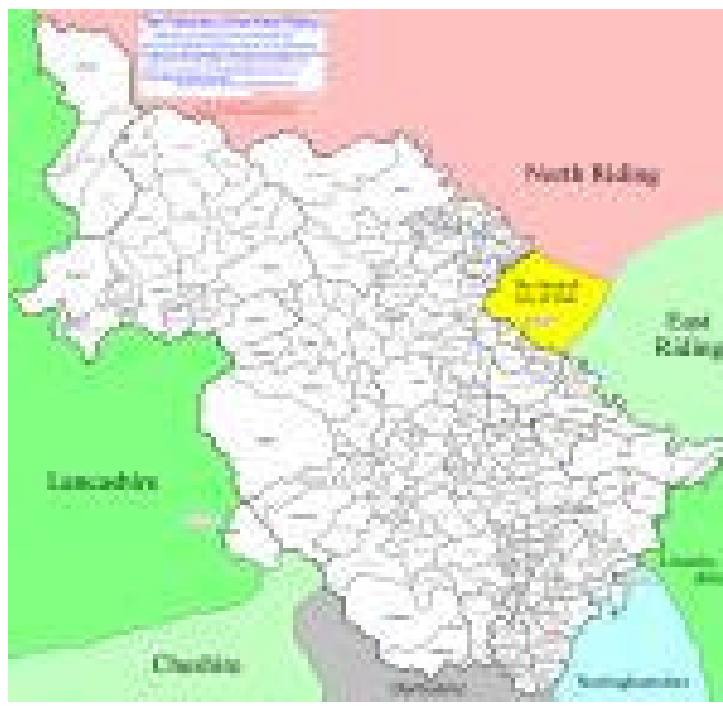
BER 30, 1893.

WEST RIDING LEAGUE.						
FINAL RESULTS.						
	Played.	Won.	Lost.	Drawn.	Pts.	
Huddersfield	16	11	3	2	24	Re
Dewsbury and Savile...	16	9	2	5	23	sa
Barnsley	16	7	3	6	20	wi
Keighley	16	5	3	8	18	th
Bradford	16	3	4	9	15	bu
Halifax	16	3	4	9	15	po
* Brighouse	16	3	6	7	11	po
Leeds	16	1	9	6	8	3g
Sheffield United	16	1	9	6	8	th
* Brighouse had two points deducted for playing an in-eligible man.						

The competition was an attempt to form a regional cricket league along the lines of the Football League and the later Northern Rugby Football Union. It included Leeds, Huddersfield, Bradford, Sheffield United, Dewsbury, Keighley, Barnsley, Brighouse and Halifax.

In fact, it went further than the initial rules of the Northern Union by allowing open professionalism to co-exist alongside payments for 'broken time'. Two professionals were allowed per team, and the rules also decreed that:

An amateur shall be defined as one who does not receive any money over and above expenses actually out of pocket and an exact equivalent for the loss of his wages accruing from his usual occupation.



By 1899, however, the West Riding League had folded as the financial demands of semi-professional cricket on this scale were not met by public interest.

At the Double!

1918 – YORKSHIRE COUNCIL CHAMPIONS AND HALIFAX PARISH CUP WINNERS

The Club's first major successes in both league and cup competitions came in 1918 when the Yorkshire Council Championship and the Halifax Parish Cup were both won.

389 Sept 12th 1918 Rain

Brighouse v Richmond at Batley Saturday Sept 21st 1918
Handwritten note: Final Yorkshire Council Championship Brighouse

S Rander c Spence	2	J.A. Booth c Sub c Thurman	10
P Linfoot c S.A. Wadsworth	2	H.W. Wood c Rander & Barber	13
J Smith c Wood & S.A. Wadsworth	22	W.L. Byron c W. Thurman	5
R Wright c Spence	9	W. Womersley c Linfoot & Barber	19
J.W. Wood c Marsh & S.A. Wadsworth	13	J.G. Spencer c Wood & Barber	14
B. Thurman at Harrison c S.A. Wadsworth	0	W. Harrison c W. & Linfoot	1
H.F. Barker c Spence	19	S. Wadsworth not out	10
S. Preston c Spence	0	S.A. Wadsworth not out	1
J. Kitchingman at Harrison c S.A. Wadsworth	0		
W. Barber c Marsh & Spence	0		
D. Hudson not out	0		
		W O N	
	batias 12		batias 5
	<u>Total 79</u>		for 6 wickets <u>Total 80</u>

Brighouse v King Cross Saturday Sept 28th 1918

604 25th 1918 Rain

Brighouse v Rastick at Brighouse Saturday Oct 25th 1918
Handwritten note: Final Halifax Parish Cup

W. Wood c Richardson & Airey	12	H. Buckley c Spence	
J.A. Booth not out	104	W. Harrison c Spence	
W.L. Byron c Buckley	1	W. Harrison c Spence	
H. Spencer c Airey	0	H. Buckley c Wadsworth & S.A. Wadsworth	
W. Womersley c Harrison & Airey	39	W. Harrison c Wadsworth & S.A. Wadsworth	
W. Harrison not out	71	J. Garbutt not out	
		H. Buckley c W. & Spence	
		J. Richardson c Byron & Spence	
		A. Robinson c Booth & S.A. Wadsworth	
		S. Airey c Spence	
		S. Shaw absent	
		W O N	
	batias 10		batias 1
	<u>Total 232</u>		<u>Total 1</u>

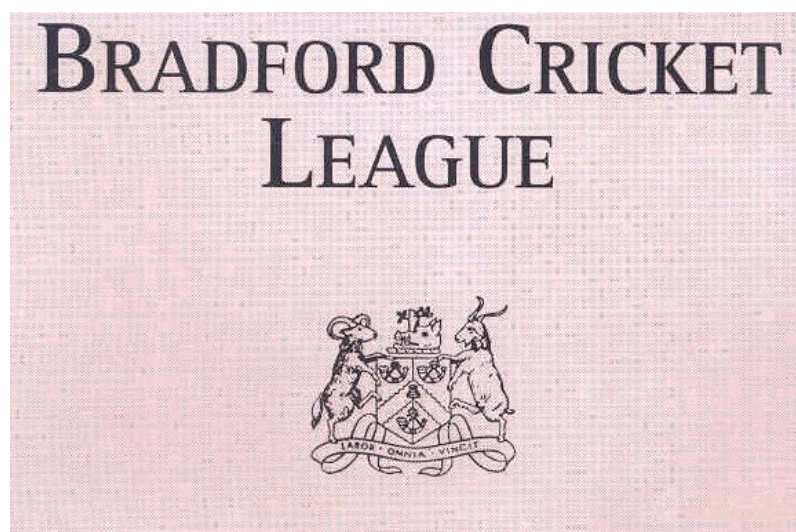
The Yorkshire Council and Halifax Parish Cup final scoresheets, from the Club 'Records Book'

The right move

1924 – BRIGHOUSE JOIN BRADFORD LEAGUE

The following remarks, relating to the Club's first season in the Bradford League, were recorded in the Brighouse C.C. 'Records Book':

The Club need have no regrets at joining the League for they have had increased gates and membership. The cricket has been more tense and exciting, keener fielding has speeded up considerably from what it used to be in the Yorkshire Council games. Performances of the Club since joining the League speak for themselves and are still too fresh in their supporters' memories to be detailed here.



Champions!

1930 – TREBLE CHANCE

In Spring 1930 the local newspaper predicted that Brighouse's prospects for the coming season were 'exceedingly bright'.

Brighouse.

With respect to the premier club in the borough—the Brighouse Cricket, Cycling and Bowling Club—which has its home on the historic Clifton road, the present outlook, given judicially, is exceedingly bright, and the optimism already displayed is equal to that of any previous year. This will be the Brighouse club's sixth season in the Bradford League. Two years ago the Clifton roaders came near to winning the championship, and, although Brighouse had not such a very good time twelve months ago, several of the players failing to find their true form, it was scarcely that they were the only side to defeat the champions (Bradford). With weather similar to what we enjoyed last summer, and the cultivation of a proper team spirit, Brighouse should have a very successful time, and bring honours to the town. From information supplied it is evident there will be no dearth of talent, and two capable elevens should be put on the field. The four professionals allowed by the League will include G. Harrison, from Lidget Green, who will be in his second season with the Clifton roaders. Squire Rander is a fine bowler who returns to Brighouse after a year with the Idle club, and if he displays his best form, Brighouse will undoubtedly possess the best fast bowler in the League. A first-wicket batsman in "Johnny" Hill, of the disbanded Low Moor club, should add strength to the defence, while F. Metcalfe, a slow left-arm bowler, will take the place of Albert Fell. So far as amateur talent at the disposal of the club is concerned, most of last year's players, including Walter Hunt, H. Outram, W. Outram, Arthur Fell, H. Robinson, O. F. Cann and E. H. Clark are available. New comers to the side are E. W. King, the Elland all-rounder, who will captain the side; L. Shaw, an amateur wicket keeper from Lascelles Hall; and Fred Barker, a former Brighouse player who has had two successful seasons with Farley.

With respect to the ground and its surroundings the management have been carrying out improvements, the track having received special attention. With the new up-to-date scoring pavilion which was opened last season in memory of Messrs. James and John A. Cheetham, two former cricketers and vice-presidents, the equipment of the ground at Clifton road should be equal to that of any in the League.

The second team is expected to be composed very much on similar lines to last year, but any promising cricketer will be given the opportunity of showing his abilities.

In addition to the fixtures arranged, the Yorkshire County XI will play the Bradford League team at Clifton road on Wednesday evening (May 21) for Ernest Robinson's hospital fund.

Apr. 26—Farnley Green	home
May 4—East Bierley	away
" 10—Bradford	away
" 17—Bradford " A"	home
" 21—York v. Bradford League	home
" 24—Farley v. Bradford League	away
" 31—Saltaire	home
June 7—Bingley	away
" 9—(W.M.) Bankfoot	away
" 10—(W.T.) Lightcliffe	away
" 14—Lidget Green	away
" 17 and 18—Great Horton	home
" 21—East Bierley	home
" 24 and 25—Great Horton	away
" 26—First Round Cup	
July 5—Bradford	home
" 12—Second Round Cup	
" 16—Bradford " A"	away
" 26—Farley	home
Aug. 2—Saltaire	away
" 8—Final Cup (Bank Holiday)	home
" 9—Bingley	away
" 16—Bankfoot	away
" 23—Final Cup	home
" 30—Lightcliffe	home

SQUAD 1930-31

And the confidence was justified as Brighouse stormed to the first of three consecutive Bradford League titles.