

CRICKET

Focus on - King Cross

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



Old boys: team picture, 1882 style

Cartoon fun: the 1948 line up



Highs and lows of King Cross

LIKE many clubs that began life during the second half of the 19th century, King Cross were strongly linked to a religious organisation.

In 1878 the Young Men's Class at King Cross Wesleyan School started a cricket team which played its early matches on Savile Park Moor.

According to the *Yorkshire Evening Post* in the 1930s, this club was known as King Cross Wesleyan C.C. But when a new ground was rented at West View, the club was re-formed as King Cross Cricket Club.

The birth of the new club coincided with the involvement of two families who would become synonymous with King Cross Cricket Club during its first 50 years: the Ramsdens and the Clarksons.

In 1900 the club moved to Upper Kington - and in 1905 joined the Yorkshire Council, a prestigious county-wide cricket competition.

In 1908 a clubhouse was built at a cost of £300.

The club held a Jubilee Bazaar to celebrate their 50th anniversary in 1928. They also staged concerts on four separate nights to raise money for a new tea pavilion.

A new scoreboard, dedicated to Mr James Clarkson, was opened in 1933.

In 1935 King Cross became founder members of the Yorkshire League and they scooped the Parish Cup in 1945, 1949 and 1951.

King Cross switched from the Yorkshire League to the Halifax League in 1956 and chose not to employ a professional.

The spirit of King Cross C.C. was severely tested in 1979 when 19 players left the club. The ground and its facilities were also in poor state.

However, the club managed to recover in the 1980s and a number of signings, including Amzat Jilil - an opening batsman from Rawalpindi, Pakistan - saw performances improve.

A new stone clubhouse was built in 1988 at a cost of £55,000 to replace the original wooden one which had fallen victim to a fire. While the pavilion was out of order, the cricketers had to use the bowling-green changing facilities.

In 2004 the club left the Central Yorkshire League and returned to the Halifax League. Officials are also thinking through a possible move away from their historic home.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1878
 Ground: The Ramsdens
 Local Landmark: A tall chimney directly opposite the pavilion
 Former Grounds: Savile Park Moor, West View
 Former Leagues: Yorkshire Council, Yorkshire League, Central Yorkshire League
 Greatest Moment: 1951 - the club's fourth Parish Cup win in 11 years.
 Local Hero: Jim Bain - post-war skipper and star batsman.
 Bizarre Fact: The club's old pavilion at West View was known as 'Duck House'!