

Old Crossleyans CC

Founded: 1976

Ground: Broomfield Avenue.

Nearest Landmark: Standeven House.

Nearest Other Club: Copley

League: Halifax

Former League: Halifax Association

Greatest Moment: 1978 – joining the Halifax League.

Local Hero: Charlie Daly - Aussie star of the 1990s. Skipped Old Crocs to Lindley Moor Trophy glory in 1993.

Bizarre Fact: In 1991 the club launched an irreverent newsletter entitled *Stumps*.

Old Crossleyans is a relatively young cricket club, formed in 1976.

It has a historic link with what is now the Crossley Heath School, located close by in the Skircoat area of Halifax.

The Crossley Heath School is the product of a 1985 merger between Crossley & Porter School and Heath Grammar School.

Crossley & Porter School was originally the Crossley Orphanage and became a secondary school in 1919. Heath Grammar School had been founded by Dr John Favour in 1600.

Boarders at the school previously resided at Standeven House, Broomfield Avenue. What is now the function room and bar used to be the schoolboys' library.

Even though the boarders have long since gone, the school still uses the arena for sports fixtures. And today, Old Crossleyans C.C. play their home fixtures at Broomfield Avenue.

Old Crossleyans joined the Halifax & District Amateur Cricket Association in 1976.

In the early days, they were very much an 'old boys' cricket club.

Today, Old Crossleyans are a hybrid organisation: there is a rugby union club, a cricket team, a squash side and a junior rugby league XIII. The grandiose clubhouse by the main entrance, Standeven House, serves all club sportsmen.

Not so long ago, Old Crossleyans were captained by Australian batsman Charlie Daly.

He was also involved in a special sponsorship deal, whereby the club benefited financially if he hit a certain run target by the end of the season. Daly did his bit in the nick of time - and the club duly hit the jackpot!

Old Crossleyans C.C. celebrated 25 years of cricket in 2001. To mark the anniversary, they held a special reunion event, which was attended by players from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and many other guests. Ex-England batsman Derek Randall was the speaker.

Today, perhaps just less than 50% of the club's members have a connection with the school. As such, it is now an 'open' club and welcomes new members from all over.

The club run a 1st XI, 2nd XI and a Sunday team, plus junior sides. Club officials also suggest that their ground is the biggest in the Halifax League in terms of the size of the playing area.