

## OLD TOWN CC

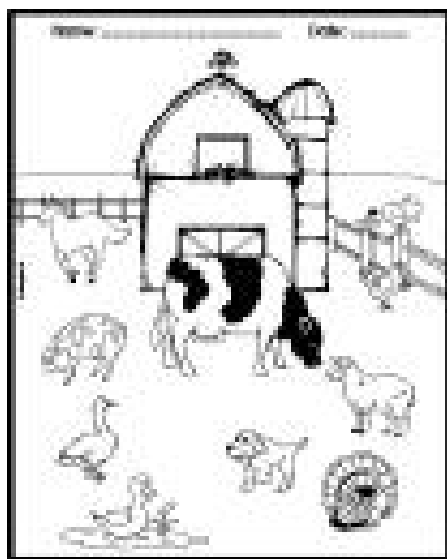
The Early Years

# Life on the farm

## 1885 – BIRTH OF CLUB

Old Town CC was formed in 1885, although it temporarily disbanded between 1891 and 1894.

Originally, it played its home games at Middle Nook Farm on the far eastern fringes of the village. In time, the farm became the site of a house called 'Stalheim', now known as 'Burnside'.



In the early days, Old Town elevens competed in the Calder Valley League and the Hebden Bridge League, and in 1895 five members of the local Greenwood family turned out for the first team.

# Calder Kings!

1906 - ROOMFIELD DEFEATED

Good game, there is no restriction upon the number of "home" and "away" matches between these two local clubs, who use the same ground - at Calderholme.

## CRICKET.

### CALDER VALLEY LEAGUE.

#### FINAL GAME.

#### OLD TOWN v. ROOMFIELD.

Played on the ground of Mytholmroyd Wesleyan last Saturday. Scores:

Old Town		Roomfield	
C. M. Taylor b T. Crowther	0	G. E. Howarth b Kershaw	3
E. Wilkinson c T. Crowther b Sutcliffe	33	G. H. Crowther b Kershaw	0
B. Feather run out	7	H. H. Stansfield b Kershaw	3
F. Greenwood sen c Johnson b Greenwood	0	H. Wingard b Gudge	10
E. Greenwood jun c Stansfield b Crowther	0	A. Marshall b Moss	1
H. Gudge b Greenwood	4	F. B. Howarth b Feather	14
W. H. Greenwood b Sutcliffe	0	T. Crowther c Taylor b Feather	0
A. Kershaw b Greenwood	0	E. Sutcliffe c W. H. Greenwood b Feather	5
M. Moss b Sutcliffe	11	E. Johnson b Gudge	0
J. Heger c Needham b Sutcliffe	1	H. Needham b Feather	3
J. W. Duckworth not out	3	Y. Greenwood not out	3
Extras 12	Total 56	Extras 4	Total 43

Fall of wickets:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
14	31	42	42	58	64	67	68	81	86

Roomfield bowling:

T. Crowther 11.1-30-2	A. Marshall 8.0-14-0	Y. Greenwood 5.1-20-5	E. Sutcliffe 3.3-0-18-4	Old Town: A. T. Kershaw 6-4-3-3	M. Moss 6-0-21-1	H. Feather 5-2-7-4	Gudge 5-1-3-2
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### HALIFAX & DISTRICT LEAGUE.

#### First Division.

Team	P.	W.	L.	D.	P.
Sowerby Bridge	20	12	4	4	28
Triangle	20	11	4	5	27
Hillingworth St. Mary's	20	11	4	5	27
Clifton Britannia	20	10	5	5	25
Ovenden	20	10	8	2	22
Stainland	20	8	7	5	21
Siddal	20	7	7	6	20
Elland Edge	20	5	10	5	18
Booth	20	4	11	5	13
Elland Tradesmen	20	4	11	5	13
Mytholmroyd	20	1	12	7	9

G. Holtworth, Hon. Sec.

#### BOOTH v. STAINLAND.—At Booth. Scores:

J. H. Ouden c Barker b Hall	41
F. Sheard c Barker b Hall	11
W. B. Nicholson b Hall	5
L. Midgley b Hall	32

Extras 10

Todmorden Police	22
Ratton c F. Flinden b Marshall	21
Light b J. Marshall	7
Hardwick c B. Sutcliffe b Howarth	4
Dryden b Howarth	0
Townend b Howarth	0
Moxon b Howarth	0
Hind not out	84
Dee c and b S. Fielden	8
Thorpe c Howarth b S. Fielden	2
Hins run out	10
Cooper c T. Fielden b S. Fielden	0
Extras 9	Total 61

### NOTES ON CRICKET

#### OLD TOWN WIN THE CHAMPIONSHIP OF THE CALDER VALLEY LEAGUE.

Old Town and Roomfield met on Saturday in the final for the Calder Valley League. The match was played on the Mytholmroyd Wesleyan's ground, and being favoured with nice weather there was a fair number of spectators. Both sides had their following of supporters, who occasionally made their presence known.

It has been usual in former seasons for the four top clubs in the sections to play conditional matches to decide the finalists, but this time the custom was dispensed with.

Old Town, an cricket followers will hardly need to be reminded, headed the Hebden Bridge section of the League, whilst Roomfield led the Todmorden section, and neither of them had lost a match throughout the season. This is somewhat remarkable—a record, we believe in the annals of the League. To go through the League fixtures unscathed is no ordinary achievement. As they had not met previously, it was impossible to draw comparisons there. Both sides were equally confident in their section with 27 points, having played 12 matches and won 9, whereas Roomfield out of 14 games had won 9 and gained 23 points. On the other hand Roomfield had some experience of the final, being runners-up last year, and thus they held the opinion that in the natural order of things it was now their turn to win. And it was Old Town's intention to divert that natural order if at all possible. Neither Old Town nor Roomfield had ever won the cup.

To turn to the game, Old Town opened batting. Taylor and Wilkinson opposed Crowther and Marshall. Taylor, by the way, was very well up in the League batting averages, whilst on the other hand Crowther headed the bowling averages, and Marshall followed not far behind. Huns came steadily, and 14 stood on the board when Taylor failed at a ball from Crowther. Feather joined Wilkinson, and 17 runs were added ere a misunderstanding saw the former run out. There was a consistency about the Old Town batsmen which served a useful purpose; runs were wanted, and the first six men all contributed their quota. Edgar Wilkinson played vigorously and settled up the score, although he was a trifle shaky. The Roomfield batting was not up to par, but perhaps this is reasonable on such an uneven outfield. When half the wickets were down the score stood at 58, and as each wicket cost an average of nine runs, the total mounted up. A double change in the bowling had a marked effect, Greenwood and Sutcliffe accounting for seven wickets amongst them. W. H. Green-

from the gate receipts are to be charitable institutions. It is estimated to be a profit of over £10. The plenty of amusement. The police were employed. The Tradesmen's some well-known cricketers, and themselves to be in good form. In fact, the police did not badly themselves to be in good form. The spectators picked up an agreeable change to the serious cricket.

### BRASS BAND CHAMPIONSHIP AT CRYSTAL PALACE

The public will have an opportunity of witnessing at the Crystal Palace, one of the biggest brass band festivals in the country, when the festival and contest for the championship will take place.

In six years the festival has increased in magnitude from 200 to no fewer than 5,000 individual prizes offered exceed £2,000 in value. Both Hebden Bridge and Hopwood are competing. The Hebden band in the first division, that for the £250 purse, and Hopwood in the second division. The Hebden band practised well and mean to put effort to win. The last piece was "Gems of Chopin," and the competition "Ballo." On the following, Hebden Bridge band, gave a concert in Alexander, N. A special train with Hebden Bridge (Friday) about 1 run direct to Kings Cross, but later station about 3 a.m. By then gather there will be a fairly large number of supporters from both Hebden Bridge and Hopwood.

Hundreds of excursions are going from all parts of the country, and it will not have several representatives either as competitors or listeners. Special last pieces have been decided on from high-class works, including Haydn, Tosti, and Chopin, the piece for the championship.

Great interest is being aroused in connection with the championship, and the selection at the grand massed evening.

This massed concert will include national selections, and the assistance of Carmen Sylva, a child.

BOOT BARGAINS in Men's and Children's, in Black or Tan. HOUSE, Market Street, Hebden Bridge.

Don't you forget, the PEOPLE'S the best and largest stock of Hosiery. We have a special value for the Commercial House, is your man for Gent's, Boys' and Children's Hosiery. Special, just arrived, 100 Shirts, Undervests, Drawers &

CLEGG'S DRAPERY STORES, Square, Hebden Bridge, and Barncliffe, for Blankets, and Ladies' and Children's Underclothing, Skirts, Corsets, Gloves, and Garters.

But times were hard in 1906. In another match Old Town came up against local rivals Cragg Vale.

After traveling to the game in a specially-hired wagonette, the Old Town 1st XI was skittled out for a paltry total of 11!



# **‘Bleak & Isolated’**

**1895 – MOVE TO OLD LAITHE**

In 1895, the Club moved to Old Laithe, in the Chisley area. In *Old Town Cricket Club: A Short History*, this venue is described as follows:

***It was in a bleak and isolated position, 1,100 feet above sea level, occupying one of the last flat patches of land before the moors started. If the "Summer Game" has an unlikely home in England's climes, then at Old Laithe it was even less hospitable.***



The description continued:

***Still, if it didn't lend itself to the cultivation of refined skills, it was suited to the grittiness of local cricket. Most of the clubs had small grounds and surfaces that made good fortune an important deciding factor in results. Many have fond memories of their years at Old Laithe: "the wicket was good but you did tend to lose the ball in the long grass."***

# Too cold to play!

## 1896 – BIRCHCLIFFE v OLD TOWN

Old Town, playing in the second division of the Hebden Bridge League, were the visitors when Birchcliffe played their first match at Nell Carr on Saturday 11 April 1896.

***‘It was altogether too cold for the game, and at that altitude the breeze was something shocking...under the circumstances, the match hardly lends itself to criticism,’*** commented the *Hebden Bridge Times*.



The players must have been thankful they were not playing at Old Town's ground at Old Laithe which was several hundred feet higher!

# National Service

## SECOND WORLD WAR – FIRE ALERT



During the Second World War, Old Laithe was requisitioned by the National Fire Service - with compensation duly paid to the club.

