

SOWERBY BRIDGE C I CC

The Early Years

FIRST MENTIONS

1878 – EARLY FIXTURE LIST

substitute (not out) 0, Barsegh 5, Furabull 2, Substitute to bat, extra 1, total for 8 wickets 21.

SOWERBY BRIDGE UNITED v. TRIANGLE.—Played on the ground of the former, on 4th tuesday, and resulted in a victory for the visitors by 20 runs, owing to the bowling of Crossley and Horsfall. Score:—*United*—F. Clay 0, L. Turner 1, J. H. Schofield 11, J. C. Horsfall 1, W. Barron 2, G. Whiteley 7, C. Horobin 6, T. Beawick 6, W. A. Sutcliffe 1, W. Wood 0, J. Eastwood, extras 0, total 26. *Triangle*—T. Mellor 2, J. Gooder 11, Wm. Hellowell 0, E. Kershaw 13, J. Crossley 11, W. Hellowell 0, S. Horsfall 1, A. Law 0, A. Simpson 2, C. Broadbent (not out) 1, J. Shaw 0, extras 6, total 48.

DENHOLME v CLAYTON—At Denholme, on Saturday, and won easily by them. In consequence of the heavy rain, the ground was in bad condition. Score:—*Clayton*—J. Rawnsley 0, A. Briggs 5, W. Ward 10, S. Armitage 0, B. Barker 0, J. Wallis 6, J. Armitage 10, A. Hirst 4, Abram Briggs 18, A. Robinson 0, C. Armitage (not out) 1, extras 4, total 68. *Denholme*—J. Bartle 19, J. Wild 24, W. Brooks (not out) 8, C. Jowett 3, D. Brooksbank (not out) 3, H. Mitchell, I. Colledge, W. Robertshaw, W. Longbottom, W. Hird, and T. Pickles to bat, extras 4, total for 3 wickets 62.

A match was played on Saturday, between the Skircoat Green United and St. Stephen's, Copley, on the ground of the latter, which resulted in a victory for the United. Score:—*Skircoat Green United* 73, *St. Stephen's* 71. Owing to the splendid batting of J. Harkness the United were victorious by 2 runs.

ELLAND ST MARY'S v SOWERBY BRIDGE CHURCH INSTITUTE (2ND ELEVENS)—This match was played on Saturday, on the ground of the latter. The batting of T. Garsed was very good, as also was the bowling of T. Hanson and A. Noble. Score:—*Elland*—W. Dobson 7, H. Marsden 13, A. Noble 0, T. Hanson 4, T. Garsed 35, H. Lumb 1, H. Wilson 1, H. Brearley 14, R. Lord 2, J. Shaw (not out) 9, G. Wadsworth 0, extras 5, total 68. *Sowerby Bridge*—J. H. Whiteley 0, W. Whitehead 0, W. H. Gibson 0, T. Tidswell 1, J. Mallinson 3, S. J. Ingham 0, B. Moss (not out) 3, C. Wray 1, J. Shepley 0, J. Shaw 0, J. Greenroyd (run out) 0, total 8.

WEST WARD LIBERALS v. PERSEVERANCE.—Played on Saturday, on the ground of the former. Score:—*Perseverance*—T. Smith 0, W. Edwards 1, Standeven 0, Harry Smith 19, R. Woodhead 4, W. Marshall 2, J. Mageon 3, R. Wadson 0, G. Spence 5, G. Wright 1, Herbert Smith (not out) 3, extras 12, total 50. *Liberals*—W. Greenwood 6, T. Allatt 0, J. Balmforth 8, J. H. Sutcliffe 0, A. Akroyd 1, G. Wsyman 3, H. Carter 7, W. Spouge 30, G. Carr 4, A. Wilson (not out) 5, J. Greenwood 1, extras 16, total 80.

This is one of the earliest mentions of Sowerby Bridge Church Institute 15 YEARS before the Club believes it was founded (1893 – hence the Centenary celebrations of 1993).

sop 2, C. P. Ingleson 0, W. Torville 0, C. C. Thackrah 0, W. Wilkinson 0, extras 2; total 20.

ST. THOMAS'S V. ELLAND 2ND Played on the ground of the former, and resulted as follows: Elland 52, St. Thomas's 56.

BRIGHOUSE V. LITTLEBOROUGH This match was played at Brighouse on Whit Monday. Score: Brighouse Bottomley 15, Sholton 3, Hughes 13, Dyson 25, Tye 13, Milnes 1, Greenwood 3, Broadley 30, Simms 0, Nettleton 3, Lister 1, extras 5, total 135. Littleborough Travis 3, T. Butterworth 17, Sully 18, Bentley 1, Howarth 5, Wild 0, Taylor 0, Cockfield 2, Molesworth 2, E. Butterworth 3, Stanfield 0, extras 5, total 56.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COLTS V. YORKSHIRE COLTS This match was played on Monday and Tuesday, at Bramall Lane, Sheffield, in dull weather, which afterwards broke in rain. Score: Nottinghamshire 113, 68. Yorkshire Harrison 7, Thornton 8, Flaxington 39, Wood 10, Marsh 12, Hudson 49, Sugg 31, Wade 28, Catts 4, Dockray 2, Nottingham 1, extras 18, total 206.

HANOVER V. SOWERBY CHURCH INSTITUTE Played on the ground of the former, and after a very pleasant game victory rested with the home team. Score: Hanover T. F. Amberton 0, F. Dennis 0, A. Dennis 2, L. Redman 2, S. Tattersall 2, J. W. Crossley 12, J. Sugden 15, A. Copley 4, G. Gregory 0, F. H. Baley 3 (not out), J. Holland 0, extras 7, total 47. Sowerby J. Haigh 12, J. Helliwell 4, Thos. Culpan 1, J. A. Cockroft 4, J. Cockroft 3, S. Thomas 3, John Culpan 1, J. S. Wolvenden 0, Jos. Sutcliffe 1, J. W. Howarth 2, Jno. Carter 0, extras 1, total 32.

SALTAIRE V. HALIFAX This match was played on the ground of the former on Monday last, at Saltaire Park, and when rain put a stop to the match the score stood as follows: Halifax A. Turner 7, H. Wood 8, A. Hind 11, J. S. Barraclough 9, G. Thompson (not out) 16, H. Oates 0, J. Eastwood 0, Jas. Dodd 1, W. Edwards 1, J. Foley (not out) 2, extras 4, total for eight wickets 59.

BINGLEY V. HALIFAX This match was played at Bingley on Tuesday, and resulted in an easy victory for Halifax. Score: Bingley H. Whitley 1, A. Sowden 21, J. L. Hickson 13, S. Smith 2, 1

This is another mention, in 1881.

Note also the other sides in existence, including Brighouse, Halifax and Saltaire.

NEW RELIGION

EARLY YEARS – CHURCH & CLUB

Sowerby Bridge Church Institute Cricket Club was founded as Christ Church Cricket Club.

Church and Sunday School were at the centre of community life in Victorian England and it was common for them to embrace many aspects of their members' lives.



When a cricket club was instigated by the Young Men's Class of Christ Church, which met at the Town Hall in Sowerby Bridge, it was consistent with the pattern across the industrial North and Midlands.

Most players attended Christ Church and, catering for numerous leisure activities, the Institute was the church's social and sporting arm.

After a decade playing challenge matches against other local teams, Christ Church C.C. was swept along in the

rush towards the formation of leagues in cricket, association football and rugby football around 1890.



Photo by Colin Hinson

The 'Sowerby Bridge Division Cricket League' was one of hundreds formed at this time and Christ Church C.C. was playing in it by 1894.

Possibly to avoid confusion with other clubs of ecclesiastical origin, the Club became known as Sowerby Bridge Christ Church and also played under the name of Sowerby Bridge Church Institute, a mouthful quickly abbreviated to SBCI.

In its early days the Club also played in the Halifax Amateur League.

SEVEN UP!

GROUND-HOPPING

During its history SBCI has played on at least seven different grounds, although only two of these have been used since 1921 when Sowerby Bridge Council took over the Club's Albert Road ground for development as the Milton Avenue housing estate.

Since then The Astleys has been the club's home, although a few matches were played at Sowerby Bridge Grammar School in 1960 during ground levelling work at The Astleys.

THE GROUNDS

1. Norland (field just below the Blue Ball)
- 2. Pye Nest**
3. Holmes (later Sowerby Bridge Sewage Works)
- 4. Burnley Road (behind the Bay Horse)**
5. Albert Road (now Milton Avenue)
- 6. The Astleys**



7. Sowerby Bridge Grammar School

TOP OF TWO DIVISIONS!

1921 - AMATEUR LEAGUE WIN

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Cricket.

Amateur League Champion- ships.

At a sub-committee meeting of the above league, presided over by Mr. Allott, of T. and W.'s, it was reported that Sowerby Bridge C.I. and T. and W.'s had finished equal at the head of the first division. It was decided that the deciding match be played on Saturday, on the ground of the Brighthouse Council Cricket Club, when Mr. E. Collinson, president of the league, will present the cup to the winning eleven. The umpires chosen were Mr. Hargreaves (St. Michael's) and Mr. Bentley (Providence). In the second division, S.B.C.I. finished top, Ripponden being runners up. The deciding match will be played on Saturday next, Sept. 10, on the ground of T. and W.'s, Brookfoot, when Mr. Wainwright, vice-president of the league, will present the cup to the winning eleven. The umpires chosen were Mr. Binns, of Illingworth Wes., and Mr. Higgins, of Turner and Wainwright's.

FINAL TABLE.—First Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
Sowerby Bridge C.I. ...	16	13	2	1	27
Turner & Wainwright's	16	13	2	1	27
Illingworth Wes.	16	10	5	1	21
Providence	16	8	8	0	16
Ripponden Cons.	16	8	8	0	16
St. Michael's	16	6	9	1	13
Post Office Engineers...	16	4	11	1	9
St. Paul's	16	4	12	0	8
Campbell's	16	3	12	1	7

Final Table.—Second Division.

	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts
Sowerby Bridge C.I....	16	14	1	1	29
Ripponden Cons.	16	13	3	0	26
Coley	16	11	5	0	22
Y.M.C.A.	16	9	7	0	18
Akroydon Wes.	16	7	7	2	16
St. Hilda's	16	6	9	1	13
Emscote	16	5	9	2	12
R.E.S.	16	2	14	0	4
Turner & Wainwright's	16	2	14	0	4

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MONEY PROBLEMS

1930s – FINANCIAL CRISIS

During a financial crisis at the Institute in the early 1930s, brought about in part by economic depression, the Cricket Club was told it would no longer receive financial support.

The members responded by making the Club financially independent and since then the Club has grown apart from its roots.



Nevertheless, the land, although controlled by the Cricket Club, is still held by church trustees and, in a tradition dating to the early days, the Vicar of Christ Church is still Club president.

GROWING PAINS

1934 – INTERNAL PROBLEMS

The period between 1934 and 1946 was a traumatic time for SBCI and its members, but at the end of the club was stronger and more independent, able to steer its own course to the thriving club it has become today.

Prior to 1934 the cricket club was funded by nominal match fees and a 'cut' it received from the Institute's fund raising activities. The cricketers contributed to events such as bazaars as they were primarily members of the Institute, not just the cricket club.



Part of the Club's commitment was to pay an annual rent to the Institute's Management Committee. These payments had, apparently, lapsed and in 1934 this committee adopted the resolution:

That the Cricket Section be not allowed use of the playing field unless they can guarantee their rent.

The Cricket Section replied:

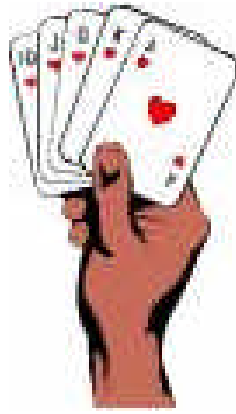
We regret that the Management Committee have seen reason to censure that section ... the Cricket Section has always been more or less subsidised from the Institute funds, further, up to 1934, the Cricket Section were not allowed to organise events for the purpose of raising funds, owing to the existence of a Social Committee.

Although still subsidised by Institute events such as jumble sales and the Christmas Club, the Cricket Section needed more funds. The cricket committee requested a 12 month abeyance before any action was taken and embarked on frantic fund-raising preparations.



Their meetings immediately increased from two per year to six, the extra time taken up almost exclusively by fund-raising as financial necessity drove the club onto a more commercial footing.

Motivated more by survival than aspiration, the committee began to adopt the methods of clubs with much greater manpower, financial turnover and security.



Bi-annual 'Whist Drive and Dances' were organised for February and October, and membership cards and fixture lists were printed, (their costs covered by advertisements).

Old members and friends were cajoled to renew their interest in the Club and 'prominent gentlemen' were approached and asked to become vice-presidents – although the Club had only one of these, a local vicar, by 1937.

The first Whist Drive & Dance was held at the Victoria Assembly Rooms on 2 February 1935. 200 tickets and 50 window bills were printed, the five-piece New Astoria Band was booked at a cost of 50 shillings and a profit of £2 14s 6d made it the most successful of the initiatives.

By 1936 annual rent for the field was £8 8s and the club's ongoing financial struggles are hinted during the winter of 1937-38.



The pitch was re-turfed 'using sods from our own field' and bitter objections were raised to an invoice for 13 hours rolling over two days when the committee had only requested eight hours rolling on one day.



To pay for this work the club embarked on a 'mile of pennies' scheme and a thousand envelopes were printed and distributed around the district.

11 MEN IN WHITES, TWO UMPIRES, AND A LITTLE BOY...

1939 – WARTIME PHOTO



Does anyone know who the little boy is in the bottom right of the photograph?

Do you recognise any of the other SBCI faces?

NO MEETINGS FOR 18 MONTHS

SECOND WORLD WAR

The war was a mixed blessing for SBCI. With little infrastructure or manpower to fall back on when it lost men to the forces, continuity disintegrated and after 1939 the Club limped along on sporadic enthusiasm rather than structured planning.



There was no committee meeting between March 1940 and September 1941, at which point the Club ceased to function and the ground fell into five years of neglect.

