

## Jonas Clegg senior & Jonas Clegg junior

**Jonas Clegg senior** was the best and longest serving of the Todmorden cricketers who re-formed the club in 1850. Primarily a medium paced round arm bowler, he also scored useful runs as a middle/lower order batsman who hit the ball hard.

Jonas learned much from Joseph Crossland who was Todmorden's first professional. Crossland came from Dalton in Huddersfield. He was persuaded to come to Todmorden by the club's founder, Samuel Fielden who offered him work at his Waterside Mill in addition to playing and coaching cricket. Crossland and Clegg were a formidable bowling partnership for ten seasons from 1851. When Crossland died prematurely in 1861, it was Jonas, as club secretary, who visited members and collected money to pay for the funeral and leave a small balance for Crossland's widow and family.

Jonas's best innings for Todmorden was his 36 against the United England XI in 1864. This team and the All England XI in 1868 found it hard to score runs from his bowling because he was very accurate.

His final match was a successful testimonial against Bacup in 1880, by when he was known as 'the father of Todmorden cricket'. In a first team career spanning 30 seasons, he accumulated a minimum of 2162 runs, 619 wickets and 92 catches for Todmorden's first team, figures which do not include 15 matches for which scores are not available.

Jonas continued to work for the club after his retirement. Serving for over 50 years as player, committee man and umpire he was a key figure as Todmorden competed consistently against clubs from much larger towns and became established as a major cricket club in the second half of the 19th century. Jonas Clegg senior died in 1901.

By then he had enjoyed many years watching his son, **Jonas Clegg junior**. Jonas junior was always destined to play cricket. Jonas senior made him a member of Todmorden Cricket Club when he was but a few hours old so that Jonas junior was a member of the club literally all his life.

Jonas junior made his first team debut alongside his father in 1875 and played until 1903. He was a hard hitting and devastating batsman - decades later members would reminisce about his ability to 'block 'em o'ert' schoil'. In 1894 he was professional at Milnrow and scored a remarkable 32 of their 35 all out at Todmorden.

The highlight of his career came in 1896 when he captained Todmorden to their first trophy, the Central Lancashire League championship. His 178 at Milnrow that season remains a record score by a Todmorden amateur and he was hailed in the local press as 'the most popular man in Todmorden'.

In total he hit 7021 runs, took 98 wickets with his medium pace and held 155 catches for Todmorden. Although he played in an era when poor pitch preparation often made run-scoring difficult, only six batsmen have scored more runs for Todmorden.

Like his father, Jonas junior served on the committee for many years after his retirement.