

New skipper's aim is for a shock or two!

THONGSBRIDGE celebrated their centenary year by carrying off both the championship and Sykes Cup.

They played consistently good, attacking cricket and fully deserved their success.

So wrote former league secretary Colin Garthwaite in the league's 1961 handbook.

Since then, however, success has been scarce. They dropped to Section "B" in 1963 and finished 10th but recovered to claim the title in 1965 only to come straight back down. It was 1972 before the club won promotion but they were again relegated in the following season.

And Thongsbridge have now been in Section "B" since 1974, when they reached the Sykes Cup semi-finals only to lose to Honley, and have applied for re-election twice as well as finishing eighth, seventh and ninth in their last three summers.

But they'll attempt to play



Graham Sutton
—attacking pledge

Huddersfield League CRICKET



Robert Gledhill

GOLCAR opener David Thorpe created a new Huddersfield League limited overs record at Paddock on Saturday.

He became the first batsman to score centuries in the first two matches. His 110 against Paddock followed his opening day 106 against Holmfirth.

No other batsman has matched that feat since the league went to the 45 overs per side system in 1956, which was extended to 50 overs last season.

an attacking game in this, their 125th season, pledges new skipper Graham Sutton.

With former club officials Jim Dawson and Raymond Smith as president and chairman of the league, respectively, it was jokingly suggested at their pre-season dinner that Thongsbridge are assured of a trophy this time.

Sutton says, however: "I can't see anybody but Slai-thwaite and Holmfirth going up, although I suppose Primrose Hill could be there."

Of his own side's chances, Sutton says: "I think we can shock one or two sides this season. It all depends on how our bowling progresses and how the youngsters come on. We are going to play attacking cricket, no doubt about it."

Sutton is particularly hopeful that pace prospect Richard Parr can make an impression.

"The only thing wrong with Richard last season was that he bowled a lot of wides although he was certainly quick. But he's been to the Cricket School of Excellence and they seem to have straightened him out."

He's also going to push junior batsman Robert Berry and 19-year-old seamer Andrew Woodhead and believes Nicholas Ainley and Julian Holroyd will make further progress in the seconds.

Sutton also intends to get the best out of all-rounder Howard Roebuck. "Howard has the ability but he's round about 40 now and he tends to let that get him down. I believe, though, he's still good enough to open both the batting and bowling."

Sutton, who accepted the captaincy when Ian Ainley stepped down, has already built a fine team spirit and his only worry is the square.

It has been affected by moss and Sutton says: "They are certainly not the batting tracks they were when I first came here four or five years ago. But, they are certainly better 'cricket' wickets now."

Thongsbridge have had a reputation for first-class batting strips since 1946 when a flood, which covered the ground to a depth from one to three feet, proved a blessing in disguise.

Certainly, two of Thongsbridge's former professionals, John Shaw and Allan Greaves took full advantage of the tracks in the 70s. Shaw scored 1,020 runs in 1971 and 1,061 in 1973 and Greaves followed with 1,015 in the following season.