

OFFICIALS OVER THE YEARS

Presidents

A. Sykes J.P.
J. E. Woodhead J.P.
J. Lancaster
A. Lancaster
M. Pott
H. C. Allen
K. R. Dyson
H. Wimpenny
A. Carter

Secretarys

C. Bottomley
H. A. Lodge
H. W. Gill
H. Noble
J. Heeley
H. Wilkinson
J. Ritchie
H. Wimpenny
A. F. Holroyd
W. Battye
J. Dawson
A. Carter
I. Johnson

Treasurers

A. Dixon
F. Fisher
F. W. Haigh
H. Wimpenny
L. Hawksworth
C. Beaumont
C. Taylor

Cricket League
Representatives

A. Lancaster
A. Beaumont
J. D. Heywood
R. Sykes
L. Binne
J. Dawson
G. R. Smith

I. Ainley
T. Johnson
Mrs. S. E. Heppenstall
C. J. Slavin
M. Dean

LIST OF MAJOR HONOURS

1916	Winners Huddersfield Cricket Association League.
	Winners Lumb Cup.
1922	Winners Tinker Cup
	Runners up Huddersfield Central League
1932	(Winners of "Byrom Shield")
1960	(Winners of "Byrom Shield")
1939 - 1944 - 1965	Winners of Hinchliffe Cup
1960	Winners of "Sykes Cup"
1932 - 1942 - 1957	Runners up of "Sykes Cup"
1929 - 31 - 33 - 39	} (Winners of "Paddock Shield")
1945 - 51 - 72 - 75	
1944 - 50 - 51 - 63	Winners of 2 XI League Competition
1971 - 72 - 73 - 74	(Section "A" Junior League)
1975 - 76 - 79	(Winners of "Thornton Trophy")
1975	Junior Winners of "Walker Cup"
1974	A. Greaves Winner of Tom Oldham Batting Trophy.
1978	J. Moorhouse Winner of "Whittle Trophy"
1979	G. F. Howard Winner of "Whittle Trophy"
1981	G. Sutton Winner of "Whittle Trophy"

LIST OF LEAGUE PRIZE WINNERS

Batting Ist. XI.

1930 and 1949 J. Beaumont
1933 C. Sykes
1939-56-65 H. Beaumont
1974 A. Greaves

Batting 2nd. XI.

1978 J. Moorhouse
1979 G.F. Howard
1981 G. Sutton

Bowling

1930 A.E. Bray Ist. XI
1972 T. Brierley 2nd. XI

Fielding

1930 J. Beaumont
1939 A. Hoyle
1964-65 R. Hallas
1973 S. Kellet 2nd. XI
1974 R. Mallinson (Junior)

Hemmingway Cup

1962 D. Hirst

F.H. Stallard Cup

1982 H. Wimpenny (joint)

Outstanding Performances

1971 J. Shaw 1020 runs
1973 J. Shaw 1016 runs
1974 A. Greaves 1015 runs

1927 N. Fisher 99 wickets
1941 A.H. Noble 93 wickets
1960 B. Hirst 100 wickets

August 27/38 F. Mallinson
204 N.O. v Kirkburton
including:- 12 x 6s and 25 x 4s.

1959 Ian Wimpenny scored 975 runs
in Junior 2nd. XI and
Ist XI games.

1974 Chris Mallinson & J. Moorhouse
opening stand in 2nd. XI
game of 217 runs.
(Mallinson 120 N.O. Moorhouse
94)

Lady Sykes Trophy

1954 J. Dawson
1963 K. Marsh
1981 T. Brierley

1954 Winners of Schweppes Trophy
1970 Winners of Greenwood Trophy
1979 Winners of "Examiner" Mini
Competition.

PROFESSIONALS OVER THE YEARS

N. Fisher	1926-27-28	L. Davis	
R. Bestwick	1929	D. Hinds	
A. Isles	1930	I. Aspinall (injt	1975
F. Brooke	1931	I. Roebuck	1975-76
H. Haigh	1932-33-34	J. Allen (resigned)	1976
A. H. Noble	1935-41	D. Swan	1976
J. Hirst	1936	S. Wales	1977
S. Monks	1937	K. Power	1977
F. H. Berry	1938-39-40	G. Taylor	1978
G. Turner	1942-43	A. Siddall	1978
T. Hirst	1944-45-46	J. Birch (4 games)	1978
H. Trower	1947	J. Sharkey	1979
J. Ingham	1948	J. Houseley	1979
H. Hinchliffe	1949	G. Booth	1979-80-81
H. Beaumont	1950-51-52	J. Speak (resigned)	1980
A. Eato	1953	S. Armitage	1981-82-83
B. Brooke	1954-55	J. S. Sanderson	1981-82-83
L. Binns	1956	D. Tattersley	1983
S. Norton	1957-58	G. Woodruff	1983
H. Fearnley	1959		
B. Hirst	1960-61-62		
B. James	1963		
S. Armitage	1964-65-66-67		
J. Shaw	1968-69-70-71-72-73		
A. Greaves	1974-75		

SIXTY FOUR YEARS OF CRICKET 1919-1983

During the 1914-1918 war the game of cricket was not played at Thongsbridge owing to most of the players being on active service. It was in 1919 when the club then again became active, and resumed playing in the Huddersfield Alliance League. I was invited to score for the 1st. XI, the previous scorer being still in the forces. Much work had to be done to make the ground playable and I took a hand in this work. Season 1920 and the former scorer had returned so I then took an interest in watching the game. In 1922 I remember going to Shepley to a "Tinker Cup Final" which they won but cannot name the other side.

It was in 1926 when the club was admitted to the Huddersfield League and I became a regular supporter. When I took up residence in Thongsbridge in 1929 I was invited by the late Mr Tom Beaumont to become a member of the Committee. I readily agreed and the decision has proved to be something I have never regretted and have thoroughly enjoyed for the friendships I have made not only at Thongsbridge, but throughout the Huddersfield League and on my visits to the County Grounds since my retirement 15 years ago.

In my early days of Huddersfield League Cricket, 1932 was a memorable one, it being the 6th season of membership when we won the "Byrom Shield" quite a performance. To celebrate, our then President the late J. Lancaster gave a dinner at the "Albert Hotel" attended by the late W.H. Bolt, J.W. Senior, G.H. Hirst, W. Rhodes and many other cricket noteables. I had the honour of seconding the vote thanks to the President for his hospitality.

In my early days on the Committee I was auditor for 5 years, and in 1938 I was appointed Treasurer a position I held for 16 years and on two occasions between 1941 and 1945 I carried out the dual duties of Secretary and Treasurer.

In 1937 we lost the services of "Captain" the horse which for years had pulled the mower to cut the grass. Due to old age we had to pension him off. We then replaced him with a "Dennis" motor mower with thanks to the late Mr. A. Lancaster for his financial help in meeting the cost.

The next move was to find a place to store the mower as we had only an old wood shed behind the dressing rooms. With the consent of the Committee I was able to contact an old friend of mine, a native of Thongsbridge who at this time was in business in Coventry, manufacturing concrete garages. He most kindly sent me a catalogue to select a garage as a gift to the club with memories of his boyhood days at Thongsbridge. It is now still in use behind the dressing rooms.

In 1938 I along with the then Secretary the late Mr. J. Ritchie had an interview with the late Mr. J.E. Woodhead of "Newland House" who at the time was about to purchase the field next to the cricket field (then the sports ground for the Holmfirth Secondary School) to be purchased from the W.R.C.C. for a recreation ground for the children of Thongsbridge. As a result of the interview Mr. Woodhead kindly donated 16 yards by which to extend our playing area. We were also fortunate in him allowing us to have the wooden dressing room for an extension to our tea room, these being in use until the new tea room was erected.

1941 We were in the depths of the war but with the hard work and hours of our spare time we were, through the loyalty of a few members able to carry on and field two teams each week.

Disaster overtook the club on Whit Monday May 29th, 1944 when the ground was flooded due to a cloud burst and much damage was done throughout the district, with the loss of 3 lives. Our ground was unplayable until the first week in July with tons of sand and silt having to be cleared away, thanks to the help from many villagers.

Honley Feast Friday in September 1946 we were again victims of flooding but not as heavy as the previous one. It so happened that the season had closed the week before.

September 1944 thanks to the late Mr. Lancaster and Clifford Sykes notable cricketers graced our ground - Eddie Paynter (Lancs & Eng), Arthur Wood, Ken Fiddling (Yorks), Fred Berry (Surrey), Horace Kippax, and many others from the various clubs in Yorkshire. As a result of this game we were able to send Christmas gifts to some 70/80 members who were in the forces.

September 1945 another game including many of the players who played in the previous one were present. The proceeds were for a benefit for our loyal player Albert E. Bray who had played for the club for 25 seasons.

On the 26th November 1947 I was the recipient of a silver mounted engraved walking stick in recognition of my services as Treasurer for 10 years.

February 12th 1954 I had the honour of being elected a Life Member of the club in recognition of my 25 years service to the club.

In the late forties I had the pleasure of arranging a game against the Huddersfield Town Footballers at the invitation of the late Alf Young, the former Huddersfield Town centre half which proved very entertaining to a large crowd.

In the late fifties I was approached by the late Mr W Cunningham a Vice President of the club and the Chairman of the Huddersfield (Fartown) Rugby League Club, to arrange a cricket match with the Fartown footballers to which we agreed. The Fartown team at that time were a team of renown, having won the Rugby League Challenge Cup in 1953. The Fartown team included Johnny Hunter, Pat Devery, Lionel Cooper, Peter Henderson, Mel Meek, Peter Ramsden (who won the man of the match award in the 1953 Cup Final, my friend R G Gapper, A Clues of Leeds, Little Thorpe the rugby league referee from Wakefield and Ken Taylor of Huddersfield Town. The game was watched by a large crowd, after which a supper and social evening was held at the "Albert Hotel".

1960 brought us to our centenary year, and what a year! We won the "Byrom Shield" being top of the league and the "Sykes Cup". A wonderful achievement - this was celebrated with a dinner and dance in the Civic Hall at Holmfirth on Friday December 9th 1960, attended by some 250 players, members, and friends and many cricket celebrities.

In 1963/64 due to the fall in membership through deaths, removals and the financial position of the bowling club and after several meetings between the members of each club it was decided to amalgamate, to take effect in 1964, under the name of Thongsbridge Cricket and Bowling Club and so it remains to this day.

Whit Saturday 1966 the new bridge was opened by a former President the late H.C. Allen owing to our President Mr. K.R. Dyson being on holiday, I deputised for him as Chairman of the proceedings.

1968 saw the opening of the new tea room a wonderful job done by a band of voluntary helpers.

The next job was to demolish the old railway sleepers and iron rails on the top side of the ground. Through the kindness of J. Woodhead Ltd, of Albion Mills, stone was made available for the job through alterations at the mill, which was wheeled onto the ground by players and members at the weekends. Brook Kaye a retired mason was the man in charge, and with my help as labourer a new wall was built from the playing field end up to the tea room with seating accommodation the full length of the wall, surrounded by a netting fence, with a new car park on the other side.

The cricket ground was purchased from Bass North in 1969 and the ground at the Bowling Club in 1972 from Brooke Dyers Ltd.

Extensions at the Bowling Club were opened on Saturday 20 March 1976 by myself and Mr A. Battye sen. on behalf of the Bowling Club. Later alterations at the Bowling Club were opened by the President Mr A. Carter.

most promising young player, to be named the "H WIMPENNY CUP".

In January 1979 a meeting of players and Committee was held to discuss the alterations to the dressing rooms, viz. the building of two rooms over the present dressing rooms, for a new home team dressing room and a new score box. The former home dressing room to be converted to a shower room, in due course. It was decided to apply to the management Committee for consent to apply for , planning permission, and this was granted. Application was made to Kirklees and permission was granted and voluntary work commenced immediately. The question of money was considered and various means of raising money were discussed, these being, sponsored swim, book sale, coffee evenings, writing to former players and members asking for donations. I undertook the job of writing to the players etc, and in the space of 4 weeks sent out 300 requests. The result being most gratifying - donations came from Australia, India, New Zealand, North Africa, South Africa, America, Scotland, London and many other distant places. By the end of the year our target of £4,000 had reached £3,500. A splendid effort!

Saturday March 31st 1979 proved to be the "HIGHLIGHT OF MY LIFE", when a dinner was given in honour of my 50 years service to the club in official capacities. The club room was full to the limits with the following guests:-

Mr and Mrs H. Robinson, Mr Alec Lodge, Mr and Mrs Hedley Dawson, Mr and Mrs J. Beaumont, and Mr R.G. Gapper.

After the meal so ably prepared and served by the ladies of the club, a presentation was made to me by the club Chairman Mr. Jim Dawson of a "Shelley China Plate" autographed by each member of the 1977 Australian touring team, in appreciation of my services to the club and cricket in general. The plate being now one of my most treasured possessions. I also received a personal gift of a book from Mr. Alec Lodge, "ITS A FUNNY GAME" by Brian Johnston.

In February 1981 I received from the cricket section an engraved silver Tankard in appreciation of my work as Financial Secretary of the project for the modernisation of the dressing rooms and new score box.

The new dressing rooms and score box were opened on Sunday 20th Sept 1981 by myself (ex President) with Mr J. Dawson the club Chairman presiding. The opening was followed by a match between Thongsbridge XI. and Phil Carricks Yorkshire XI.

Friday January 14 1983 will also go down as a most memorable occasion, when attending the Huddersfield Cricket League dinner I was announced joint winner along with my friend Mr E. Peel from Elland of the "F.H. STALLARD CUP" donated by F.H. Stallard Esq, of New Mill and awarded for distinguished service.

The cup will be held for 6 months by each of the winners. One only has to think of a gathering of 365 men, what the applause would sound like and to me a great surprise not knowing a word until my name was announced.

Mr Peel and myself have completed 135 years between us for the game we love and enjoy.

WINNERS OF THE " H. WIMPENNY CUP "

1977. N. Kaye

1978. B. Marshall

1979. M.J. Thornton

1980. S. Jessop

1981. R. Brierley

1982. R. Webb

MAY I SAY A VERY BIG "THANK YOU" TO ALL MY FRIENDS AT THE THONGSBRIDGE CRICKET AND BOWLING CLUB FOR THE HELP AND KINDNESS THEY HAVE SHOWN TO ME DURING MY 64 YEARS AS A MEMBER AND OFFICIAL OF THIS CLUB.

OVER THE YEARS MANY VOLUNTARY WORKERS HAVE RENDERED MOST VALUABLE SERVICE AND IT IS IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO ANNOUNCE INDIVIDUALLY BY NAME, SO AS NOT TO OVERLOOK ANYONE PLEASE ACCEPT FROM ME THAT THIS THANKS INCLUDES ONE AND ALL.

ALSO MY SINCERE THANKS TO THE HUDDERSFIELD CRICKET LEAGUE FOR THE HONOUR BESTOWED ON ME BY SELECTING ME AS A JOINT WINNER OF THE "F.R. STALLARD CUP", (along with my friend Mr E Peel of the Elland Club.) AWARDED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE.

I CANNOT LET THIS OCCASION PASS WITHOUT PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LADIES WHO OVER THE PAST 52 YEARS (1930-1982) HAVE GIVEN SUCH VALUED SERVICE IN THE TEA ROOM. THEIR SMILING FACES AND PRIDE IN THE WORK THEY WERE DOING MERITS FROM ME A GREAT WORD OF "PRAISE AND THANKS". HERE AGAIN THE NAMES ARE TOO NUMEROUS FOR ME TO ANNOUNCE INDIVIDUALLY SO "THANK YOU" ONE AND ALL.

I AM PLEASED TO SAY THAT TWO OF THE ORIGINAL LADIES OF 1930 WHEN THE TEA ROOM WAS OPENED ARE STILL LIVING, MAY I SEND THEM OUR KIND REGARDS.

FINALLY MAY I TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY OF WISHING SUCCESS TO THE CLUB AND MAY ITS FUTURE BE A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS ONE.