

Brian Heywood's All-Time Walsden XI

After much consideration, here is the final choice, and brief reasons why they were chosen.

Richard Eastwood – solid and consistent opening batsman with excellent concentration, forming, with Mike Atherton, the most successful opening partnership in the history of the Lancashire Cricket Federation. For Walsden he scored 500 runs in a season six times between 1984 and 1990. Astute field placing and strategy brought success for his steady and under-rated medium pacers. Played briefly as a professional in the Saddleworth League.

Harry Smith – simply devastating on his day. Still holds the Walsden record amateur score of 205 not out against Moorside in 1915. 'Clubs feared this tiny but fierce hitting batsman.'

Trevor Chappell – epitomised why so many clubs want 'a good young Aussie'. Chappell was a talented early-order batsman, an aggressive medium-fast bowler and a brilliant fielder. Extremely competitive, he inspired those around him to make Walsden feared throughout the league. A century in the final clinched the 1975 Wood Cup for the Club.

Mark Hooson – the current Walsden captain and another to pro in the Saddleworth League. An aggressive and consistent right-hand batsman and accurate slow-medium seam bowler, particularly effective on wet wickets. He can hold the team together with both bat and ball.

Frank Scott – the legend; the only amateur in the history of the Central Lancashire League to score 5,000 runs and take 500 wickets.

Bill Barker – another Walsden legend whose career spanned four decades, he was an outstanding and shrewd captain who commanded respect from his team. Particularly strong on the leg side, he was one of the league's leading batsmen for many years. He also bowled occasional leg spinners and earned a reputation as a partnership breaker.

Lenny Moss – an aggressive middle-order batsman and highly effective bowler, Lenny Moss was Walsden's outstanding cricketer of the 1950s, passing 500 runs in a season 5 times. Another to play as a professional in other leagues.

Rev R. Napier – came to Walsden as the vicar of the village in 1890 and, the Club's outstanding player of that decade, led by example to improve the standard of play at the Club. Reputedly the fastest bowler in England, he bowled Lancashire to victory against the Australians in 1888, but his calling curtailed his first-class career. He was the first president of the Central Lancashire League in 1892.

Albert Connor – holds the Club wicketkeeping record of 45 victims – 22 caught and 23 stumped – in 1955. Also an effective batsman, he was a genuine all-rounder. Played a key role in the Todmorden team which won the Lancashire League title in 1957, before performing similar feats at Walsden. Possibly unique in holding championship medals in both the Lancashire and Central Lancashire Leagues.

David Lord – another holder of a Club record, he took 93 wickets in 1978, many of them caught in the leg trap by Trevor Bailey and Albert Ross from his extremely accurate in-swing bowling.

Albert Ross – hit 500 runs a Club record 7 times in 8 seasons between 1974 and 1981, and this in the era of Garner, Stephenson and numerous other pacemen who terrorised amateur batsmen. Over 3,000 runs for Todmorden take his tally beyond 10,000 for the local clubs. An excellent fielder, he played with a competitiveness which could inspire those around him.