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### Club Directory - Brighouse

#### BRIGHOUSE

**Joined League: 1925**

**Division One Champions: 1930, 1931, 1932, 1960**

**Ground: Russell Way**

Brighouse move into their new ground in 2004 hoping for a brighter future but they leave their old home with memories of past successes.

The club has a distinguished history and their sides was graced by some of the game's biggest names during the First World War.

At the time the club competed in the Halifax Section in the Yorkshire Council and engaged players of the calibre of George Hirst, Wilfred Rhodes and Alonzo Drake. All of them played for Yorkshire while Hirst and Rhodes were also capped by England .

It was 1925 when Brighouse joined the Bradford League. The first fixture on April 18, was a home clash against Great Horton. The new boys went on to finish a very respectable ninth with George Lund setting a new league record aggregate of 954 runs.

Brighouse were desperately unlucky not to land their first silverware in 1928 when Bradford beat them in a play-off for the championship, but the league title found its way to Brighouse in 1930 when they emerged top of the pile in a thrilling battle. They finished a point ahead of both East Bierley and Bowling Old Lane.

It was the start of the most successful spell in Brighouse's history as they won the title again in 1931 and 1932 to complete a well deserved hat-trick.

One of the catalysts for their success was Jack Hill snr. He was a remarkably consistent batsman who topped the league's batting averages in 1930 and 1932 and was second in 1931.

Hill's averages of 52.28 and 43.07 in 1930 and 1931 respectively, were overshadowed by his average of 99.11 in 1932. His tally of 892 runs included one century and nine fifties.

Trophies proved elusive for the next 30 years before Brighouse won the Division Two title in 1952, eight years after being relegated from the top flight.

Brighouse's fortunes were on the up again and a fourth title came their way in 1960. Once again it owed much to the contribution of an outstanding batsman. This time it was former Yorkshire and England opener Frank Lowson. His elegant strokeplay was an invaluable asset.

In 1963 he became the first Brighouse batsman to top the 1000 run mark when he made 1,025. Since then four more Brighouse batsmen, Alan Gilliver (1,021 in 1978), John Heaton (1,056 in 1980), Ijaz Khan (1,054 in 1995) and Richard Robinson (1,454 in 2003) have since repeated the feat.

Brighouse have had little to cheer in recent times. Since 1962 they have been relegated three times and been promoted twice.



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