

## CHARACTERS OF THE CLUB

*"Sow a character, and you reap a destiny."*

*Anonymous.*

Throughout the past 100 years, many people have been associated with the club in an "official" capacity. Of these, some have stood out; a few because of their character, others because of their tireless work for the club. First thoughts indicate to the writer an endless list of such people. Space of course does not allow this. Whilst realising that worthy characters will be omitted and that criticism will be made of the writer for this, it is believed that the contributions to the club of those listed below have been, in some way, special.

Squire Pexton and George Hey. Both were Trustees of the club while at Hole Bottom and were signatories to the Sod and Turf Agreement in 1883. Both active cricketers in their day.

Albert Stancliffe. Along with Squire Pexton a signatory of the Sod and Turf Agreement and 38 years later of the 1921 conveyance for the purchase of the ground.

David Wilson, of whom G. H. Hirst said, "As a player and official did more for the Club than anyone." Treasurer of the club for at least 32 years, stretching from 1893 to 1925. Played in the club's first Huuddersfield League fixture. Captain of the bowling team in the 1920s.

Thos. Hill. Nephew of Allen Hill, Yorkshire and England cricketer; with his brothers Law and Frank played alongside Hirst and Rhodes and was a member of the league championship side of 1896. Associated with the club for over 67 years until his death in the early 1950s. Trustee of the club for over 20 years. On a personal note, Thomas Hill introduced the writer to Kirkheaton cricket, when he (in his eighties), took me (a young lad of 6 or 7) and my sandwiches every Saturday afternoon to watch the home match at the club.

George Herbert Hirst. Useful cricketer and President of the club for 35 years.

Wilfred Rhodes. Another useful cricketer and President of the club from 1954 to his death in 1973.

Willie Waddington. Captain of the 1926 double side. Dedicated his life to the club as a cricketer and committee man. For many years he was the club's cricket representative and served on the League Council.

Fred Taylor. Became a member of the club in 1924. Senior Vice-President. One time player, committee man, club steward and domino champion. In his 80's still going strong and much respected by all.

The Hallas Family. Associated with the club for the longest time. William Hallas elected Secretary in 1925, James Hallas elected Treasurer the same year and their brothers Joe and Thornton were all members in the early 1900s. William's son Morrith, who was a member of the 1926 double side, was himself a committee man for many years. Morrith's son Norman, a Vice-President and Trustee of the club, was an outstanding bowler, (League prize winner in 1950) and No. 11 bat. Served as committee member, Secretary and Treasurer of the club and a lifetime supporter of Junior League cricket. Honoured by the league with the Lady Sykes Trophy in 1951. The Hallas family has been synonymous with the club for as long as anyone can remember.

Jack Laycock. A Vice-President of the club and former Trustee. A bowling member for over 40 years and has held the position of both bowling representative and Secretary. A committee member for several years and Chairman of the club in the late 1940s and early 50s. An avid walker whose advice on many matters is still greatly valued.

Philip Earnshaw. Vice-President and Trustee. A first class opening bat for many seasons and 9th change bowler. Has held the position of Committee member, Secretary, Treasurer, Cricket Representative and Chairman during his long association with the club. A tireless worker on the ground for many years, his services to the club and to Huddersfield cricket were rewarded with the presentation of the Lady Sykes Trophy in 1977.

Maurice E. Broadbent. President of the club since 1973. Born and bred in the village, a keen cricket supporter, an active crown green bowler and a highly respected member and friend of the club.

These small tributes are for very special people. It has not been forgotten, however, that there are many others who have given a large proportion of their time and effort, whether in official positions or not, to the development of Kirkheaton Cricket and Bowling Club over the past one hundred years. Our thanks are due to them.