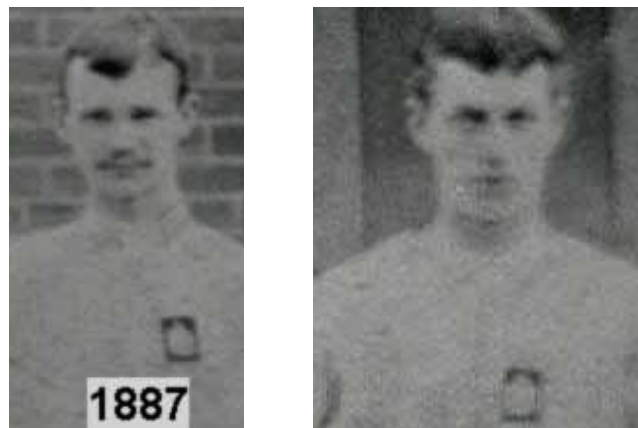


120 Not Out!

The Moorhouse Family by Paul Rai

During the 1880s a man named George Moorhouse pulled on the Armitage Bridge whites for the first time. Over 120 years later, his family members are still an important part of the club. George is pictured below with a moustache in 1887; next to him is his brother Robert Moorhouse.



Both George and Robert were integral parts of the club's greatest success, the 1887 Lumb Cup triumph. George was renowned for his batting but he was outshone by his younger brother, Robert who made scores of 50-plus three times *en route* to the Lumb Cup final. Also in 1892 both players made valuable contributions to the ABCC league championship-winning side.

Robert Moorhouse came to be known as 'Bob' to those close to him. His displays for the Bridge caught the eye of his home county and before he knew it he was playing for Yorkshire. Bob made his first-class debut in 1888 against Cambridge University, scoring 42 before being clean bowled. He did not fare so well in the second innings when he was dismissed for a duck.

Bob went on to play 217 first-class matches for Yorkshire, scoring over 5,000 runs and taking 49 wickets. When his county career came to an end Bob became a professional at a number of clubs and was a coach at Sedbergh public school.

A third Moorhouse brother, Fred, also played for ABCC in the late 1890s. Born in Berry Brow, Fred showed potential early on in his cricketing career. Aged just 20, he moved away from home to play first-class cricket for Warwickshire.

Fred was a tall fast bowler. Standing at over 6 feet tall, he would have been able to extract steep bounce from wickets around the county circuit. He took 260 first-class wickets in 117 matches at an average of 23.96. These figures included five wickets in an innings on eight occasions and ten wickets in a match two times. His best performance was 7-53 in an innings.



Abraham Moorhouse appeared for ABCC during a 30-year period from 1900 to 1930. Known as 'Abe' to his teammates, he won the league fielding prize in 1924. When Abe's playing career came to an end he moved onto the admin side, becoming a committee member, secretary and league representative. Abe's brother Harry also played for the club.

Abe's commitment and passion for the club cannot be questioned. During World War Two, he dusted off his bat and cleaned his bowling boots to come out of

retirement to captain and lead the ABCC second eleven. Abe called time on his playing career in the early fifties after being struck in the face by the ball.

Abe's son Roy began life at the Bridge as second eleven scorer in 1942. The majority of Roy's playing life was spent in the Bridge second eleven. He also played a significant role in the 1953 side that ended up Paddock Shield runners-up. He then showed leadership abilities and was appointed captain for a number of seasons. Roy followed in his father's footsteps by joining the committee and becoming club secretary. He also had a brief spell as club chairman. To cap off a great career, Roy added the Lady Sykes Trophy to his collection in 1973.

The Moorhouse family tradition continued into the 1980s when Roy's son, Robert, was part of a successful second eleven side. Robert Moorhouse went on to win two Paddock Shields and three championship titles, including two as captain. In 1983 Robert claimed the league second eleven bowling prize - something that no other Moorhouse has achieved to date.

It is no surprise that Robert's sons, James and Danny, have taken up cricket. Both have represented the Bridge first team. James is a university student and his younger brother Danny broke into the first team last year, scoring his first fifty at the age of 17, showing maturity beyond his years.

Danny bowled 81 overs for the first team last year - 13 of them were maidens and he conceded 377 runs, taking 14 wickets at an average of 26.93. He was also part of the Under-17 ABCC side that won its section of the league and reached the Walker Cup final.

In summary: nine Moorhouses - George, Bob, Fred, Abe, Harry, Roy, Robert, James and Danny - have played for Armitage Bridge Cricket Club over the last 120 years. I'm sure there are many years left in them as well.