

BIRKBY NUFFIELD: the 12th in a second series of cricket histories...

Happy club boasts teas and tolerance!

BIRKBY NUFFIELD Cricket Club were originally known as YMCA CC with the Huddersfield YMCA team playing in the Huddersfield Cricket Association League as far back as 1920.

In the inter-war period the club left the Association League to play friendly cricket only and only rejoined it in 1949. Its first major success was 1956 – victory in the Lumb Cup final.

For most of their history, and before moving to Rose Hill, Birkby, the YMCA cricket team played their home games at Laund Hill, Salendine Nook.

In 1975 and 1976 the club won Huddersfield Association silverware and by 1978 were ready to join the Huddersfield Central League.

More trophies followed: the Section B title in 1991 and the Section E championship in 1996.

One club tradition was the late-September tour to Wiltshire, where, over an action-packed weekend, the YMCA side took on two rustic village teams.

The club also hired out Sellers Travel on Chapel Hill, Huddersfield, for a variety of social events – presentation evenings, race nights and other fundraising occasions.

In 1999 club stalwart Deborah Garlick was a nominee for 'Yorkshire Tea Lady of the Year' an annual competition run by Taylors, of Harrogate, the people who manufacture Yorkshire Tea.

The nomination read as follows:

'By profession, Debs is a nurse... Why do I do it? I must be mad!', she is heard to mutter under her breath... regularly during the season... 'And she "does it" enthusiastically and, I'm sure, better than any other tea lady in Yorkshire.

'She brews up like an international expert, she caters for both vegetarians and non-vegetarians in her luscious salad rolls, and makes the most yummy chocolate cake...

'If Debs didn't exist, the Rose Hill club would have to invent her.

'She's masterminded dozens of fundraising BBQs, she sorts out vital club sponsorship and – when she's not cooking, baking or tea-making – she's a one-woman industrial cleaner who gets to parts of the club's creaking pavilion that other tea ladies just wouldn't bother with.'

By way of a postscript, it should be noted that in the end Deborah's modesty forbade her from taking part in the prestigious Tea Lady competition!

The club was very proud of its junior set-up, with the brothers Sugden – Tim and Andrew – responsible for turning out some excellent young cricketing talent.

Testament to this policy came in 2001 when the 1st XI scooped the Huddersfield Central League Section A title and the Under-17s bagged the Armitage Cup.

The 'Nuffielders' have also been proud that their club is a multi-racial one. Players from Sri Lanka and Pakistan

have formed the backbone of both senior elevens in recent years.

On and off the field, there have been outstanding contributions.

There have been starring roles from Riaz Iqbal, Tariq, Tillena and Dr Ambe (the GP, who used to take his pager on to the outfield), not to mention Geordie import Dave Thompson and the Wiltshire-based Tim Johnson.

Not so long ago, Riaz and his friends put on a banquet of Indian food for all club members.

In a multicultural Huddersfield suburb, this was a wonderful example of multiculturalism in action and working in exactly the right kind of way – knocking barriers down rather than building them up.

In 2003 the club decided to loosen its links with the YMCA and formalise their relationship with the adjacent Nuffield Hospital.

The switch in nomenclature came after discussion with the hospital, the YMCA and solicitors.

The move was born out of common sense.

The cricket club had been losing touch with the YMCA, at Laund Hill, for a while – at the same time it had been developing relations with the hospital, since its construction in 1970, through charity matches and other contacts.

The hospital was built in 1970; it has 29 private bedrooms with en-suite facilities; and, according to its website, 'is renowned for its welcoming and friendly atmosphere'.

The cricket ground lies adjacent to the hospital.

And when opposition players ask for directions to the venue, the cry usually goes up: 'Just by the Nuffield Hospital, mate.'

AROUND THE WICKET

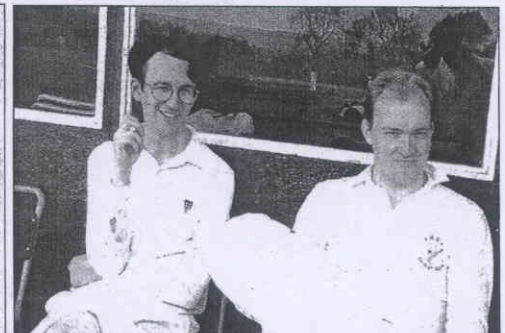
...with historian Peter Davies



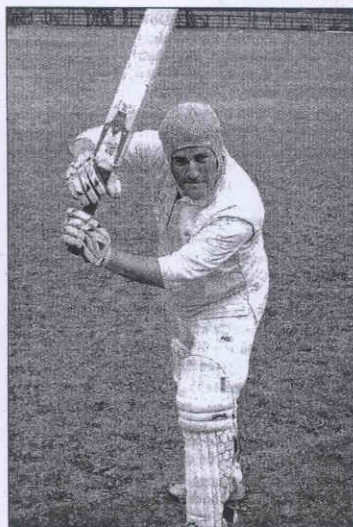
□ **YMCA 1ST XI IN 1987:** back row (from left): Bob Mosley, Darren Stead, Dave Kaye, Assam Rafiq, M Shahzad, Paul Ashton; front: Riaz Iqbal, Howard Young, Maynard Bluff, Dinga Singh, Paul Hirst, James Mosley



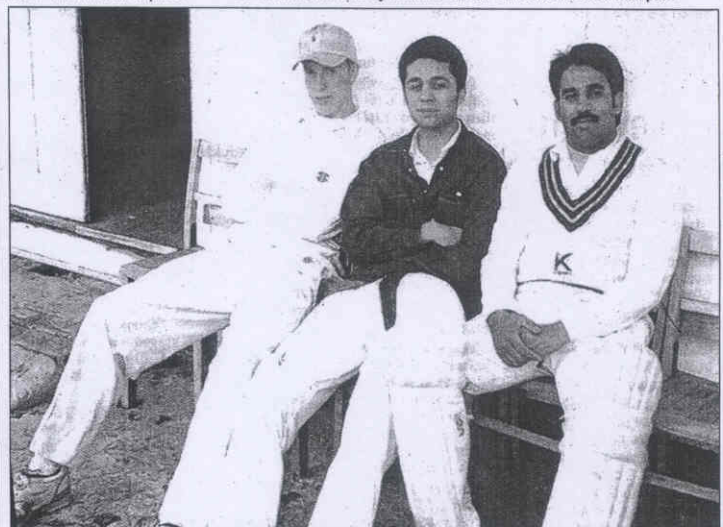
□ **NEWSLETTER:** The Rose Hill Reporter



□ **CHARACTERS:** Birkby Nuffield's James Saunders and Dave Thompson



□ **READY FOR COMBAT:** Cricketing 'knight' Alan Sutton



□ **IN RELAXED MOOD:** Birkby Nuffield players relax outside the changing rooms.