

## CRICKET

## Focus on - Booth CC

## From humble origins...

BOOTH CC was founded in 1893 and their debut match was against neighbours Luddenden Foot St. Mary's. Unfortunately Booth were dismissed for just 8 runs!

In the early years, Booth played at various locations, including Tommy Lane and a field behind the Woodman Inn which was also inhabited by cows.

In 1897 the Halifax Parish Cup carried out a report on the grounds of competing clubs.

Booth's original ground, close to the Woodman Inn was described as an 'irregular shape and on a fairly steep hillside.' Its dimensions were 'about 100 yards x 100 yards' with a 'laid crease 30 yards x 20 yards.'

In 1900 Booth were Sowerby Division Champions and in 1906 they made their first Parish Cup final appearance.

During the First World War the club disbanded but the 1920s saw Booth get back on track.

In 1921 they joined the Halifax Amateur League and 1927 saw them win the Hebden Bridge League.

Booth joined the Halifax League in 1938, for the club's ground had now reached the required standard.

The improved playing conditions were made possible when permission to mow the outfield was gained from the farmer who owned the field.

In 1943 the club felt the impact of global conflict. This time the Woodman Inn ground was requisitioned and used for allotments to support the war effort.

Permission was granted to construct a permanent headquarters at Broad Fold in 1946.

The new ground was opened on 24 April 1948, and Mr R.H. Murgatroyd, owner of the local mill, bowled the first ball on the new turf to Bob Midgley.

In 1957 Broad Fold hosted a special charity game: 'Booth v Booths'. It was a club XI versus a team of local cricketers

with the surname 'Booth'.

The 1960s were a vintage period for Booth. They won the Parish Cup on five occasions and the Halifax League title twice.

And more silverware followed in the decades that followed.

Today, the club is proud of its well appointed and picturesque ground.

Club secretary Mike Barnett says: "It's a small venue but very attractive."

"The ground is overlooked by a big manor house and, all in all, it's a lovely setting."

## FACT FILE

Founded: 1893  
Ground: Broad Fold  
Previous League: Sowerby Division, Halifax Amateur League, Hebden Bridge League  
Greatest Moment: The first Parish Cup final victory in 1948  
Local Hero: George Woodhead - leading player and official in the post-war years



Silverware: The 1958 Halifax League winning side



Proud: A Booth team picture from 1965

This is the latest in our series on Calderdale clubs, produced by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University. It will continue every Saturday through the summer.