

**EDGERTON & DALTON: ninth in second series of cricket histories...**

# From Vagabonds to club with ambition!

**E**dgerton CC was founded in 1981 by Johnny Bradbury and Barry Snowden. They wanted to call themselves the 'Huddersfield Vagabonds' but this was rejected by the Huddersfield Association.

Eventually, at a key meeting, club representatives were told to leave the room... and Association reps chose the name Edgerton for the new club on account of their HQ at Highfields, Edgerton.

Their early years were tricky. They had trouble finding a ground, and a kit, and most of their players were new to league cricket. As a result, they had a few nightmare matches.

In their first game they were bowled out for 14 by Augustinians, after having had several matches called off because of six-inch snow drifts!

The early 1980s was a period of struggle, but they played on and eventually found their feet. They started to gain odd points, and then began to win the occasional match (they defeated Birkby FMA and Polytechnic in two landmark performances).

Gradually, stars began to emerge. Mohan Soor claimed figures of 6-14 and 6-15 in key games and Dave Greenwood 6-32. The Edgerton team also owed a debt to Messrs Hynes, Wilkinson and Leadbeater.

In 1985 the club recorded all-out totals of 11 and 133 - at the time, record-low and record-high scores.

A club spokesman said in the same year: "After four years the Edgerton club has achieved a reasonable squad and a fairly healthy bank balance. A new ground has been found at Britannia Works and signs for the future are good."

Edgerton's move to Britannia Works followed their initial stint at Highfields. The ground is located in Salendine Nook, just off New Hey Road, and still

hosts local league cricket, with Birkby FMA tenants at present.

And it was around this time that Edgerton decided to form a 2nd XI. Like many other local cricket clubs, Edgerton have travelled the country in search of cricketing opposition.

The 1993 Tour to the East Riding even inspired a piece of adulatory poetry! Even though the club was formed in 1981, it was decided to hold the 10th Anniversary Dinner in Autumn 1980.

Edgerton CC moved from the Huddersfield Association into the Huddersfield Central League in 1995. Today, the League has six sections and covers a massive geographical area: from Rastrick to Batley, and right down to the outskirts of Sheffield, Wakefield and Barnsley.

Edgerton also played games at Yorkshire's former county ground at Fartown until 1997. Edgerton also pitched camp at Salendine Nook, Rawthorpe School, Leeds Road Playing Fields (with special dispensation) and Britannia Works (again - the 1st XI played at Britannia while the 2nd XI played at Leeds Road). By 2001 and 2002 Edgerton were ground-sharing with Birkby FMA at Britannia Works.

In the midst of all of this they had plans to move to a new facility at Royds Hall School, but these were scuppered when the school failed to gain funding to develop their expansion programme.

In 1999 Edgerton Juniors reached the final of the Armitage Cup, only to fall at the final hurdle, losing bravely to Penistone.

By 2003 the club had switched to the ex-Bradley Mills ground on Leeds Road - and then they moved to Dalton, and Dalton Fold, in 2005, one of the most historic cricketing venues in Huddersfield.

In the same year Edgerton released a

**AROUND THE WICKET**

...with historian Peter Davies



□ **TEAM-MATES:** An early line-up from the Edgerton team. Date unknown.

significant press release, broadcast on the Central League website:

"Edgerton Cricket Club has aspirations to develop its first XI team over the next few years and to help realise this objective, the Committee is looking to appoint a new first XI captain for the forthcoming 2005 season.

"Based at the Dalton Cricket Ground, the club participates in the Huddersfield Central Cricket League and has two teams. The first XI currently plays in the Premier League and the Second XI in Section D.

"The Committee is seeking to appoint an enthusiastic and self-motivated person, with the experience or the ability to lead, organise and motivate a first XI team of talented individuals from

diverse sections of the community.

"Your cricketing skills and experience must enable you to compete to at least the Premier League level and be combined with a broad knowledge of the game of cricket and good communication skills. Experience of developing and coaching junior cricket teams would be desirable, but not essential.

"We are looking to make an appointment well in advance of the season starting on Sunday 24 April 2005, and would like anyone interested to contact us by Sunday 27 February 2005."

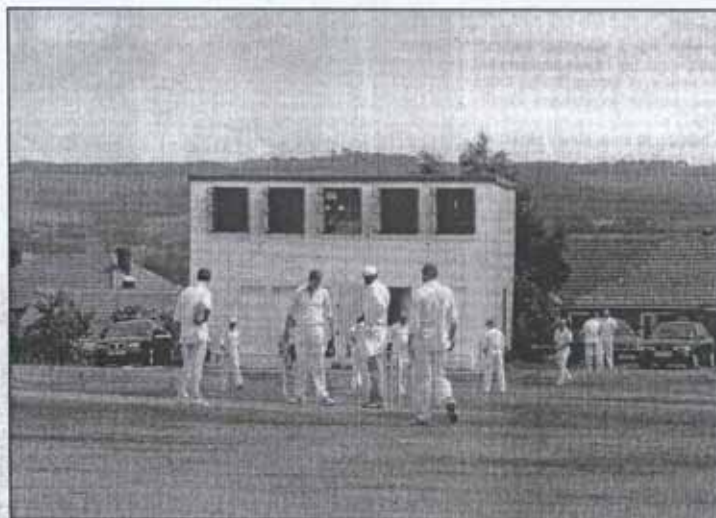
The ambitious club also changed their name to Edgerton & Dalton CC in recognition of their new locale.



□ **PLAY:** Mohammed Nadim



□ **ON A ROLL:** Working on the square at Edgerton



□ **IN PLAY:** Action from Edgerton