

CRICKET

Focus on - Lightcliffe

Sir's gift
had a
sting in
the tail

Centenary season line-up: Lightcliffe's 1975 side

WHEN Lightcliffe CC was formed in 1875, its ground was located at West Field.

After this the club moved to Wakefield Road, although today a local farmer owns the land.

The club initially played their cricket in Halifax-based competitions but during the Great War they joined the Spen Valley League on a temporary basis.

They were overjoyed when Sir W.H. Ackroyd provided them with a new pavilion for their new ground in 1922.

However, on receiving the building one of the conditions was 'that they did not have a bar or sell alcohol.'

In 1926, after playing matches against Saltair, Windhill, Bradford and Lidget Green, the first XI won the Priestley Cup for the first time.

Soon after the Second World War, in 1947, women at Lightcliffe would have been very pleased to hear the news that in the following season, 1948, they would be accepted as full playing members

at the club.

However, they would not have been so pleased to hear that they would have to pay the same joining fee as an ordinary member. Equality came at a price!

The swinging sixties proved successful for Lightcliffe. As well as winning the Priestley Cup in 1964 a number of players won Bradford League individual trophies.

Uncertain times loomed for Lightcliffe in 1974. As one newspaper put it: 'The lease on the ground ends in February 1977, which means that 1976 would be their last season unless they can negotiate a new lease or arrange to purchase the ground.'

However, all fears were laid to rest when the club successfully reached agreement over the Wakefield Road venue.

Lightcliffe members were shocked when they discovered that their pavilion had been broken into in 1990.

However, players and friends were relieved to discover that the only thing that was stolen from

the pavilion were sweets and pop drinks!

A fashion show was put on by the women of the club in 1990 - and was a huge success, raising an impressive £350.

Across the Bradford League there are urban landscapes aplenty, but Lightcliffe, a rural outpost, bucks the trend.

FACT FILE

Founded: 1875
Ground: Wakefield Road
Local Landmark: The local parish church
Greatest moment: Club centenary in 1975
Local hero: Herbert Aspinall - played 501 times for the club in the immediate post-war period
Bizarre fact: The club's buildings were all painted red because club members could only find pots of red paint on the day they had assigned for painting!



Blast from the past: the 1927 team

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.