

CRICKET

Focus on - Luddendenfoot

A proud history revealed

GENERAL opinion dates the formation of Luddendenfoot St. Mary's CC to some time in the 1880s. There was an obvious link with the local parish church, perhaps with a group of local choirboys.

However, local cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle has discovered that cricket was being played in the village as early as the 1860s.

A match took place in 1863 between Luddendenfoot Rising Star and Luddendenfoot Jolly Boys, who met in a field loaned by Mr W.H. Thompson.

In 1895 the club made its first appearance in the prestigious Halifax Parish Cup competition.

So as to enter the competition the club had to pass a ground inspection. At this time the club played at Ellen Holme which was situated next to the 'footbridge at Cooper House Mill'.

In 1929 the club left the Hebden Bridge League

and joined the four-division Halifax Amateur League, where it stayed until 1937.

Like many other clubs, Luddendenfoot appear to have gone into hibernation during the Second World War.

But the club was re-formed in 1949. Herbert Fisher remembered that, along with other members such as Lewis Jackson and Wilf Warhurst, he helped to re-lay the square in 1948.

In 1950 a new pavilion was opened and three years later the ground at High Lea Green was levelled and re-seeded.

By this time, Luddendenfoot St. Mary's were finding their church links a bit of a problem: an individual could only become a member of the club if he or she had a connection with the church.

At the AGM on Monday 10 December 1956, it was decided 'to alter the name of the club...and allow unre-

stricted membership'.

By March 1958 Luddendenfoot - minus the 'St. Mary's' - were looking to raise further funds for a new motor-cutter and new cricket tackle.

Luddendenfoot joined the Halifax League in 1973 and made their first and only appearance in the Halifax Parish Cup final in 1984, losing to Barkisland.

In 1997 the club extended the pavilion courtesy of a grant from the Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1880s
Ground: High Lea Green
Former Grounds: Ellen Holme, The Holmes
Former Leagues: Halifax & District Amateur Association, Halifax & District League, Hebden Bridge League, Halifax Amateur League, Halifax Association
Greatest Moment: Erecting a new pavilion in 1997
Local Hero: Sue Woolford, former secretary who master-minded the 1997 new pavilion scheme



Line up: An undated team shot of Luddendenfoot CC



Facilities: The new pavilion

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.