

## CRICKET

# Focus on - Norwood Green

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.



Still standing: Norwood Green's pavilion was built in 1930. Right: a press cutting following the opening



## Idyllic setting for sport

ORIGINALLY Norwood Green played in the Halifax Amateur Cricket League, which existed between 1892 and 1922.

They played their home games at a ground in Wyke and won the league play-offs in 1906 – probably their first-ever silverware success.

In April 1907 they jumped sticks from Wyke to Rooks Hall, Norwood Green.

On the eve of the First World War, Norwood Green were founder members of the Halifax Parish League.

The club won the league title in 1914, the first year of the competition.

In 1930 a splendid new pavilion was built and it has survived until today – probably one of the most handsome in the area.

The club folded soon after the outbreak of the Second World War, with their picturesque ground being taken over for a time by an occasional group of cricketers known as the Craven Gentlemen.

Unlike many other clubs, Norwood Green were unable to reform after 1945.

So during the 1950s the ground was occasionally used by the aforementioned Craven Gentlemen and Whitcliffe Mount School in nearby

Cleckheaton.

But at the end of the decade the ground was once again vacant after the school ended its cricketing tenancy.

Meantime, two cricket clubs in nearby Wyke were looking for a new home after losing the ground they shared at Royds Hall.

As well as sharing the ground, Wyke Westfield and Lower Wyke Moravians, two Bradford Sunday School League clubs, were both linked to local churches: the Westfield Wesleyan Reform Church and the Lower Wyke Moravian Church.

They approached the owner of Rooks Hall about using the cricket ground and, after being given permission, decided to amalgamate and play as Wyke CC.

Once established at the venue, the club decided to take on the identity of the village and become Norwood Green Cricket Club. It was a second incarnation for the village club.

Silverware followed and in 1994 the club's efforts were buoyed by the presence of Carl Bulfin, an overseas player from New Zealand who was to represent his country in the 1999 World Cup.

Today, Norwood Green boast one

of the most idyllic grounds in West Yorkshire.

The club is being linked with a switch to the powerful Bradford League with the Bradford Central League struggling for teams.

### FACT FILE

**Founded:** c.1900 in its original incarnation  
**League:** Bradford Central  
**Ground:** Rooks Hall  
**Greatest moment:** Winning the Parish League title in 1914  
**Local hero:** Keith Barker, stalwart and ex-player