

CRICKET

Focus on - Shelf CC

The day Hutton honoured Shelf trio

ACCORDING to local historian Andrew Hardcastle cricket was played in Shelf as early as the 1850s.

Shelf made their first appearance in the Halifax Parish Cup in 1896.

That year also saw the competition organisers update a ground inspection report which had first taken place in 1891.

Shelf were still playing in the field behind the Shoulder of Mutton Inn.

The ground was described as 'a large square field' which was 'evidently well looked after'. It had a 'good pavilion' and 'a little seating'.

In 1897 Shelf won the Parish Cup.

The final against Queensbury was evidently a well attended affair.

Takings for the match reached £14 11s 10d, while expenditure was £5 3s 9d, leaving a profit of £9 8s 3d.

In 1903 Shelf became founder members of the Bradford Cricket League.

And they hold the distinction of becoming the first ever champions of the league. In that first season only one of their 22 matches ended in defeat.

Although it is known that Shelf dropped out of the Bradford League in 1911, details of which competi-



1989 Waddilove Trophy winners: from the left, back row: A.Dimbleby, H.Burston, M.Priestley, J.Ramsden, A.Furness, P.Yeadon, D.Humble. Front: W.Sugden, Satnam, R.Burston, I.Hawksworth, C.Boardall.

tion the club joined have been less forthcoming.

Shelf CC seem to go 'off the radar' during the inter-war period.

Details of their progress in the Bradford Central League are hazy, and they were certainly not competing in the Halifax Parish Cup.

In 1939 Shelf carried off the Bradford Central League's first XI knockout competition.

There was a special night in 1950 for R.J. Parker (local headmaster), Wilson Barker (grass cutter) and John H. Moore (club official and player) who were presented with

club life memberships by future Ashes-winning skipper and Knight of the Realm, Len Hutton.

Between 1969 and 1974 Shelf's first XI scooped the Central League title on four occasions and the Waddilove Trophy once, while the second XI were even more successful, winning the league championship twice and the Thrippleton Cup on two occasions.

The club juniors also won the T. Joy Cup in 1968 and 1971, bringing the club's trophy tally to 11 trophies in six years.

This summer sees Shelf compet-

ing in the Halifax League following their switch from the Bradford Central League.

FACT FILE

Founded: c 1890s

Ground: Carr House Lane

Local landmark: Shoulder of Mutton pub

Greatest moment: Winning the Parish Cup in 1897

Local Hero: Mick Priestley, club veteran of 40 years

Bizarre fact: Shelf is the fifth-highest Calderdale cricket ground.

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.