

## **Illingworth St. Mary's CC**

Apparently, in the mid-nineteenth century a cricket club called Illingworth was based at the White Lion Inn at the corner of Cousen Lane and Keighley Road.

The inaugural meeting of Illingworth St. Mary's CC was held on 22 February 1884 at the church institute.

A set of rules was drawn up, with the third saying that each playing member must be a 'teacher or scholar in St Mary's Sunday School or a member of the Congregation of that Church.'

The club's first ground, Pharaoh Lane, had a notoriously bad square, evidenced by the fact that the top batsman in 1885 (Ellis Hellawell) averaged only 9.7.

In 1888 they decided to move to play in 'a field behind the Vicarage' which became known as Jammy Green, The Ainleys and sometimes Th' Alloe Field.

Eight years later, in 1896, the club joined the Ovenden & District League and finished the season as champions.

In 1906 the club won the Halifax Parish Cup for the first time and in the same year, the club minutes state that, 'A dozen wheel barrows, picks and shovels were borrowed from the Halifax Corporation [to aid us in leveling the field].'

Sadly, in 1916 the Halifax League suspended activities due to war. The club minute book says: 'It was unanimously decided that it be recorded...our extreme sympathy be extended to all our lads who have fallen in this great European War.'

By 1920 a proposal to 'invite and allow Ladies to become members of the Club' had been passed.

A Ladies Refreshment Committee had been formed by 1921 with Mrs Fred Howarth elected as both secretary and treasurer.

And by 1938 an Illingworth ladies cricket team was in existence.

In 1950 the ground was purchased by the club for £500 from the church. This figure was decided on by the Church commissioners in London.

The new pavilion was opened in 1961 and dedicated to club legend Harry Hustwick.

The club joined the Airedale and Wharfedale League in 1963 and opened a new scoreboard in 1975.

Three years ago Dickie Bird presented the committee with their 'Club Mark' certificate – a sure sign of the club's modern and progressive nature.

### **STATS BOX**

Founded: 1884

Ground: Alloe Field

Greatest Moment: The 1<sup>st</sup> XI winning their fifth successive Yorkshire Council (Bradford Section) title in 1955

Local Hero: Harry Hustwick

Bizarre Fact: The club publish a newsletter in cyberspace called the E-Delivery