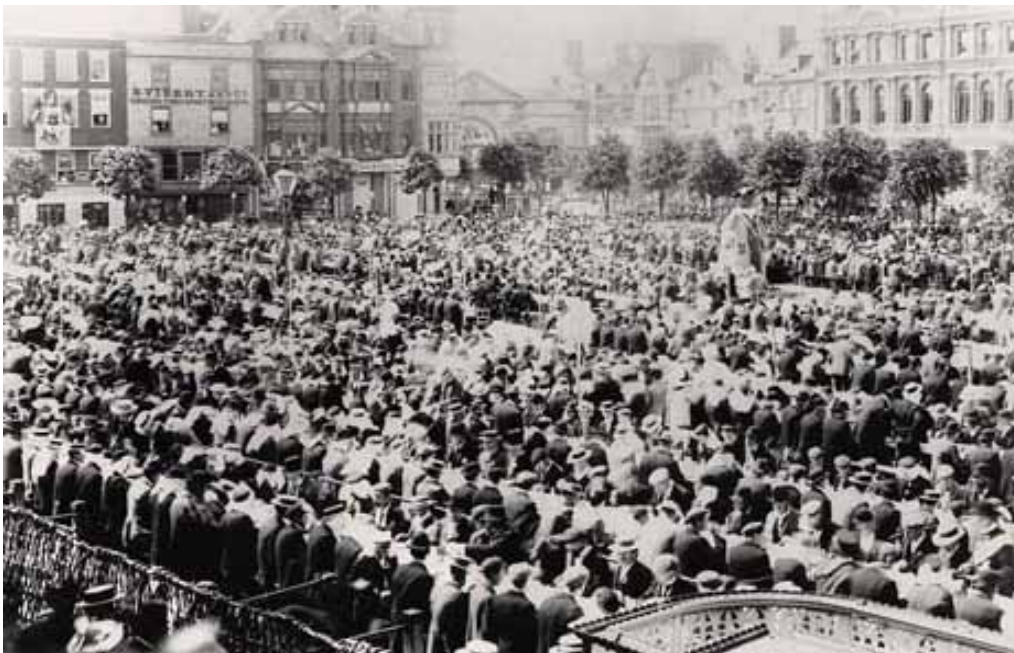


METHODIST HERITAGE

Early History of Outlane CC

By David Brenchley

The club was formed in 1897, the year of Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee, as Outlane Methodist New Connexion Cricket Club. It became known as Outlane Cricket Club in 1919.



Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee celebrations

The club has recollections of its early past in the form of minute books and secretarial accounts. These documents allowed Mike Mullany and Andy Wray the opportunity to compile a centenary booklet in 1997.

The first of the club's three grounds was located 'behind what is now the Old Golf House Hotel and rent was paid to the "Board of Guardians."' After moving to the current ground in the 1930s, the club underwent subsequent upheaval during the building of the M62 motorway in 1962. During this time they 'hire[d] Highfields Cricket Ground from the [Huddersfield] Corporation for the 1970 season and the duration of work on the motorway.'

Early non-cricketing events included a concert in 1901 (which raised £4-1-3½ d) and, in 1903, a Sports Day. According to the club's centenary booklet, the Sports Day was possibly 'the forerunner to the Village Carnivals that were organised up to the Second World War'.

Either side of the club's 10-year anniversary, its popularity blossomed. In 1906 it had 46 members (and subs were 4/-d). However, by 1908 the amount of members had risen to 108 and the club was able to enter two teams into the [Junior] League.

Cricket continued to be played during the First World War but the club's ground was 'broken up for food production.' During a General meeting in 1919 it was decided to change the club's name and to apply for the Huddersfield and District Cricket Association. 'Success quickly followed and in 1921 the club won the Lumb Cup by beating Oakes by 2 wickets.'

After this period it was recorded that the club purchased equipment from Yorkshire's England international Percy Holmes. Over the next five seasons, the First Eleven lost in the Lumb Cup final no fewer than three times and during the 1930s both First and Second Elevens were victorious in tournaments like the Armitage Shield and in the leagues.

The club cemented their position in the Huddersfield and District League during the 1930s. Memorable seasons from this period included 1932, when the First XI won the Section 'A' Championship and the Second XI claimed the Section 'B' title, and the following season they scooped the double of the Section 'A' title and the Lumb Cup.