



THE ROTHMANS  
BOOK OF

# Village Cricket

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# Honley

THIS IS NORAH BATTY TERRITORY, the area where BBC Television filmed the locations shots for their successful comedy series *Last of the Summer Wine*. Much of the filming is done at Holmfirth, a couple of miles away, but the good folk of Honley maintain the cameras show the only worthwhile parts of Holmfirth and that their cobbled streets are just as good. Yet the part around Honley Church often appears in the series, so local pride is assuaged.

There is keen rivalry between both villages in all aspects and Honley folk are convinced their cricket club is superior. The ground at Honley was bought by public subscription in 1928 and at four acres, it is one of the largest in the district. Indeed in 1974,

one Geoffrey Boycott deemed it good enough to bring a side to Honley for one of his benefit games. Sport is encouraged at Honley: just behind the cricket ground, a five-acre recreation field takes two football teams, and in the winter, the cricket club leases it out to the Huddersfield hockey club. The playing area is so large that the hockey players can use two pitches and still get nowhere near the cricket square.

They have a proud tradition of breeding fine players at Honley, the most famous being Alonzo Drake, who played with such distinction for Yorkshire from 1909 to 1914. After winning the local league's batting prize in 1907, Drake was called up by Yorkshire and distinguished himself in