

STAR TEAMS

The Halifax Association (1923-2005) was the area's unofficial works league. Scores of local companies and businesses fielded teams in the competition.

All information taken from A.Hardcastle, *Lost: The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale (2005)*

Smith Bulmer's (1923-28). Textile workers' team who were new to the game in 1923. Based at Beechwood Avenue, they moved on to the Halifax League in 1929, having achieved a league and cup double in 1928. They had also won the league in 1924 and 1927.

Brunswick Mills (1923-25). Members of the Amateur League for just the

previous season, they played on the former Siddal United (and Halifax Town A.F.C.) ground at Exley.

Mackintosh's Athletic Club (1923-36 and 1960-61). Works team who used grounds at Spring Hall, Warley, Sandhall and Norton Tower. Returned in 1960 as Mackintosh's Saturday CC on a new ground at West Vale, moving on to the Halifax League for the 1962 season. Cap below.



Civil Service (1923). Played just the one season, finishing bottom of the league with no victories. Ground was at Exley. They joined the newly reformed Thursday League for 1924.

Stott Brothers (1924-30). Played first at Long Lane, then Spring Hall.

Dempsters (1925-45 and 1947-70). Works team from R. Dempster & Sons Ltd, engineers, who played at the top of Newcombe Street, Elland, and won the league title in 1929. They became Oxley-Dempsters in 1966, but folded in 1970, presenting a shield to the league at their resignation.

Calverts (1925-29). Works team from the Illingworth-based worsted spinning firm which closed in 1970. Played at nearby Cousin Lane.



Websters (1926-42 and 1948-50). Brewery side that played initially on Ovenden Wood Road, but moved to The Cross Roads Inn at Wainstalls for the 1935 season. The field was used for growing vegetables during the Second World War and had to be re-laid before the team could resume in 1948. They moved on to the Halifax League for 1951, having been league and cup double winners in 1950. They had also won the league title in 1939 and 1940.

Electricity Works (1926-40). Played at Box Trees, Wheatley, though by 1939 had moved to Exley.



Whitakers (1927-53). The league's second brewery side, playing at Peat Pitts. They closed down for the 1941-46 period.

Willey & Pearson (1928-29). Played at Roils Head. Suffered a poor season in 1929, but gave "works stoppage" as their reason for resignation at the 1930 Annual General Meeting.

Wood Harris & Co. (1928-31). A team from the Bedford Street North workwear firm, playing at Sterne Mills, Copley.



Paton & Baldwins (1929-47). Works team, referred to during the 1931-40 period as Clark Bridge to differentiate them from Bankfield. They shared the Mackintosh's ground at Warley to start with, but moved soon afterwards to Spring Hall. League winners in 1938, and cup winners in 1939 and 1943, they resigned because of the pending departure of the firm from Halifax.

Ramsdens (1929-39 and 1948-49). The third brewery side to join the league in the period, they played first at Wrigley Hill, Illingworth, then in the 1940s at Box Trees and Roils Head.

Pratts (1929-30 and 1962-71). Played at Denholme Gate Road, Hipperholme, in 1929-30. As F. Pratts in 1962 they used a matting wicket at Cousin Lane before moving to the Dempsters pitch at Elland in 1964 and Roils Head in 1967. They were Collinson Cup winners in 1967, 1968, 1970 and 1971.

Redman & Sons (1930-67). Changed their name to Churchill Redmans

from 1935. Played at Roils Head in the 1930s, but after closing down for the 1940-43 period, they returned at Spring Hall.

Ryburn Mills (1930-37). Works team from the mill in Hanson Lane who, after a slow start, made sufficient progress to win Division 2 in 1937, but were unable to find a ground for 1938, having used Broomfield, Heath Hill (Mount Tabor) and Swales Moor.



Homfray & Co (1930-35). Sowerby Bridge-based carpet manufacturers who used grounds at Blackwall Lane near the S.B.C.I. ground, and Steps Lane.

Bankfield (1931-39). Another works team from Paton & Baldwins, who also used the Spring Hall ground.

Beaumont Bros (1931-39). Transport firm based at Ripponden, playing at Dam Top.

Smiths Wireworks (1931-53). Played on a field behind Mount Zion Church (Per Lane, Ogden) before the War. They had no team between 1940 and 1946, returning as Frederick Smith & Co, playing at Box Trees and Royd Farm (Northowram).



Hattersleys (1931-39, 1958-77 and 1979-92). Works team who played initially at Buckley Lane, Moor End Road. In 1958 they were at Roils Head, but moved to Spring Hall in 1959. There was a name change to Peglers in 1971, and further changes in 1987 to Woodhall (after sponsors Wood and Hall) and 1992 to Clarence (after the headquarters). They were league winners in 1974, 1983, 1984, 1986, 1988 and 1991 and Collinson Cup winners in 1984 and 1987. Folded through lack of player interest.

Whittakers (Kingston) Ltd (1931-46). Usually referred to as Kingston, they played at Norton Tower. They had no team between 1941 and 1945.

Dean Clough (1932-38, 1944, 1981). Works team who played at Moss Cottage (now Mason Green), Ovenden. Left to join the Halifax League, where they remained until 1980, having changed their name to Crossley's Carpets in 1963. They reappeared in the Association in 1981 as Crossley's, but merged with Illingworth Liberal Club to become New Illingworth Libs for 1982.

Martins (1933-37). A relatively unsuccessful team who had finished bottom in both 1936 and 1937.

Keighley Mills (1934-39). Played at Swales Moor Inn, Ploughcroft.



Dyers Club (1934-53). In 1933 the club on St James's Street had played in the Final of the Licensed Houses Cup competition, entering the Association despite having no ground for 1934. They later played at

Pinnar Lane and Roils Head. They had no team between 1941 and 1947.

Wesley (1934-2002). The longest serving Association club. Previously in the Nonconformist League, 1928-33, they were connected with Wesley Church, Broad Street, which closed in 1949. Played at Belle Vue, next to Roils Head, a field owned by the managing director of West Vale Mill and leased at 5p a year. When he died the land was sold by his son, the club moving to Goldfields for 1986, then Wellesley Park from 1988. They had been joint league winners in 1949 and Collinson Cup winners in 1960.

Clough Mills (1935-39). Shelf-based works team who played at Ridings Hill.

Priestley Bros (1936-39). Works team who played at Cousin Lane.

Fletcher Bros (1936-50). Works team who played at Dam Head Farm, Shibden. No team between 1942 and 1947, returning at Roils Head.

Automatic Screw Company (1941-42 and 1948-51). Works team who became Standard Screw Company on their return in 1948. Played at Spring Hall. Teams under both names had earlier appeared in the Amateur League.



Swifts (1945-48). Works team who played mostly at Swales Moor Inn, but on Heywood's ground in 1946.

Scribbans Kemp (1947-48). Works team who played at Roils Head.

Asquiths (1948-66). Works team from the Social & Athletic Club of the

firm. Ground at Spring Hall. They were league winners in 1964 and 1965, having been Collinson Cup winners in 1962.

G.P.O. (1948-70). Works team from the Halifax Post Office Sports Club, playing at Roils Head, who changed their name to XGPO in 1956 when funding from the Sports Club ended. They won the Collinson Cup in 1966 and achieved the league-and-cup double in 1969. In 1971 they left the Association to join forces with Siddal, who were struggling for players.



Inland Revenue (1948-50). Began on a ground near Coley Church, but moved to Roils Head in 1949.

Wright Motors (1948-50). Pellon Lane firm who played at Swales Moor Inn.

Denfords (1951-64). Team from the firm's Sports Club who played at The Barracks in their first season and later at Pharaoh Lane, Illingworth. They won the league title in 1958 and 1959, having been joint winners in 1956, and the Collinson Cup in 1959.

Road Servives (1951-54). Played first at Westercroft Lane, Northowram, then at Sterne Mills and finally The Goose Inn, Causeway Foot.

Reflecting Roadstuds (1952-53). Works team who played at nearby Swales Moor.



Gledhills Cash Tills (1953-56). Team from the firm's Sports Club who played at Roils Head.

Lumby's Social & Sports Club (1953-56). West Vale-based works team who played at Sterne Mills and Turbury, Greetland.

Oates Brothers (1955-56). Works team from Ryburne Mills, Hanson Lane, who played first at Goose Inn Farm, Ogden, then at the distant St Abbs, Abb Scott Lane, Buttershaw.

Frank Slater's Ltd (1956-60). Battinson Road works team who played at Roils Head.

Dargue Brothers (1956-59). Works team who used grounds at Swales Moor and Roils Head.

Fleming, Birkby & Goodall (1957-62). Works team who played initially at Hall Lane, Northowram, and then Roils Head from 1959. They were

Collinson Cup winners in 1961.

Waller Brothers (1957-58). West Vale works team who finished bottom of the league in both their seasons. Ground at Sterne Mills.

G.P.O. (1959-62). Confusingly operating at the same time as X.G.P.O., also at Roils Head.

Butlers (1960-81). Works team playing at Roils Head. They won the league in 1971 and the Collinson Cup in 1973 and 1974.

Ajax (1962-65). Works team playing at Roils Head.

Halifax Passenger Transport (1962-2002). Began at Cousin Lane then Roils Head. They changed names to South Ward Working Men's Club in 1969, moving ground soon afterwards to Spring Hall. Following another change of headquarters, they became Paris Gates at the end of 1983, winning the Collinson Cup in 1986.

Bradford & Pennine Insurance (1979-85). Originally played at Craven Lodge, Hopwood Lane, but after one match found the field unsuitable and moved to Roils Head, playing Sundays. When Wainstalls merged with Websters, they changed to the vacant New Delight ground, also on Sundays. In 1980 they moved to The Ramsdens, King Cross, but when King Cross formed a 3rd XI to join the Association in 1984 they returned to Roils Head, folding a year later through lack of players.

Whetley Motors (1988-2000). Muslim team sponsored by the Bradford-based Whetley Motors garage. Originally playing at Goldfields, they moved to Spring Hall in 1996. They changed their name in 1997 to Kashmir Foundation, later Kashmir, winning the league championship in 1990, 1994, 1995, 1997 and 2000, and the Collinson Cup eight times between 1992 and 2000, missing out only in 1995.



Taxes (1997-2000). Founded in 1948 for players from the Inland Revenue offices in Huddersfield, they joined from the Huddersfield and District Cricket Association, which had just folded. There was talk of other teams following, possibly in a joint Halifax-Huddersfield Association, but instead they joined the Huddersfield Central League. That option was not open to Taxes as they played on a council ground at Leeds Road. They were league winners in 1998 and 1999.

