

**In May 2008 the *Express & Chronicle* supplement in the *Huddersfield Examiner* began a third series of cricket club histories based on Cricket Heritage Project research**

▶ **CRICKET HISTORIES: Denby Dale – the first in our third series...**

# Funding rewards for forward-looking club

ACCORDING to local historian Chris Heath, Thomas Hinchcliffe, son of Zachariah, was instrumental in forming the village club in the late nineteenth century.

Today, Denby Dale Cricket Club's impressive pavilion is named after Zachariah, a pioneering local mill-owner of the nineteenth-century.

Early on the club played in the Huddersfield and District Combination. It is fairly impressive that, excluding Denby Dale, six of the 12 clubs who were playing in this league in 1897 have survived into the 21st century.

Scholes came runners-up to Denby Dale in 1897 – and during this period the two clubs were fierce rivals.

When Denby Dale travelled to Scholes one season, the players had to show their versatility.

With facilities at a minimum, they were forced to wash, themselves in a nearby dyke after the game!

Denby Dale took the place of Lepton Highlanders when they chose to join the Huddersfield Central League in 1922.

But in May 1927 there was controversy when the Central League executive, 'passed that J H S of Denby Dale...be struck off the list of league umpires and that the Denby Dale club had to find an efficient substitute.'

Local league cricket could not totally withstand the impact of the Second World War. Thus, in 1942, Denby Dale decided to withdraw from the Central League, and did not play any competitive games in 1942, 1943 and 1944.

Dale rejoined the competition in 1945 and they had a golden period in the 1950s, twice winning the 1st XI cup, three times triumphing in the 2nd XI knockout competition, and also tasting success in the league – claiming eight successive 2nd XI titles and one 1st XI crown. In 1950 they scooped the Holden Cup. Three years later, in 1953, they netted the Tinker Cup. Denby Dale finished top of Section B of the Central League in 1972 and also bagged the Tinker Cup.

Four years later, in 1976, they

doubled up, netting the Allsop Cup and the Tinker Cup again.

In November 1979, the Central League secretary 'reported that Denby Dale had indicated that they did not wish to participate in the Sykes Cup in 1980'. The club went on to win Section A in the same season.

Higham were invited to take Denby Dale's place, but no reason is given as to why the Wakefield Road club wanted to opt out.

Denby Dale's picturesque ground 'collapsed' in 1982 after severe flooding. Railway sleepers that had been used to cover the nearby river simply gave way.

In 1995 Denby Dale finished top of Section C and also bagged the Allsop Cup for a third time – an excellent double!

By 1997 the club had been successful in its application for a lottery grant – and the club's state-of-the-art pavilion was opened in 1999.

The *Yorkshire Post* reported: 'Funding from cricket and local government sources is being allocated to inner-city areas and into ethnic – particularly Asian, communities.

'But sometimes the distribution falls victim to political correctness.

'But Denby Dale Cricket Club – in an area where there are few black or Asian residents – was given Sport England funds because of the work they have done to develop the girls' game.'

And the forward-thinking Dale club has certainly promoted women's cricket to the full. They have specialist coaching sessions, and a successful women's team. As the club's website recently reported: 'It's now played four won four for the girls.

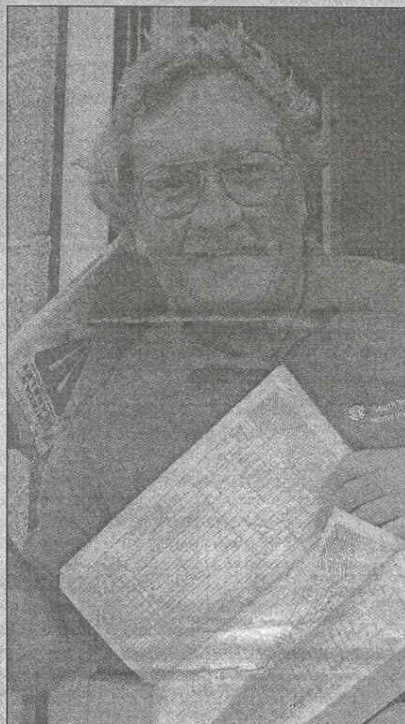
Sunday saw Denby Dale take on Bradford and they romped home by five wickets, with only the weather causing a problem, but the rains held off until the winning run was taken, wetting the fielders as they left the field.'

Denby Dale won the Allsop Cup in 2002. Soon after the club launched its own newsletter.

■ The club also boasts an excellent interactive website.

**AROUND THE WICKET**

...with historian Peter Davies



**HIGHLIGHTS:** (Above, left) club stalwart Bas Lucas, whose club cricketing exploits are legendary (Above right) the transformation of the Dale club house facilities (Far left, bottom) An historic line-up - A Denby Dale cricket team (date unknown, but possibly the late 1970s-early 80s) and (left) - celebrations all the way as Denby Dale players and officials celebrate the opening of their superb pavilion facilities in 1999. The pavilion was constructed with the help of funding from the Government and various cricket sources. Awards were made because of the club's forward-thinking attitude, particularly towards promotion of the women's cricket game and development of juniors. Above: the Denby Dale club logo, featuring the area's most distinctive landmark, the viaduct, which looms large over the district.



► CRICKET HISTORIES: Scholes – the 2nd in our third series...

# Name changes and cup success follows



THE origins of Scholes CC are unclear but it seems to have been formed some time around 1876. Their earliest game is recorded on 29 April 1876 – a draw against New Mill.

In the same year, the club pitted its wits against other village sides: Denby Dale, Farnley Tyas, Hepworth, Holmbridge, Lockwood Mechanics Institute and Skelmanthorpe.

It should also be noted that in this year, their debut season, Scholes were already employing a professional - Mr Dalton, a gifted all-rounder who scored 23 and took 7-41 against Hepworth.

At this time the club's home was a field situated just below the Boot and Shoe public house.

In approximately 1880 the club moved from their previous ground to Chapelgate. This is their home ground today.

During Scholes' early years, the club changed names twice. It started off as Scholes CC, before changing to Scholes Moor CC in 1887 and then to Scholes Clarence CC in 1888. At some point it reverted to Scholes CC.

In 1893 Scholes joined the Combination League and in 1897 had 15 vice-presidents (including two local vicars) and 13 committee members. And subscriptions were due by July 16.

In 1907 Scholes had an early success when the 1st XI scooped the Huddersfield District Association Cup.

They joined the Huddersfield Central League in 1915 and collected an array of silverware during the next few decades.

The club enjoyed its first taste of post-war success in 1951 with a double knockout triumph.

The 1st XI bagged the Holden Cup and the 2nd XI were victorious in the Tinker Cup final.

A multitude of Allsop Cup and league championship titles followed.

In December 1971 Scholes tried to buy their ground but were opposed by the local council.

The council claimed that 'village cricket' was 'losing popularity' and that there was a 'danger of these clubs going out of existence.'

Some 36 years on, the council may be

surprised to see Scholes CC still thriving!

In August 1976 Scholes enjoyed joint centenary celebrations with the nearby St George's Working Men's Club. The two organisations were both established in the same year - 1876.

In 1985 Scholes formed a 'supporters team' in order to raise money for charity, draw attention to the club, and also give social members of the club an opportunity to play cricket.

A hamper was raffled at each game and the profits were to be given to the chosen charity of the opposing team.

Major landmarks have littered the last two decades.

Scholes joined the Huddersfield League in 1988 and then bagged the Sykes Cup and Paddock Shield in 1996.

Indian Test star Wasim Jaffer signed up for the club in 1998 and the club claimed the Huddersfield League championship in 2000 and 2001.

The club also boasts one of the most picturesque grounds in the league.

AROUND THE WICKET



...with historian Peter Davies



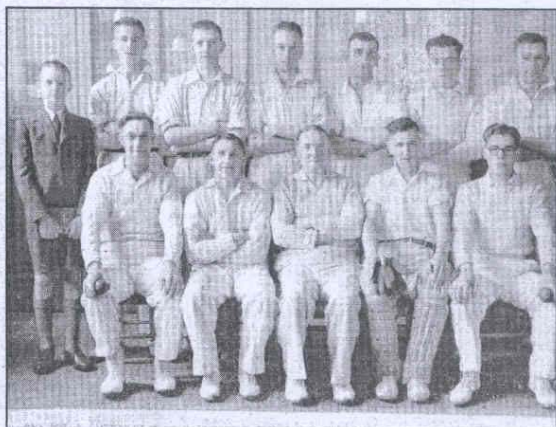
**DRAKES HUDDERSFIELD CRICKET LEAGUE**

Proudly Recognise  
**SCHOLES**  
as  
**Byrom Shield Premiership 2001 Champions**

President: *[Signature]*  
Chairman: *[Signature]*  
Executive Secretary: *[Signature]*  
Match Secretary: *[Signature]*



Scholes Cricket Club, 1907. Pictured after winning the Drakes Cricket Association cup



**SCHOLES MEMORIES:** clockwise from top left: 1954 line-up; legendary player Wasim Jaffer; championship success in 2001; the club logo; the 1943 team of B Cartwright (scorer), England, Turner, Woodhead, Walker, Oldroyd, Braithwaite, Lawton, Mellor, Armitage, Cunningham, Marshall; the 1907 Association Cup line-up.

