

SHELLEY: the fifteenth in a second series of cricket histories...

Ambitious club is steeped in history

THE first record of cricket being played in Shelley came in 1871. It was a match between Shelley (probably Mechanics Institution) and Hillhouse Congregational Britannia.

The date 3 June 1871 witnessed the opening of a 'new tent which is neat well made'. There was also a match against Lockwood Mechanics.

We also discover a fixture between Flockton and the Shelley side.

And today, the date 1871 is given due prominence on the welcome sign that greets all visitors to the Shelley ground today.

In the early days Shelley played their home games on Woodhouse Lane and at Hill Top behind the Hawthorns. Meantime, the Shelley Church cricket team played on an area of land now occupied by the Pennine Garden Centre. Shelley triumphed in the 1902 Lumb Cup final, beating Sheepridge by 10 wickets.

In 1904 they led the Combination League with two matches to go - but could only finish runners-up at season's end.

Shelley moved from the Combination League to the Dearne Valley League - and emerged as champions in 1906.

All their players were 'Shelleyites' except J.W. Senior and J. Ellis, who hailed from Birdsedge.

Cricket was suspended at Shelley for the duration of the First World War.

In 1920 the club purchased their ground for £150. In the same year the Holme and Dearne Valley leagues merged into the Huddersfield Central League - with Shelley thus switching competitions.

In 1921, when the 17 member clubs of the Huddersfield Central League were divided into two pools, Shelley found themselves in Group 'A' alongside

Clayton West, Cumberworth United, Lepton Highlanders, Nortonthorpe, Rowley Hill, Shepley, Skelmanthorpe and Upper Cumberworth.

Shelley hired their first professional player in 1923 - Bob Sutcliffe. The club paid him 10/- per week, while private subscribers coughed up per week also.

In 1924 a new pavilion was gifted to the club by Alfred Barden, a member of a key cricketing family in the village.

Shelley lifted the Tinker Cup in 1926, the year of the General Strike.

In the same year Joe Pearson was hired as the club's new professional.

He was paid 15/- per match - plus his train fare and tea.

In the same year, Shelley Cricket Club were able to install a ladies toilet.

Shelley netted the Huddersfield Central League title in 1945. George Schofield joined as professional, and an ARP (air-raid shelter) building was bought.

In 1947 the club invested in new seating - and a urinal was also constructed. Dances and concerts raised £103 towards the cost of this work. On the field the club scooped the Huddersfield Central League title.

A Memorial Service was held in 1948 to remember all those who had lost their lives in the Second World War. A memorial seat was also built.

In 1951 Shelley were Central League champions and in 1957 Allsop Cup winners and 2nd XI champions.

Sunday cricket at Shelley was given the go-ahead in 1958 - a milestone in the history of the village.

More landmarks followed. In 1960 Shelley claimed the Allsop Cup and in 1976 they were able to buy a new roller - funded by a £311 donation from the club's ladies section, a £120 windfall from the tennis section (which had just been disbanded), and other fundraising efforts.

AROUND THE WICKET

...with historian Peter Davies



Shelley Juniors won the Kirklees Sunday League and the Hazel Gill Trophy in 1978.

Two years later, in 1980, Shelley entered the John Haigh Village Knockout Competition for the first time. They succumbed to Alwoodley in the first round.

In 1987 a special commemorative plate was commissioned to celebrate the club's history.

And in 2001, after careful planning, Shelley eventually joined the Huddersfield League.

The club's new pavilion, opened in 2007, is a symbol of their ambition, and their immaculate outfield stands as testament to the hard work put in by the club groundsman and his assistants.

THE ANNUAL General Meeting

will be held at
THE COMMERCIAL INN,
on Tuesday, 13th March,
1951, to commence at 7.30 p.m.

BUSINESS
Minutes of last General Meeting
Secretary's Report
Statement of Accounts
Election of Officers for Season 1951
And other Business

□ **CUP OF JOY:** The club's Allsop Cup winning team from 1960 when they beat Holmbridge and (left) the poster for a vital AGM at the Commercial Inn in 1950.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS SEASON 1945

RECEIPTS		EXPENSES	
	£ s d		£ s d
Balance brought from 1944		Professional's Fee and Expenses	10 10 0
Cash at Bank	77 8 4	Cricket Tackle	12 1 9
Cash in Hand	5 4 12	Rates, Taxes, and Water-rate	8 3 0
	82 12 4	Traveling and Station	1 9 7 1/2
Income from Oak Well	48 0 0	Manager's Fees	4 1 3
Members' Subscriptions	57 9 0	Printing and Stationery	3 12 1/2
Special R.P.O.	15 15 0	Players' Expenses	5 13 0
Socials, Dances, etc.	20 0 0	Championship Fees	10 0 0
Event from The Pavilion	10 10 7	1st Central League Grant	1 1 0
Gifts Money	5 12 10 1/2	2nd League Subscriptions	1 1 4
Profit on Sweep	1 15 0	Travel and Oil	1 10 6
Loss of Grounds and Baller	15 0 0	Central League Subscriptions	1 0 0
Bank Interest	3 10 0	Handbooks	12 1/2
		less Handbooks sold	1 10 0
			11 1/2
		Player's Insurance	11 0 0
		less Player's Contributions	1 1 0
			9 9 0

□ **BROUGHT TO ACCOUNT:** Shelley Cricket Club's historic balance sheet produced at the end of the 1945 season.



□ **1995 LINE-UP:** S Kaye, R Matthews, Rob Matthews, A Brook, G Eastwood, G Wilkinson, N Fanshaw, T Throssell, A Harrison, S Armitage, C Matthews (score)