

UNPARALLELED SUCCESS

History of Bradshaw CC by Zak Data

Bradshaw Cricket Club is one of the youngest cricket clubs in the Halifax League. Bradshaw - in the far north-western corner of Calderdale - is one of the highest parts of Halifax. Bradshaw Cricket Club was founded in 1923 and initially played in the Halifax Association Cricket League. Since 1954, however, the club has played in the Halifax Cricket League, achieving a level of success over the last 15 years that has been unparalleled in its short history.



The first official match took place 1923 although there is evidence of cricket having been played earlier in 1861. Success for Bradshaw was immediate as they won their first trophy in 1923 – the Collinson Cup. With the senior teams performing so well,

Bradshaw decided to create a junior team in 1952 and the first junior fixtures came the following season.

The pavilion was built in 1959. At a meeting it was decided that the pavilion could not cost more than the £273 that was quoted by the National Playing Fields Association. The new pavilion was officially opened in 1960.

The Ladies Section decided to organise some social events in 1988, including an aromatherapy demonstration, a body shop evening, a reflexology demonstration and a knickerbocker clothes party - which sounds fascinating.

The most impressive feature of the ground is the newly renovated pavilion (situated side-on to the square). With financial help from the Sports Council, the Lottery Sports Fund, Calderdale Council and the Foundation for Sport and the Arts, Bradshaw Cricket Club were able to open the new building in 1997. The small hut had disappeared, and in its place emerged a new modern building fit for professional sportsmen and supporters. The modern and well-built new construction with all the facilities to fit a king's army is everything the Bradshaw teams could hope for. Gone were the small changing rooms and the unattractive eating area. These were replaced with new modern changing facilities, hospitable bar area, spacious TV lounge and open-plan kitchen with outdoor eating facilities.

Since the mid-80s Bradshaw first team have been fortunate enough to have a number of onfield successes. They have successfully won the Parish Cup on a number of occasions and unfortunately have also been runners-up a number of

times. However, bigger successes came when Bradshaw managed to win the league twice in the 90s.

Today Bradshaw are a successful club with a beautiful ground. The club runs 4 junior teams, 2 Saturday senior teams and a Sunday senior team. Currently the club's star man is N.Jowett, who successfully hit 34 sixes during 2008. The club has now over 300 members which is excellent for such a small club.