

FARMERS AND FOUNDING MEMBERS!

History of Lightcliffe CC by Zak Data

1875 was the year in which Lightcliffe Cricket Club was formed. At this time, the club was located at the other end of Lightcliffe village on West Field. Today the ground is situated on Wakefield Road, although a local farmer owns the ground. Lightcliffe played an integral role in the formation of one of the district's first cricket leagues. Lightcliffe were one of the founding members of the Halifax & District League in the late-1880s. A Parish Cup committee was formed in Halifax in 1887 and Lightcliffe Cricket Club was one of the 12 organisations involved in this.



In the early 1900s Lightcliffe joined the Spen Valley League on a temporary basis. Large numbers of young men enlisted in 1914, and as a result a number of clubs

were unable to carry on for the duration of the conflict. But despite the war the cricket continued in full force.

Lightcliffe were overjoyed when Sir W.H.Ackroyd provided the club with a new pavilion in 1922. However, on receiving the pavilion, one of the conditions was 'that they did not have a bar or sell alcohol.'

In 1924, the club left the Halifax League and joined the Bradford League, one of Yorkshire's most prestigious competitions. The 1920s were the golden years for Lightcliffe. The big year was 1926; after playing matches against Saltaire, Windhill, Bradford and Lidget Green, the 1st XI won the Priestley Cup for the first time, but not the last. Two years after that they recaptured the trophy and they went on to win it on four more occasions afterwards.

In 1947, women at Lightcliffe would have been very pleased to hear the news that in the following season, 1948, they would be accepted as full playing members. However, they would not have been pleased to hear that they would have to pay the same joining fee as an ordinary member.

Uncertain times loomed for Lightcliffe in 1974. In this year, the club reached a milestone of 100 years. However, also the lease on the ground had reached its penultimate year which meant that 1976 might be their last season unless they could negotiate a new lease or arrange to purchase the ground. Thankfully, all fears were laid to rest when Lightcliffe successfully reached agreement over the Wakefield Road venue.

At the turn of the 90s, Lightcliffe members were in for a shock when they discovered that their pavilion had been broken into. The home dressing room door had been forced open to gain entry. However, it was revealed that nothing valuable or precious had been taken, just sweets and fizzy drinks – and for that reason club members and supporters were relieved.