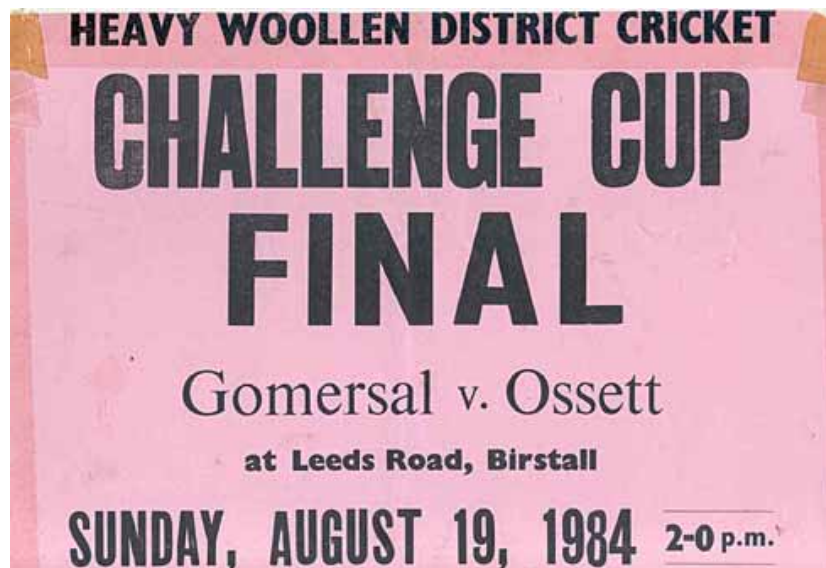


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## Brief History of Gomersal CC by Zak Data

The initial signs of cricket in Gomersal village came in 1863. In August of that year, cricketers from the district organised a match with the United England XI. They became known as Gomersal St. Mary's and were founded in 1881 by the village vicar, but the organisation only lasted six years. It was re-formed in 1892 on the present ground, Oxford Road, which had previously been the site of the old Little Gomersal Colliery.



A key moment occurred in 1898 when the club joined the Bradford District League. Efforts were then made to raise funds to buy the ground. The first event on 9 July

1921 was attended by more than 4,000 people. But it wasn't until June 1929 that sufficient funds were raised and the purchase of the ground was completed.

Cricket continued in the meantime and in 1921 Gomersal reached the final of the Heavy Woollen Cup where they lost to Wakefield. The following year, however, they won their first trophy when they lifted the Yorkshire Council championship. During this period Gomersal St. Mary's also changed their name to Gomersal Cricket Club in 1927.

A significant moment in the history of the club came at the end of Second World War. The club bought an ex-army Nissan hut to use as a tea room. This was placed on the site of the present clubhouse and served a useful purpose for more than 30 years. The club continued to provide facilities to play cricket for the local population without any noticeable success on the field and in 1962, with the aid of Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, a bar was opened in the Nissan hut. The club then decided, in 1974, to open a new clubhouse and changing rooms.

Perhaps the most significant event in the club's history occurred in the early 1970s when the adjacent football pitch was sold for housing. This sale created a firm financial base and the existing clubhouse and changing rooms were built.

During the 70s and 80s, Gomersal were promoted from the second division of the Central Yorkshire League. During these years Gomersal were lucky to field many great cricketers, and in 1984 decided to recruit an overseas player for the first time. Tony Blain from New Zealand represented Gomersal for two seasons. The impact

was immediate with the Heavy Woollen Cup being won in his first season. Tony later went on to represent New Zealand in Test cricket.

By 1995, club had encountered financial difficulties. However, positives did emerge from this setback as a new club committee was put in place and focus was again put back on cricketing matters. This was done with considerable success and progress on the field continued and by 2000 the famous Gomersal clubhouse was refurbished. This also galvanised the onfield performances of the club as they started their first season in the Bradford League, the highest standard of league cricket in the area.

Since 2000, Gomersal have had inconsistent seasons. They won the second division title in 2002 to return to the top flight once again as champions. But once again, Gomersal were unable to cling onto top-flight status and were relegated once again.