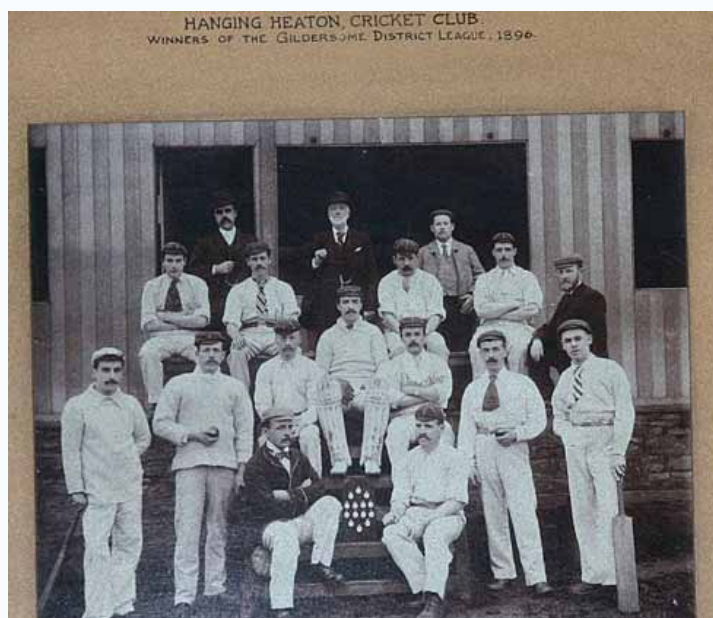


# TRANSFORMATION AND TROPHIES

## Brief History Of Hanging Heaton Cricket Club

By Zak Data

Hanging Heaton is a large village near Batley and Dewsbury. The prefix 'Hanging' refers to a steep hillside hanging above lower ground and Heaton means 'high farm'. With housing dating from the 16th century to the present day, it is a varied community with a golf club, two churches, community group in Hanging Heaton Community Group, and a well known successful cricket club.



According to artefacts and club historians, The Hanging Heaton Cricket Club was founded in 1876, entering the Heavy Woollen District League in 1898. After a short spell in the Wakefield League they joined the Heavy Woollen League and Yorkshire

Council in 1916. Between the years 1939-1943 they joined the Leeds League, due to a dispute and altercation with the Heavy Woollen League. During this time Ronnie Robinson joined the club and transformed them from an average team into a cup-winning outfit. The impact of Ronnie Robinson was imminent as they quickly became league champions.

In 1944, Hanging Heaton dropped down into the second tier of the Central Yorkshire League. In their first year in the Central Yorkshire League, Hanging Heaton topped the Division 2 table – and also ended up Yorkshire Council champions. During the last summer of war, Hanging Heaton pulled off a unique hat-trick – scooping the Central Yorkshire League title, the Yorkshire Council championship, and the Wheatley Cup.

Hanging Heaton contested 15 of the 29 Heavy Woollen Cup finals between 1946 and 1974, winning six of them. In the six-year period 1957-1962 Hanging Heaton featured in five Heavy Woollen Cup finals and lost all of them, the closest being a 7-run defeat at the hands of local rivals Dewsbury in 1957. Between 1979 and 1995 the club were absent from the competition. Since re-joining, normal service has been resumed - with victory in 2000, and finishing runners-up on three occasions and being beaten semi-finalists in 1995 and 1996. Only in 1999 was there real failure with a shock 3rd round defeat at the hands of Woodlands. Overall, Hanging Heaton are the sixth most successful club in the history of the cup: seven-times winners and 14-times runners-up. It is clearly a very special competition for the club.

1980 was a landmark moment for the club as they joined the Bradford League. The initiative and drive to apply for entry in to the Bradford league was orchestrated by the late Brian Wilkinson. Wilkinson provided stability at the club and made sure all

team affairs on and off the pitch were kept in correct order. The introduction of overseas players and keeping control of finances was not an easy task but Wilkinson managed to persevere through.

Inconsistency has dogged the club's efforts to win honours in recent season. They were fourth in 2003 and 2005 and fifth in 2004.

In order to keep up with the top teams in the league, Hanging Heaton adopted a system of approaching overseas players to play for them. Players such as Dilip Vengsarker, Abdul Qadir, Iqbal Qasim, Samir Dighe and India international V.V.S. Laxman all had successful spells at the club.