

CRICKET

Focus on - Mytholmroyd

Success spanning 90 years

BY 1894 Mytholmroyd CC had two teams, one of which played in the Calder Valley League.

During the 1895 season, the first XI were joined by local rivals Mytholmroyd Wesleyan Sunday School CC in the Hebden Bridge League.

It looks as though Mytholmroyd also entered a team into the Sowerby Division League.

By 1914 they had joined the Halifax & District League and that year saw the first XI crowned champions for the first time.

The presentation of the trophy was followed by a social evening at which the 'cup was filled with a palatable beverage and the success of the club was drunk all round.'

It was just after the Great War that the Mytholmroyd club decided to

join the Halifax Parish League.

In 1939, as well as winning both first and second XI league titles, the Parish Cup was also claimed after the final against Triangle at King Cross.

On April 25, 1952 the Hebden Bridge Times and Gazette reported: "At Mytholmroyd the field is in fine condition and once again the club is hoping to have the finest wicket in the league."

"There have been a few renovations made during the close season, including a new sight-board. Extensive improvements have been made to conveniences."

The Halifax League was one of the first local competitions to experiment with Sunday play and it was a success.

At the Mytholmroyd AGM at the



Champs: Mytholmroyd's 1975 side won Division Two of the Halifax League. From the left, back row, are: N.Robinson, M.Thoseby, M.Ormerod, A.Thoseby, N.Metcalf, A.Clegg, J.Durgan (scorer). Front: S.Sutcliffe, K.Wheelhouse, D.Bispham, J.Sutcliffe, I.Hellowell

White Hart Hotel, Mytholmroyd, on Monday, October 28, 1957, secretary ND Turner commented: 'During the past season Sunday cricket has been introduced and the new venture has made a substantial increase in the club's income.'

Mytholmroyd's batsmen enjoyed themselves in the summer of 1957. They struck 294 all out against Barkisland and followed that with 291 all out against Booth.

Silverware followed in the next

decades and a new clubhouse arrived in 2000 – an event that acted as a spur for many other improvements and developments.

In 2002 the club organised a special trip to watch Yorkshire play in the C&G Trophy final at Lord's. It proved a successful day as the county side defeated Somerset by seven wickets.

And in 2005 Mytholmroyd scooped the Parish Cup – a memorable achievement.

This is the latest in our series on Calderdale clubs, produced by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University. It will continue every Saturday through the summer.

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1890s

Ground: Moderna Way

Nearest landmark: Moderna Business Park

Greatest moment: Winning the Parish Cup in consecutive years, 1923 and 1924

Local hero: Jon Russell, current trophy-winning second XI skipper and father of hard-hitting batsman Tom

Bizarre fact: In 1895 Mytholmroyd were bowled out for 12 by Zion in the Hebden Bridge League Cup final and lost by 4 runs!