

Bradshaw CC

Although the current club was not formed until 1923, local cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle has found a number of references to clubs playing cricket in Bradshaw before this time.

The earliest of these was in 1861 when a team called Bradshaw Golden Fleece played Queenshead United.

A Bradshaw-based church team called St. John's was also active in the 1860s.

By the 1890s Bradshaw Mills were playing in the Halifax Parish Cup competition and had joined the Ovenden & District League.

Bradshaw Cricket Club was born in 1923 during a meeting at the Bradshaw Tavern, the pub that still overlooks the ground today.

The summer of 1923 also witnessed Bradshaw's first taste of trophy success, with the club bagging the Collinson Cup.

Bradshaw decided to start a junior team in 1952 and the first junior fixtures were in 1953.

Plans were under discussion in 1959 for a pavilion to be built and fencing would also be altered.

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 on 29 May 1960.

A 15-mile walk was arranged in order to raise money for the club's memorial gates.

In September 1968 they were officially opened, a short service was conducted by the Vicar of Bradshaw, and a cricket match followed.

Bradshaw celebrated their 50th birthday in 1973 by organising a dinner at the Saxon Hotel which was attended by many ex-players.

In 1978 a Mr T. Corbett asked the club if six sheep could graze on the outfield. The club committee immediately agreed – realising that this was a means of ensuring the grass was kept short!

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!

The image of a white castle dominates the club crest - due recognition of the fact that White Castle Breweries owned the Bradshaw Lane ground in yesteryear.

Today Bradshaw are a successful club with a beautiful ground that stands 919 feet above sea level – the highest in Calderdale.

STATS BOX

Founded: 1923

Ground: Bradshaw Lane

Local Landmark: Bradshaw Tavern

Greatest Moment: 1993 – the first Halifax League club to play in the Yorkshire Championship

Local Hero: Terry Wynne – stalwart member and Halifax League VIP

Bizarre Fact: In the early 1990s the club staged the Knur and Spell World Championships!