



MEMORIES : A works cricket match under way at Hopton Mills in the early part of the 20th century

# MILL TEAMS WHO CREATED SPORT PRIDE



REPAIRS: Workers improve the pavilion at Bradley Mills Cricket Club in the 1950s

**Huddersfield's industrial and sporting past come together in a new exhibition.**

The textile mills and engineering factories that brought wealth and prosperity to the town also spawned generations of sporting men and women.

Now a new exhibition tells the story of cricket and industry in Kirklees.

The display, entitled 'Factories and Full Tosses!', explores the relationship between cricket and work in Huddersfield and district.

It has gone on show at the Textiles department at the University of Huddersfield and will be there until the end of August.

It has been researched and designed by the Kirklees and Calderdale Cricket Heritage Project team at the University.

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It charts many of the former works and factory teams that played the sport.

The town's evening cricket league, which is still going after almost 60 years, was founded by men working at many of the engineering factories and the textile firms.

Cubs involved with that league over the years have included Britannia Works, made up of staff at the giant Hopkinsons plant at Birkby, David Browns and Stork Brothers.

They played their matches in the evenings and shift work meant often matches went ahead without star players who

had to be at work.

Project leader Dr Peter Davies said: "Over the past 150 years there has been a fascinating relationship between cricket and industry.

"Industrialists established cricket teams to encourage a healthy lifestyle among their workers and works teams have been very prominent in all the main leagues in the area.

"In addition, many cricket grounds are located in the shadow of mills and factories".

Among the most famous works cricket clubs are Hopton Mills, Bradley Mills and Meltham Mills.

The display features archive photos, newspaper cuttings, club and league memorabilia and a variety of old documents.

Dr Davies said: "The university's

Textiles department seemed like a very appropriate venue for the exhibition.

"Many textile companies had cricket teams and, famously, one local textile baron put an advert in his local paper saying, 'High class weaver required - must be able to keep wicket'.

"This ad says everything our exhibition is trying to say!"

The Calderdale and Kirklees Cricket Heritage Project received a £50,000 grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Huddersfield and has generated a variety of public outcomes, including exhibitions, conferences, activity packs for schools, newspaper features and cricket-themed heritage trails.

The exhibition runs until August.

See [www.cricketheritage.org.uk](http://www.cricketheritage.org.uk) for further information.