

Northowram Hedge Top C.C.

Northowram Hedge Top C.C. were originally known as Northowram Wesleyans C.C. – and, as the name implies, were linked to the local Methodist church.

The club was originally founded in the summer of 1919, only months after the end of the Great War.

They played their fair share of friendly matches, but (from 1920) also competed in the Halifax & District Nonconformist League which existed from 1908 to 1939.

One year they reached the final of the Nonconformist League's Mackintosh Cup – and actually beat Pellon Baptists in the final.

Home games were played in a farmer's field north of Heywood Chapel and close to Upper Lane. They eventually moved to what would become their permanent home (Hedge Top Lane) around 1926.

As far as can be ascertained from newspaper reports, there followed a period of apparent inactivity.

The club was then re-formed in 1926 – the year of the General Strike.

The first name change occurred in the mid-1930s when the Wesleyan and Ebenezer churches merged, and 'Methodists' became the generally adopted title.

The club's second name change took place in 1952.

In an attempt to raise funds, members decided to organise a Christmas raffle.

Unfortunately, the Methodist Church took a dim view of gambling (and also alcohol) on church premises.

And so, connections with the Church were severed and the club adopted its current name.

In the same year as the club gained a new moniker, its ground, which had hitherto been rented, was purchased from the Coley Hall Estate.

Hedge Top reached the final of the Parish Cup in 1965.

And caused an upset when they defeated red-hot favourites Triangle at King Cross.

In 1968 the club was able to erect a new, covered 'flush' toilet.

The construction of a new brick pavilion followed in 1980. This was later extended to include showering, toilet and bar facilities.

A new purpose-built scoring unit was erected in 1998 and a set of fixed, sliding sightscreens arrived in 1999.

A further extension to the Hedge Top Lane pavilion and social facilities came in July 2002 – to make the venue one of the best-appointed in the Halifax League.

STATS BOX

Founded: 1919 as Northowram Wesleyans CC

Ground: Hedge Top Lane

Local Landmark: Northowram Fields CC

Greatest Moment: Winning the Parish Cup in 1965 – and the league the year after in 1966

Local Hero: A.Butterworth – trophy-winning skipper in the 1960s and 1970s

Bizarre Fact: The club was re-formed in 1926 after a period of inactivity