

Skelmanthorpe C.C.

Skelmanthorpe C.C. was founded in 1892 and joined the Huddersfield Central League in 1919.

It was several decades later, in the 1950s, when the current pavilion was built, and in the early-1980s when the distinguished-looking clock was relocated from the scoreboard to the pavilion.

On the field, the last two decades have been extraordinary. The club did the treble in the 1980s, switched to the Huddersfield League in 1987, and did the 'new double' in 1990. They also won the Sykes Cup again in 2007.

The club's pavilion is an attractive bungalow-style wood building, with a smart patio in front. The cricketers' tea is laid out on small, neat tables, there's always homemade food on the agenda, and the beer mats carry the Carlsberg logo.

On the walls are pictures of former pros, framed photos of famous XIs, and a limited-edition souvenir plate (complete with view of the ground - only 200 were produced). The pavilion was extended, the changing rooms were improved, and showers were installed after Skelmanthorpe joined the Huddersfield League.

And a tricolour 'S.C.C.' flag (red, white, blue) is hoisted on a pole just outside. There are ads for Romida Sports and Solo's Tandoori visible, and as one visiting spectator says: 'Skelmanthorpe give off the impression that they are an extremely aspirational club.'

Over the years, the club has had its fair share of top pros: Ronnie Irani, Paras Mhambrey, Shahid Mahboob and Mike Bocarro. On the administrative side there have been big names aplenty: Trevor Heeley, the club official to whom the pavilion building is dedicated (he acted as club secretary for 37 years); and Keith Clarkson, an ex-player and groundsman who is remembered via a dedication on one of the boundary benches.

On matchdays it publishes a special customised programme, and it should also be noted that S.C.C. is managed by two female officials: Margaret Dollive, club chairperson, and Beverley Crossland, vice-chair.

The cricket club is a focal-point for the local community. It has forged links with St. Aidan's CE First School and also hires its premises out to local organisations such as Skelmanthorpe Band.