

In February 2006 the class embarked on a set of five special 'away days' – with Wednesday-evening class sessions being held in local cricket club pavilions instead of classrooms at the University of Huddersfield. First up was Hanging Heaton CC (Batley) on 22 February...

Friday February 17, 2006

Heaton to make history

A CRICKET club will stage a 'world first' next week when a group of university students swap the comfort of their classroom for a cricket pavilion!

Hanging Heaton Cricket Club will be the venue for this special 'away-day' on Wednesday night (February 22, 6.15-9.15pm).

Twenty students on a cricket history evening course at the University of Huddersfield will listen to a lecture and take part in a seminar – in the middle of the Bennett Lane clubhouse.

It's the idea of Dr Peter Davies, tutor on the pioneering 'Bat & Ball' course. After six sessions on campus, he wanted to introduce students to local cricket venues.

He said: "The course is about the history and heritage of local cricket, so we thought: why not actually take to the road and hold some of these sessions in cricket club pavilions?"

'Bat & Ball' is the first University course ever to be devoted to the heritage of local cricket – and so Hanging Heaton Cricket Club will be making history when it stages the class.

Dr Davies explained: "We want to give the students a real taste of local cricket – and holding our classes in clubhouses is the ideal

way to enable them to appreciate the rich history of local clubs."

Since 2004 Dr Davies has been leading a £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Huddersfield.

It has been focusing on the social history of cricket in Kirklees and Calderdale, and a series of cricket heritage exhibitions were staged last summer at local venues.

'We really enjoyed researching the history of clubs in the area, and we would like to thank Nat Lawrence at Hanging Heaton Cricket Club for helping us to stage the class in the pavilion.'

Students on the Bat & Ball course have been learning about the history of cricket – from the early days right up to the formation of clubs and leagues, the emergence of professional players and the impact of the two world wars.

They also study the role of women in local cricket, the changes in cricket equipment over time, and the contribution of Asian and Afro-Caribbean cricketers in West Yorkshire.

Visit www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk for further details.



Hanging Heaton pavilion and (Inset) Nat Lawrence









The Hanging Heaton pavilion – where the class was held







Howzat for bringing club history to life!



Nat Lawrence, who helped organise the lecture at Hanging Heaton Cricket Club. (NS)

By Vicky Dacre

A GROUP of university students will swap the comfort of their classroom for a cricket pavilion at Hanging Heaton Cricket Club on Wednesday.

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The pavilion at Hanging Heaton Cricket Club (NS)

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"We really enjoyed researching the history of clubs in the area, and we would like to thank Nat Lawrence at Hanging Heaton Cricket Club for helping us to stage the class in the pavilion," added Dr Davies.

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