

BRADLEY & COLNE: 14th in a second series of cricket histories...

Historic club enjoys a 'new' beginning

AROUND THE WICKET
...with historian Peter Davies



Cricket was first played on the old Colnebridge ground in 1843.

And Colnebridge CC played a special fixture against Staincliffe Young Britannia in 1868.

In 1893 Colnebridge became founder members of the Huddersfield and District Alliance League.

A 'new' club, Bradley and Colnebridge CC, joined the Huddersfield and District Association League in 1923.

In 1925 they hosted the Lumb Cup final for the first time – and went on to stage it in 1927 and 1928 as well.

Around 1930 the club left the Association League and disbanded.

The club was re-formed in 1959, emerging out of Bradley & Colnebridge Working Men's Club at Colnebridge.

The folk who patronised the Working Men's Club decided to form a cricket team, and the club is still the unofficial HQ of the cricket team in the early twenty-first century.

The club rejoined the Huddersfield Association in 1960 and went on to pick up its fair share of silverware.

In 1965 they bagged the Section B title and in 1966 the Section A championship. Then they won the Lumb



□ **NEW ERA:** Alec Lodge, vice president of Yorkshire CCC with chairman Raymond Hawkyard at the new pavilion opening in 1997.

Cup in successive years – 1973 and 1974 – and the league title in 1973.

Around this time there occurred a famous encounter with Rastrick New Road.

Bradley & Colnebridge were set a target of 150-plus in 20 minutes...and as a mark of protest at Rastrick's unsporting declaration, Bradley & Colnebridge sent in two lower-order batsmen, declared after one ball, and thus caused 'rather a stir in league circles'.

The club joined the Huddersfield Central League in 1975 and were Section B champions in the same year.

They were forced to leave their old ground in the early 1990s and by 1995 had plans in place for a new abode, Warrenside, Deighton.

The pavilion arrived in 1997 and in the same year club stalwart Raymond Hawkyard was presented with the prestigious Fred Stallard trophy at the Huddersfield Central Cricket League's annual dinner.

The icing on the cake came in the form of the H Robinson Trophy for the most improved ground in the Huddersfield, Central League, awarded to the club in 1999.

In 2002 Bradley and Colnebridge managed to secure their place in Section A after pipping Birchencillie to the final promotion spot.

Although both teams finished on equal points, Bradley and Colnebridge's better runs-per-wicket average came to their rescue and lifted them into the second flight.

A fire ripped through the new pavilion at Christmas 2006 but an amazing fundraising effort – superbly supported by local businesses and the local cricket community – resulted in a replacement building being officially opened in July 2007.



□ **BRADLEY AND COLNE 1ST XI 1967:** Back row (from left) scorer Tom Marshall, David Moorhouse, Mick Smith, Jim Pratt, Barry Casson, Owen Atkinson; front: Alistair Sykes, Bob Burnett, Tim Huntington, Alan Brown and Nigel Hilton. Below: the 'new-look' Bradley and Colnebridge ground.



□ **HITS OF 1973:** The 1st XI, winners of Lumb Cup and Section A title. Back row (from left): R Wolff, J Hinchcliff, D Preston, R Hawkyard, J McBride, J Fegan, T Watts, M Brooker; (front): R Oddy, J Nayloc, J Pratt, K Burgess, T Corrigan and D Senior.



□ **IT'S OURS!** Bradley and Colne players with Section B trophy in 1965