

# A world first in club 'classroom'

A SPORTS club staged a 'world first' on Wednesday when a group of university students swapped the comfort of their classroom for a cricket pavilion!

Golcar Cricket Club was the venue for this special 'awayday' when 20 students on a cricket history evening course at the University of Huddersfield listened to a lecture and took part in a seminar - in the middle of the Swallow Lane clubhouse.

This was the idea of Dr Peter Davies, tutor on the pioneering Bat & Ball course.

After six sessions in the classroom, 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 Golcar Cricket Club made history when it staged 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 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 David Thorpe at Golcar 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, dealing with the emergence of professional players and the impact of the two World Wars.

They also study such things as 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](http://www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk) for further details.

Pictured above: Golcar Cricket Club in 1953.