

## Bridgeholme C.C. (1928)

Bridgeholme C.C. has an industrial origin. It was formed as a combined works team of J.J. Tatham, Ltd., Nankolme Mills, and Moss Brothers, Bridgeroyd Mills. The team title is word-play on Bridgeroyd and Nankolme.

Although at first players had to be employees they have now extended the qualification to others, though they retained their original name.

The club developed from a team improvised to play in workshops competitions and have won the Todmorden Works Cricket League on a number of occasions.

Two prime movers at the start were Mr. P. Sowden the then Chairman of the West Riding Education Committee and Mr. R. Tatham of Nankolme Mills.

In 1951 they joined the Todmorden and District League and rented a field high above Cross Stone.

Eventually they obtained their present ground at Station House on the main road at Eastwood on a long lease, and whilst at this time it was decided to include members who were not employed at Messrs Tathams or Moss Brothers, the firms continued to give generous support.

(After one year in the Todmorden League they transferred to the Hebden Bridge League. (1952) In their first year they won the Second Division and the Knock Out Cup. In 1953 they won the First Division and the Knock Out Cup and in 1955 they did the double again, and individual honours came their way. E. Travis had the highest batting average,

R. Albinston the best bowling average and J. Sykes who in one game took eight wickets for ~~12~~ ~~12~~ twelve runs had the best league bowling performance. Travis created a league record when he scored two centuries in consecutive innings. During this spell in the Hebden Bridge League the team played two seasons without a defeat, and players paid an

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annual subscription of 7s. 6d. and their own travelling expenses.

In 1956 they applied for membership of the Halifax League and were accepted into the second division by the narrow margin of 15 votes to 12, and ran a first and second team and a team in the junior section. Almost £800 was spent on a new pavilion and an extensive refurbishing and levelling programme intended at the end of the season.

1956 - 1962 Halifax League - no doubt you have more information than I have at the moment but I have evidence that you did get into the first division for a couple of seasons but were fifth from top of second division in your last seasons and the junior eleven won the league championship three times.

1963/75. In 1963 they applied for membership of the Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association and a first and second team were accepted into the third division. In 1964 the first team won the third division and promotion to the second division and M. Greenwood won the batting average with 30.14. In 1965 the first team won the second division and promotion to the first division and G. Wrench won the Tyson Cup with a bowling average of 42 wickets at 4.0 runs each. From 1966 to 1975 except for the 1971 season the first team remained in the first division and were joined by the second team in 1973, 1974 and 1975, and individual awards along the way had been won by R. Parker wicket keeper with 20 victims at an average of 1.428. G. Tygger with a batting average of 27.85. E. Stansfield (~~Tyson Cup~~) wicket keeper with 18 victims. T. Morris with a batting average of 36.84 and D. Hallam (Tyson Cup) with 49 wickets at 6.306 runs each. In ~~1976~~ 1975 they entered the Parish

Cup Competition and lost to Northorram but went on to win the Calder Valley Cup beating Sewerby Bridge with D. Kerr scoring 103 n.o. (photo of team in the Todmorden News 2/5/1975) Unusual match in May 1975 at Bridgkholme, the second team played Wesley and scored 108, Wesley were 33 for 3 then seven wickets fell, six of them in ten balls for no runs, S. Dowling 4 for 12 and B. Parkinson 4 for 22 both had a hat trick in successive overs, this surely must be a record, the other wicket taker was J. Kirk 2 for 2. (it was said that one spectator went to the toilet at 33 for 3 and missed the rest of the match.) After the Halifax League Annual General Meeting of 1975 the local press headline was "Todmordens Cinderella Clubs Bridgkholme" who have been competing successfully in the Halifax Amateur Association are to re-enter the Halifax league in 1976.

1976 to 1984 Halifax league, again no doubt you have more information than I have at the moment but I do have evidence that in July of what proved to be the last season for Bridgkholme in the Halifax league, K. Hudson skipper batting at No 9 against Stainland 2<sup>nd</sup> scored 64 then took 4 for 36 and in end of season averages was top of the bowling and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the batting. Some the Halifax League Annual General Meeting 1984 Bridgkholme making their 6<sup>th</sup> re-election bid in nine seasons failed to be re-elected.

1985 to date. Bridgkholme applied for membership of the Halifax and District Amateur Cricket Association and their 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> teams were accepted into the Third Division. No doubt you have a full history from 1985 to date but I hope that some of the above is of interest to you.