

## A LOCAL CRICKET JUBILEE.

1936  
When Parsees Played at Elland.

How many Yorkshire cricket clubs can present such an interesting record as Elland? It will be interesting to learn of any who have had the honour of entertaining an Australian XI, a South of England XI and the Parsees—which is Elland's distinction.

On June 18 and 19, 1886—fifty years ago—the Parsees played a game at Elland. Naturally the present management and players are proud of their predecessors and the feats they accomplished in those former days.

According to some who witnessed all, or part of, the game, great amusement was caused in trying to pronounce the names of the visitors. Little wonder, perhaps, for the names were: A. Major, M. P. Banagee, B. B. Bearie, D. D. Khambata, R. P. Bala, J. M. Morinas, J. D. P. Pochkhanavalla, S. M. Bhedwar, P. C. Major, M. Franjee and S. H. Harver. Of the Elland players taking part in this game it is believed there are only two now living—S. Dyson of Blackley, and J. W. Haigh, now in residence at Sowerby Bridge. In this game Elland scored 162 and 125, against the Parsees' 119 in the one innings they played. It is also worth recalling that when a United South XI came to Elland on June 2, 3 and 4, 1879, the visiting side included such well-remembered players as G. F. Grace, L. Hall, W. R. Gilbert, W. Midwinter, McIntyre and Lilywhite.

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## YOUNG YORKSHIRE CRICKETERS.

### Men Who Will Make Their Mark.

#### COUN. BRENARD'S COMMENTS AT ELLAND DINNER.

#### Winning of League Championship Celebrated.

Elland cricket team's winning of the Huddersfield League championship was celebrated by a dinner at the Pavilion, Hullen Edge, last night. The president, Mr. H. C. Leach presided, and supporting were the Mayor of Halifax (Coun. W. Brenard, J.P.), who is the Halifax district representative on the Yorkshire County Committee; Mr. W. H. Boll, president of the Huddersfield League; Dr. V. Bell, a past president of the club; Mr. G. H. Hirst, the former England and Yorkshire player; Coun. Sydney Thornton, chairman of Elland Urban District Council; Coun. Fred Holroyd, J.P., and Mr. W. S. Hammond, captain of the team.

#### CLUB'S HISTORY.

Giving the toast of "The Club," with which he coupled the name of Mr. W. S. Hammond (one of the vice-presidents), Mr. George E. Taylor reviewed the activities of the club since its formation in 1863. There had been a club in Elland before that, he said, but it had been allied with the Providence Independent Sunday school and bore that name. That club was formed about 1859 or 1860, and had as its supporters many well-known local gentlemen of that day. The field in which they played was in Hullen Edge-road, part of what was now the park. It was in 1863 that the present club changed its name to Elland, began playing games in a field in Dewsbury-road, and later in a field opposite to the recreation ground. Each year public support had increased. Mr. John Wilson (maltster) was the first president, and Mr. William Dewhurst the first secretary, with Mr. Benjamin Wilson the treasurer. Prosperity was enjoyed all round, for the players, making good scores on most occasions, received the backing of an interested local public. As far as he could ascertain, David Eastwood, of Lascelles Hall, was the first professional, being engaged in 1869 and again in 1870.

#### NEW GROUND OBTAINED.

Because the old ground was not considered large enough to meet the increasing demands for public accommodation, Mr. Lipscomb (Lord Savile's agent) was approached in 1875 and arrangements were made for the present ground to be taken over. This ground was opened on May 13, 1876, when Elland played Hunsworth Mills. Rufus Hudson, of Bowling Old-lane, was professional, and Nimrod Marsden captain of the Elland team. Elland won that first game, scoring 72 against 35, Joe Lumb being the highest scorer with 27. Games with the best Yorkshire clubs followed and in 1878 the first Australian team to visit England played an Elland and District side at Elland. In the following year, the United South came to the ground, and in 1886 the Parsees provided the special attraction. When the Halifax Challenge Cup was first offered, Elland joined the competition and won the trophy three times out of the five they competed.

In order to add further interest to the club, and to meet a pressing demand, a bowling green was laid, a cycle track made around the cricket field, a new pavilion erected and still later another bowling green put down. It was not without interest to know that G. H. Hirst, the famous all-England and Yorkshire cricketer, opened his professional career on this ground. The most important development in recent years, had been to purchase the freehold of the estate from Lord Savile. The ground would now be retained as an open space for ever, its government being in the hands of appointed trustees.

Mr. W. S. Hammond, in response, spoke of the "nobby family" that the team had been all through and thanked the players for the loyalty and the excellent efforts they had made. He declared that young players were needed at Hullen Edge. It was to them that they were looking to keep up the good name of the Elland Cricket Club. The club were making every effort to set up a third team.

— SPIRIT OF THE GAME —

