

WOMEN ONLY!

LADIES COMMITTEES

In the post-war years (in particular), it was quite fashionable for local cubs to have their own 'sub-group' of willing female members.



Birstall ladies in the 1950s

More often than not, this sub-group would be known as the 'Ladies Committee'.

A Ladies Committee was formed at Golcar CC in August 1932 and was immediately effective in raising funds for the club, primarily by supplying food at matches and other functions.

By providing the food themselves the ladies saved the club considerable expense.



Swallow Lane, Golcar, in 1951

By 1946 120 of the club's 490 members – almost a quarter – were women, although this figure had reduced to 80 out of 420 by 1953.

Speaking in 1971, Andrew Taylor, one of Golcar's leading cricketers, referred to the tremendous credit owed to the ladies for their excellent work.

Where a club had a Ladies Committee, it was usually semi-autonomous and devoted to fundraising and improving the general wellbeing of the club.

It would organise its own events (jumble sales, clothes evenings etc), pay in the takings to its own bank account, and then donate money back to the club as and when it was needed for specific purposes.



Another photo of Birstall ladies in the '50s

The hey-day of the Ladies Committee was, arguably, the period through from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Birstall Cricket Club.

Members of the Yorkshire Council and Yorkshire Central League.

Hon. Treasurer :

C. AUSTIN,

"Windyridge,"

Leeds Rd., Birstall.

Tel. : Batley 92.

President :

Mr. H. H. WALKER.

Hon. Secretary :

C. GREENHOUGH,

Rydings Farm,

Birstall.

Nov. 10/27...19

Dear Ladies

On behalf of my fellow committee members and partners in crime I would like to offer our sincere thanks for the Fifty Pounds which you have this week presented to us. I cannot stress how much we appreciate this gift which comes at such an opportune time, but how on earth you manage to raise such a sum in a season beats me. It strikes me we ought to hand our dances over for you to run for us, as all we make

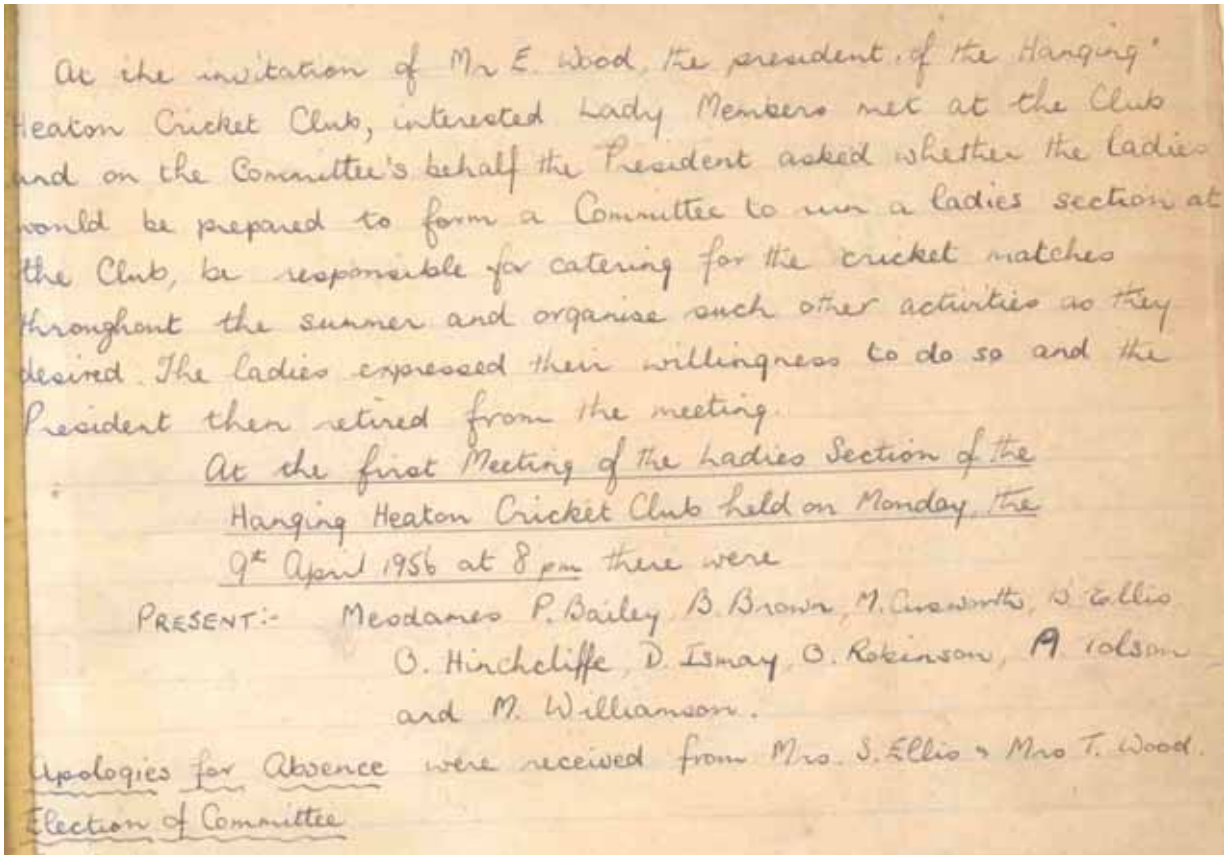
And this letter shows how grateful clubs were.

The letter, from Birstall CC, says:

Dear Ladies

On behalf of my fellow committee members and partners in crime, I would like to offer our sincere thanks for the Fifty Pounds which you have this week presented to us...

Hanging Heaton CC had a flourishing women's section. Their first meeting was in 1956.



At the invitation of Mr E. Wood, the president, of the Hanging Heaton Cricket Club, interested Lady Members met at the Club and on the Committee's behalf the President asked whether the ladies would be prepared to form a Committee to run a ladies section at the Club, be responsible for catering for the cricket matches throughout the summer and organise such other activities as they desired. The ladies expressed their willingness to do so and the President then retired from the meeting.

At the first Meeting of the Ladies Section of the Hanging Heaton Cricket Club held on Monday, the 9th April 1956 at 8 pm there were

PRESENT:- Mesdames P. Bailey, B. Brown, M. Cusworth, S. Ellis, O. Hinchcliffe, D. Ismay, O. Robinson, A. Tolson and M. Williamson.

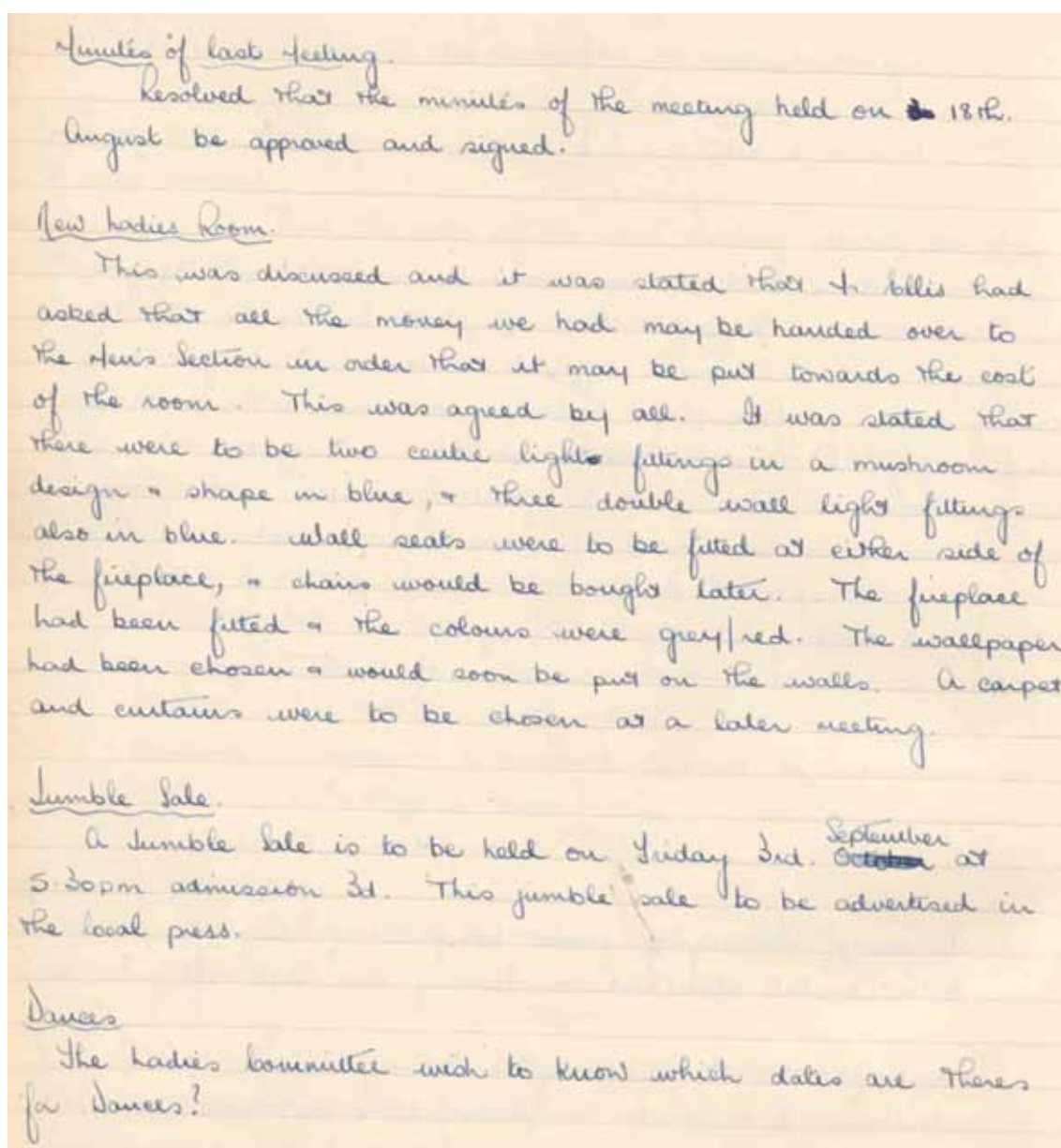
Apologies for Absence were received from Mrs. S. Ellis & Mrs T. Wood.

Election of Committee

The official minute in the Ladies Section minute book read:

At the invitation of Mr E. Wood, the president of the Hanging Heaton Cricket Club, interested Lady Members met at the Club and on the Committee's behalf the President asked whether the ladies would be prepared to form a Committee to run a ladies section.

In 1957 a new 'ladies room' was created:



The official minute read:

It was stated that Mr Ellis had asked that all the money we had may be handed over to the Men's Section in order that it may be put towards the cost of the room.

Other Hanging Heaton Ladies Section minutes relate to an Easter Dance:

EASTER DANCE Resolved:-
That the refreshments be similar to those for the St. Patrick's Dance, & the raffle prizes be as usual. G. Secker, D. Blake, B. Ellis, L. Baxter to sell tickets.
Also Resolved:-
That an Easter Bonnet Parade be organised & a 1st & 2nd Prize be awarded to the best 2 entrants & that Tom & Vera Bell be asked to adjudicate. It was also resolved that the room be decorated.



A fashion show:

FASHION SHOW The ladies Committee would like permission to hold a fashion show in the Club on Wed the 17th May at 7pm. We wish to sell tickets for this show & tea & biscuits would be served. Also it would necessitate some sort of catwalk being erected for the models to walk along - this we can organise if permission is granted. We are thinking of having 200 tickets printed & price £15p. & have we any spare chairs stacked away anywhere.

A Burns Night dance:

Burns
Night
Dance. Mr D. Byram has agreed to do the Haggis for the dance. Suppers will also be provided. Sandwiches & pies ~~and~~ Mr L Baxter and Mr E Tolley to see to the raffle prizes. All ladies of the committee to help at this function if possible.



A dog racing night:

April 16th was to be a Dog Racing Night
The ladies were asked to provide supper for this event and this was agreed upon.
The ladies wished to sponsor a dog for this event. The dog to be named 'Chatterbox'
A Gala Day was discussed for the 7th of June on the theme Silver Jubilee
The ladies on the social committee said this was still being discussed.

A treasure hunt:

Treasure Hunt When a date is reached for this event the Ladies will be willing to provide refreshments - this being by ticket only. The menu & price has not yet been decided, but the Social Committee will be informed as soon as possible. It would be appreciated if the number requiring refreshments could be established in good time before the event, so that Mr. Shepherd can buy in accordingly. Pots of tea will also be available.



And also cricket teas:

Cricket Teas The ladies discussed Cricket Teas at some length and plate teas were agreed upon. These to be 4/5 pence each for a trial period in view of rising prices.



The Bennett Lane pavilion, Hanging Heaton

The Heaton ladies were even forced to call an 'Extraordinary General Meeting' in 1983:

Minutes of an EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of the Ladies Committee held on Wednesday the 5th of January 1983 at 8.00 o'clock.

Present:
Mrs L. Baxter in the chair; also Madames B. Boffin, D. McNair, D. Shepherd, S. Senior, E. Tolley, J. Turner, C. Whitworth and Miss S. Baxter.

Apologies These were received from Mrs D. Blake and Mrs I. Blake.

Election of Officers. Chairman: Mrs L. Baxter
It was proposed and seconded by Mrs S. Senior and B. Boffin
V. C. Chairman: Mrs B. Boffin proposed and seconded by E. Tolley and D. Shepherd

Primrose Hill Ladies Committee survived into the 1970s.



Back L-R: Mrs Dawson, Mrs Evans, Mrs Tipling
Front L-R: Mrs Turner, Mrs Haley, Mrs Kaye



Cross Lane, Primrose Hill

Even into the 1990s the Ladies Section at Hopton Mills CC was contributing significantly to club income:

HOPTON MILLS CRICKET CLUB
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
YEAR ENDED 30 NOVEMBER 1994

	Sch	<u>1994</u>		<u>1993</u>	
		£	£	£	£
INCOME					
Profit on bar	A		3,300		2,384
Subscriptions		405		347	
Adverts in fixture cards		60		60	
		-----	465	-----	407
Proceeds of efforts					
200 Club		916		799	
Pontoon tickets		267		242	
Christmas draw		260		247	
		-----	1,443	-----	1,288
Miscellaneous income					
Sponsorships		1,413		551	
Match fees		1,603		974	
Ladies section		729		961	
Sale of cricket tackle		-		105	
Profit on annual dinner		99		95	
Hire of ground		70		-	
Raffles		380		56	
Refund of water charges and general rates		-		391	
		-----	4,294	-----	3,133



Woodbottom – home of Hopton Mills