

KIRKLEES (GB204)



*West Yorkshire
Archive Service*

**BIRSTALL CRICKET CLUB
(1887)-2004**

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INTRODUCTION

In 1967, demolition workers found an old rule book belonging to the Birstall Albert Cricket Club which contained references to meetings at the Black Bull, Kirkgate and to rules formulated in 1856. However, the club which was named after Queen Victoria's husband had existed two years earlier.

In 1856 there were other cricket clubs in Birstall called the Raglan, Britannia (mill?) and the Wellington. The Albert was recognised as the premier side whose first ground was a field of which the church graveyard and war memorial are now a part.

In 1857 the club moved to a new ground in Stott's field behind the National Schools , but after the 1870 season had to move and in 1871 were playing at Copley Close, a field at Leeds road, Howden Clough where they still play today (2007). The club was now known as Batley Victoria Cricket Club or more commonly 't'Vic'

In 1883 the cricketers amalgamated with the rugby team and became Birstall Cricket and Football Club. This was short-lived and within two years there was a split, with the cricket club once more becoming Birstall Victoria Cricket Club.

At the same time they won the 1885 Heavy Woollen Challenge Cup against Dewsbury at Savile Town

1887, plans were passed for a grandstand at Leeds road and in 1892 much money was spent improving the ground: In 1896 the club managed to buy its field and In 1921 a new pavilion was opened.

Birstall enjoyed many victories and became 'one of the most powerful teams in Yorkshire'. They won the Heavy Woollen Challenge Cup in 1886,1892,1901, 1915, 1932 and in 1954 won both the Cup and the League.

In 1970 a new club house was opened and in 1981 a new tearoom and score box was built plus showers were added to the changing rooms.

Today the team is part of the Central Yorkshire League

BIRSTALL CRICKET CLUB

WYK1383	(1887)-2004	Comprises of club history, photographs (1909-1985) and ephemera (1887)-2004 0.01 box
WYK1383/1	nd	<u>CLUB HISTORY</u> 2 items
WYK1383/1/1	nd	'HISTORY OF BIRSTALL, A SHORT HISTORY BY GERRY GAUNT' Is annotated and amended
WYK1383/1/2	nd	'A history of Birstall' SPORT FOR ALL, chapter 19
WYK1383/2	(1909-1985)	<u>PHOTOGRAPHS</u> 2 items
WYK1383/2/1	nd	Black & white team photograph with three trophies
WYK1383/2/2	(1909-1985) 2006	Photocopies of team photographs Some players are identified
WYK1383/3	(1887)-2004	<u>EPHEMERA</u> 3 Items
WYK1383/3/1	(1887-1976)	Newspaper cuttings
WYK1383/3/2	(1954-2004)	Photocopies of annual dinner programmes, programme of Birstall v Ossett in the Heavy Woollen District Challenge Cup 1955
WYK1383/3/3	2004	Diary- empty. Does include details of honours board and the Central Yorkshire Cricket League 1 st XI and 2 nd XI