

Bat & Ball

The Newsletter of "The Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees"

A University of Huddersfield Project in partnership with Calderdale Libraries, Kirklees Libraries, West Yorkshire Archive Service, The Trinity Insurance Halifax Cricket League, The Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League, The Solly Sports Central Yorkshire Cricket League, The Arrow Huddersfield Central Cricket League and The Halifax Cricket Association

Issue 1

Welcome!

Welcome to *Bat & Ball: The Newsletter of "The Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees"*. This publication will be sent to you on a regular basis. Its aim is to keep you - the people without whom this Project would not be possible - regularly informed of our progress and involved in our activities. Through the newsletter we will publicise forthcoming project events and news about the Project.

Project Mission Statement

In partnership with the cricket clubs, leagues and communities of Calderdale and Kirklees this Project will preserve, celebrate and broaden recognition of cricket and its rich cultural traditions in this region.

Introducing our main funding partner...

The Heritage Lottery Fund enables all of us to celebrate, look after and learn more about our diverse heritage. From our great museums and historic buildings to local parks or the recording and celebrating of traditions and customs, HLF grants open up our

nation's heritage for everyone to enjoy. Through the grant awarded to this Project, the HLF has recognised that cricket is a fundamental part of the local cultural tradition in this area and as such its heritage is deserving of preservation. (See www.hlf.org.uk)

We are also working closely with **Calderdale and Kirklees Libraries, West Yorkshire Archive Service, The Trinity Insurance Halifax Cricket League, The Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League, The Solly Sports Central Yorkshire Cricket League, The Arrow Huddersfield Central Cricket League, and The Halifax Cricket Association.**

Archives: Preserving our heritage

The material we are currently collecting is going to be deposited in two specially designated archives. These will be located in the Halifax and Huddersfield Central Libraries and both will be run by the West Yorkshire Archive Service. This will not only conserve the irreplaceable testimony of the region's cultural heritage, but it will also allow open public access to the material. These archive collections will open in the near future.

Recent additions to the archive include:

> Two framed photographs of the Huddersfield Cricket & Athletic Club 'A' team which were taken to celebrate winning the Huddersfield and District Cricket Championship in 1905 & 1907.

> A fascinating Halifax Cricket Association report from 1891, in which the ground of every member club was inspected to see whether it was suitable to stage Parish Cup ties.

> A Heavy Woollen Cup winners trophy from 1958.

Exhibitions: coming to a venue near you!

During the Summer of 2005 exhibitions will be staged throughout Calderdale and Kirklees to celebrate the heritage of every club in the region. So that we can reach as many people as possible, these events will be staged at accessible local community venues, such as libraries, pubs or even garden centres. Each exhibition will be organised and staged in partnership with the club whose history it celebrates.

Some confirmed exhibition venues

Badger Hill CC - Mellor's Bar
Blackley CC - Golden Fleece
Broad Oak CC - Th'Alma
Copley CC - Volunteer Arms
Crossbank Methodists CC - Barfield Arms
Linthwaite CC - The Coach and Horses
Scholes CC (Holmfirth) - The Boot and Shoe
Scholes CC (Cleckheaton) - The Rising Sun

MORE DETAILS TO FOLLOW!

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

We are currently engaged in a variety of time-consuming tasks: scanning images, skimming through minute books and interviewing key Club officials and members. Two local cricket people have already volunteered to assist us, and we would very much like to hear from any other potential volunteers. The Project is a not-for-profit initiative - so just give us a call on 01484 473032 if you have a couple of hours to spare each week and you would like to contribute to the Project.

Cricket fans probe past

Taken from The Huddersfield Daily Examiner,
2 July 2004

A PhD student has teamed up with a sporting academic to research Huddersfield's cricketing history.

Rob Light, 39, is an expert on cricket during the Victorian era, which featured greats like W G Grace. And he has started work alongside Huddersfield University history lecturer, Dr Peter Davies, on the two-year £50,000 project.

The pair aim to create a cricketing archive chronicling the game's past in Kirklees and Calderdale, which may be published in book form. It will focus on the social history and heritage of the game, which has been at the heart of village life for centuries. Information plaques will be placed outside all the cricket grounds in Kirklees as part of the project.

Rob, from Pateley Bridge near Harrogate, said: "Cricket has a rich heritage in this part of world. We are interested in locating old minute books, scorebooks, photos and artefacts from the area. We'd love to hear from anyone who can help us."

Rob plays for Pateley Bridge CC and has written the official history of his club. He gained an MA in Sports History and Culture from Leicester De Montfort University and is an expert on cricket in Victorian Yorkshire.

Cash for the pioneering project was donated by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Contact Rob on 01484 473032.



Greetland CC (1911)

5 Things We've Found Out This Month...

1. Almondbury CC first used their ground in 1874 following an agreement between the Estate of Sir John Ramsden and Charles Taylor, a merchant. The annual rent was £13 12s 6d.

2. In 1917 Outlane CC's ground was dug up to provide allotments to aid wartime food production.

3. According to a local newspaper, Edwin St. Hill became 'the first coloured player to be introduced in the Huddersfield League' when he was signed by Slaithwaite for the 1934 season. Like Constantine, St. Hill had also been playing in the Lancashire League. He signed for £240 and a benefit, taking 87 wickets at a cost of 12.91 runs each and scoring 408 runs at an average of 20.40 in his first season. He returned to the club as professional in 1945.

4. In the 1950s Colin Peacock and Clive Brook were known as the 'Mirfield Twins'.

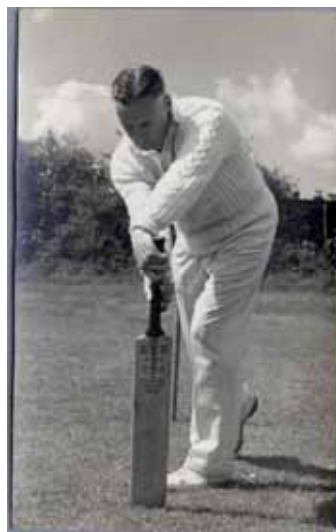
5. Between 4,000 and 5,000 people were present at Slaithwaite CC on 20 June 1933 when Learie Constantine guested for the home side against a team captained by Mr Herbert Robinson of Paddock.

Oral history: capturing the past

The reminiscences of old players, spectators, tea ladies and officials have been a constant feature of local cricket for as long as the game has been played. However, with the passing of each generation, these irreplaceable memories have been lost. We aim to interview a selection of members from each club in the area so that their

memories will be preserved for future generations.

We would like to capture the reminiscences of club members on tape so that we can create an 'audio archive', to be housed in local libraries. Ideally, this would involve us arranging to interview a small number of club members, individuals who could 'cover' as many different periods in your club's history as possible.



Bill Goldsmith, a crucial figure in the post-war history of Staincliffe CC

Club Profile **No.1 Elland CC**

Each edition we will feature one particular club and update you on our archive holdings

Volunteer contact: Derek Gledhill

Scorebooks 1907, 1909

1910x2, 1911x2, 1912x2, 1913, 1914x2

1926, 1927, 1928x2

1930x2, 1931, 1934x2, 1935x2, 1936, 1937,

1938x2, 1939x2

1942

1953x2, 1954x2, 1955x2, 1957, 1958

1961, 1962, 1963

1996x2, 1997x2, 1998x4, 1999, 2000x3, 2001x2

Management Board minutes: 1991-8

AGM/League Committee Meetings 1994-8

1860-1960 Centenary Brochure

Cash Books 1922-34, 1934-44, 1944-53, 1953-

63, 1963-74

Correspondence 1974-6, 1977, 1977-8



The Pavilion at Honley

Howzat for a work of art!

*Taken from The Huddersfield Daily Examiner,
15 September 2004*

TWO people not particularly interested in cricket are finding it a fascinating task to paint and draw just over 100 cricket grounds in Kirklees and Calderdale. Artists Tony Haigh and Sue Brant are each tackling half of the large assignment. Their work comes at the instigation of Dr Peter Davies, of Huddersfield University.

Dr Davies, who is a passionate cricket fan, specialises in French history. But when he heard about the possibility of a £43,000 Heritage Lottery grant to inquire into the social history of village and amateur league cricket in this area, he found a new dimension to his work which is giving him much pleasure and satisfaction. He has already published two books on local cricketing lore - Pennine Pitch (about Kirklees clubs) and Home Soil (Calderdale). Priced at £8, they are on sale at Ottakar's and the Tourist Information Centre.

Dr Davies knew that Tony and Sue were both interested in local history, and is pleased with what he has seen of their efforts so far - Tony's watercolour

and inks are complemented by pencil drawings from Sue, with the two media helping to provide some variety. And that's quite necessary. "It has been a bit difficult at times, as one cricket ground is very much like another," Tony says. But using the surrounds and settings, and featuring the different pavilions has helped to overcome that problem. A "lovely new pavilion" at Almondbury Wesleyans' ground provided a good subject - but Tony has painted the old one, too.

He told me: "I'm not really interested in cricket, but going round the grounds has made me realise what an integral part of village life these clubs are. A lot of these places have had a lot of money spent on them over the last few years, and the devotion of the lads who look after the grounds is amazing."

Sue, who is used to painting houses on a commission basis, says the cricket grounds are tied up with the area's industrial heritage. It was the brickworks at Blackley, for instance, whose workers formed the club there. "I have nothing to do with cricket usually, but I love the area and love drawing it," says the artist. "I have found cricket grounds I never knew existed and the buildings and surroundings are all different."

The paintings and drawings will all be displayed next summer in each village, in a pub or library, featuring the appropriate painting or drawing as a centrepiece, along with a selection of photographs and background material.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has helped us so far: league officials who have given us their support; club administrators who have supplied us with official records and artefacts; club webmasters who have publicised the Project on their site; and individual members of the public who have donated memorabilia; and many, many other people. It is much appreciated.

Coming soon...

Over the next two years we hope to produce a variety of public information and heritage trail leaflets on a 'cricket and community' theme - to be available in local libraries.

Waqar to Waugh

*PROFILE: Rob Light -
Research Assistant*

1. Which club do you play for?

Pateley Bridge.

2. How would you describe yourself as a cricketer?

A former bowler who has prolonged his career by developing as a batsman.

3. Greatest moment as a club cricketer?

Winning the Nidderdale League senior knockout competition and the man of the match award in the final.

4. Favourite club ground in Yorkshire?

Has to be Pateley Bridge. Favourite other ground is probably Scarborough. It was a real experience to play there for Harrogate 2nd XI when I was 17.

5. Which county team do you support?

Yorkshire.

6. Favourite county cricketer and why?

John Thewlis. Because he came from such an impoverished background to become a leading figure in the game at such a pioneering time. I think the careers and achievements of the early county professionals are remarkable.

7. Favourite county cricket ground and why?

I haven't been to many, or seen much county cricket. So it's probably Headingley because of the atmosphere when it's full, it's history and the Rugby League ground!

8. Favourite international cricketer and why?

Probably Steve Waugh, for what he

achieved in the game. But I've always loved watching fast bowlers like Holding, Lillee, Waqar Younis.

9 What's your view of 20/20 cricket?

The money and interest it has attracted is good for the game, and it's fascinating that 20/20 contradicts just about every amateur principle that county cricket was set up to promote. (eg. The prevention of gamemoney cricket, star professional players and cricket as a spectator event) It's also a shame that 20/20 is promoted as something totally new, when it's a form of the sport that has been played by league clubs since at least the interwar period.

10 What will be the score in the next

Ashes series?

3-2 to Australia.

Signage: Pointing the way

One way that we can help to raise the profile of cricket heritage in the area - and the profile of your club in particular - is to erect a 'Welcome Board' outside your ground. The Board would incorporate a potted history of your club and other heritage-related information. It would inform members of the public and passers-by, and it would hopefully make your club slightly more 'visible' in the local community. There may be good reasons why your club would *not want* such a Board, but if you would like one, we would be pleased to help.

Clubs we'd really like to make contact with...

- 1. Inter-Caribbean CC**
- 2. Mytholmroyd CC**
- 3. Birkby FMA CC**
- 4. Cleckheaton CC**
- 5. Nortonthorpe CC**

WHAT'S ON

Dates for Your Diary

March 2005 – Cricket Heritage
Conference at the University of
Huddersfield

April 2005 - Launch of Cricket
Exhibitions

Schools packs: Educating the young

Our Schools initiative will be launched in Spring 2005. Its aim is to develop among young people an awareness of local cricket's longstanding importance within the local communities of Calderdale and Kirklees.

It will do this by introducing children to their school's local club. In order to do this, two types of fully resourced, curriculum-referenced activity packs will be available, one for secondary school teachers and one for primary school teachers. These resources will be provided by us free of charge and customised so that children can explore the heritage of their local club.

For Key Stage 1 and 2, the packs will be based around a visit to the local cricket ground, with activities grouped in three sections: 'pre-visit', 'visit' and 'post-visit'. An initial selection of around 20 schools will be introduced to the education packs in Spring 2005, with similar resources being provided for other schools to use in Spring 2006.

For Key Stage 3, 4 and 5, more advanced packs will be produced.

- **CONTACT** our **Education Officer**, **Brian Heywood**, on **01484 473032**

IN THE NEWS!

Thank you to the following news organisations for publicising the Project in their pages:

- *The Huddersfield Examiner*
- *Huddle: The Newsletter of the University of Huddersfield*
- *The Halifax Courier*
- *History on Your Doorstep*
- Contact our Press Officer, Rebecca Liburd on 01484 473032

Check it out!

The Project website is now online at

<http://www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk>.

It will be regularly updated with the latest Project news and details of archive material which has been received along with copies of extracts and photographs from our holdings. You can also contact us online and post any thoughts, reminiscences or questions you may have about local cricket on our messageboard. CONTACT Lee Booth via lee@interactivesolutions.co.uk



Map of Old Town CC by George Clayton, the Project Cartographer.
Contact George on 01484 473032

CONTACT US!

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