

HOW THE STORY UNFOLDS IN THE BEGINNING

1965 - CLUB FOUNDED



Birkby FMA (Former Members' Association) was founded in 1965 by Jerry Smith (captain-to-be), Colin Brennan and a group of friends. The Club grew out of the Birkby Civic Youth Club.

When a generation of cricketers left this organisation - because they had become too old for it - they decided to go it alone. Hence the emergence of Birkby FMA as a force in local league cricket. (Their sister club was Birkby Old Boys - another team that emerged from Birkby CYC).

Birkby FMA joined the Huddersfield Association League in 1965.

Huddersfield and District Cricket Association



NO FIXED ABODE

HOME GROUNDS

Over the years, the Club has played at four different grounds. In the early days, it played at Bradley Bar (St. Augustinians School) and used the Ashbrow pub as its headquarters. Then in 1967 it moved to the Highfields Sports Arena, which it shared with Oakes CYC.



Highfields

From there it moved to Fartown High School - a location that the Birkby club described as '**one of the most picturesque grounds probably in our league**'; and then it was on to Britannia Works on New Hey Road, Salendine Nook – their current abode.

BOWLING FEAT

1976 – VINTAGE FORM

In 1976 Birkby FMA bowled out Salendine Nook Old Boys - in their debut season - for 32.



This kind of form continued, and as one Association handbook put it: ***'Birkby FMA have...the enviable accolade of playing a whole season without ever losing a match, a feat no doubt being rare to any club in the league.'***

MAKING ENDS MEET

CLUB NEWS

In their infancy, Birkby FMA had significant financial problems to deal with, but continued to play, and get by, even when the chips were down. Their claim was that, whatever their predicament, they offered the *'usual harmony and fellowship'*.



In addition: *'Players not only play but are our officials, secretary, treasurer, league representative etc.'*

EXIT VELOCITY!

1979 - SHARPE TROPHY WINNERS

In 1979 Birkby FMA scooped the Huddersfield Association League Sharpe Trophy, awarded to the team obtaining the most points in the last 6 matches.



The Sharpe Trophy (now in the Tolson Museum)

'B' FOR BRILLIANT

1981 - HUDDERSFIELD ASSOCIATION LEAGUE SECTION 'B' CHAMPIONS



Birkby Former Members Association captain Richard Blacker receives the Section II championship trophy from Mrs Margaret Tyas, wife of the Cricket Association secretary Peter Tyas, as members of the winning team look on.

HAPPY DAYS

1982 - HUDDERSFIELD ASSOCIATION LEAGUE SECTION 'B' CHAMPIONS

Final positions

SECTION "A"							
	P	W	L	3ps	1pt	Td	Ps
Augustinians	19	10	1	7	0	1	63
Police	19	13	2	3	1	0	62
Rastrick NR	19	8	2	5	4	0	51
Birkby OB	19	8	3	2	5	0	44
Lockwood OB	19	8	6	2	3	0	41
Caribbean YC	19	6	9	3	0	1	35
Taxes	19	6	8	1	4	0	31

SECTION "B"							
	P	W	L	3ps	1pt	Td	Ps
Birkby FMA	19	10	6	0	3	0	43
International	19	10	9	0	0	0	40
Salendine Nook	19	9	8	1	1	0	40
Polytechnic	19	5	7	2	5	0	31
Barker Sports	19	5	10	0	4	0	24
Storthis Hall	19	3	12	1	3	0	18
Edgerton	19	0	18	0	1	0	1

SECTION "C"							
	P	W	L	3ps	1pt	Td	Ps
International	18	14	3	0	1	0	57
Rastrick NR	18	12	2	2	1	1	57
Police	18	12	4	1	1	0	52
Taxes	18	7	8	0	3	0	31
Salendine Nook	18	6	10	1	0	1	29
Augustinians	18	5	11	1	1	0	24
Lockwood OB	18	4	12	1	1	0	20
Birkby OB	18	2	12	1	3	0	14

September 14, 1982

Birkby FMA clinch Section 'B' championship

Skipper Ainley's haul helps Augustinians retain top title

from their last six matches. Augustinians took maximum points from their last six but champions are wood were dismissed for 110. Augustinians lost two wickets for one run but a Birkby FMA sealed the Section "B" championship with victory against right-man Storthis Hall.

PERFORMANCES

BATTING
 Charles (Augustinians) 52

BOWLING

INTER-SECTION
POLYTECHNIC v BIRKBY OB
 BIRKBY GILBERTS
 Gordon (Ed) v Bennett & Keane
 1 wicket
 10 runs

EDGERTON
 Reginald v Collier & Corrie
 10 runs
 10 runs
 10 runs
 10 runs
 10 runs

POLICE DATE

1986 - TEAM PHOTO



Section "B" champions Birkby FMA—pictured before their victory over Police. Back row (from left)—B Knight, J Cockroft, B Dolley, A Cook, M Knight, M Roberts, A Dolley. Front row—N Wheadon, T Smith, M Walker, C J Brennan, scorer C Smith

SO CLOSE!

1989 - LUMB CUP FINALISTS

In 1989 Birkby FMA reached the Lumb Cup final - only to lose by 2 wickets to International.

**LUMB CUP
FINAL**

**Birkby FMA
v
International**

WOODFIELD PARK SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST 1989

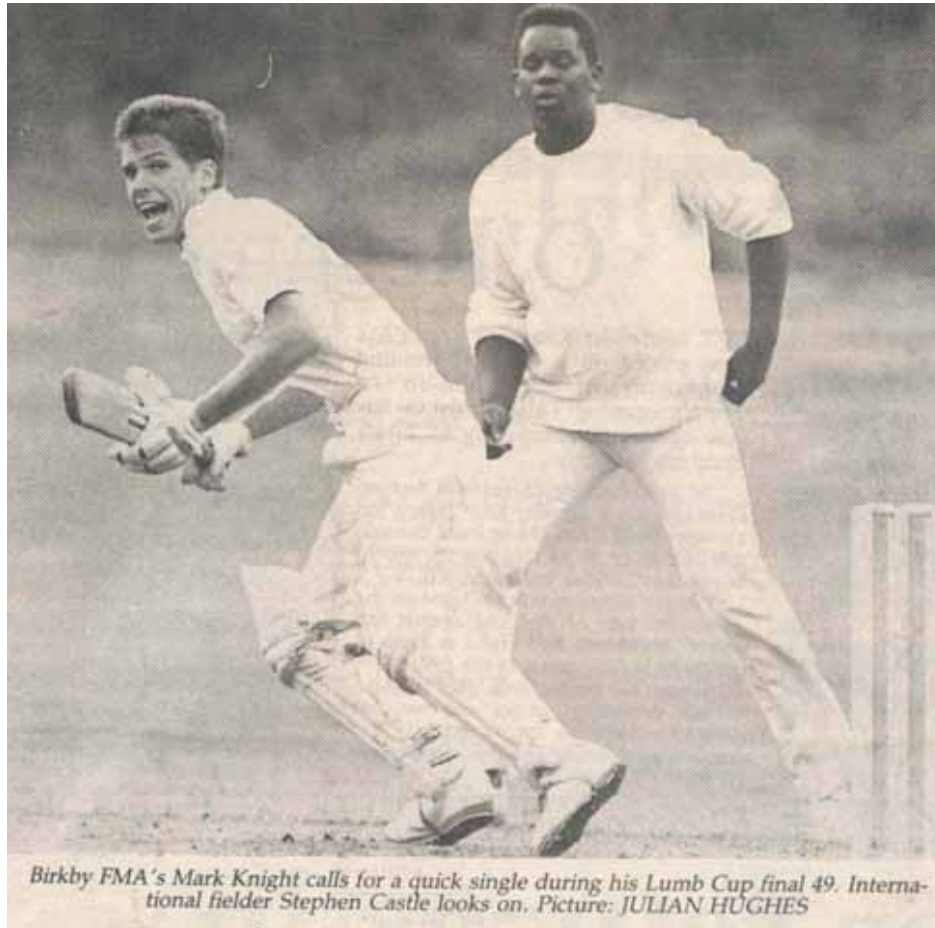
ADULTS 50P CHILDREN AND OAP'S 25P

BIRKBY FMA	
Knight b Samuda.....	3
Blacker (R) c Lewis b Samuda.....	9
Walker run out.....	4
Blacker (B) c Castle b Samuda.....	1
Knight c Jordan b Samuda.....	49
Higginbottom c Lewis b Samuda....	22
Dolley (B) b Allette.....	4
Roberts c Malcolm b Samuda.....	9
Cockcroft lbw b Allette.....	5
Dolley (A) not out.....	4
Wheadon run out.....	8
Extras	8
Total 126	
Allette 2-54, Samuda 6-64.	
INTERNATIONAL	
Lewis c Higginbottom b Blacker.....	0
Malcolm c Blacker b Blacker.....	1
James lbw b Dolley (A).....	23
Castle c Knight b Wheadon.....	13
Allette b Wheadon.....	29
Oakley lbw b Roberts.....	26
Samuda not out.....	21
Plentie c Higginson b Wheadon.....	3
Jordan c Knight b Wheadon.....	0
Smith not out.....	8
Extras	3
Total (for 8) 127	
Dolley 1-24, Blacker 2-24, Wheadon 4-41, Knight 0-16, Roberts 1-15, Cockcroft 0-5.	

Knight's brave 49 not enough in Lumb Cup final

Cup king Samuda

INTERNATIONAL re- Jackson not out..... 32 Smith c Brazier b Lewis..... 5 Carter b Massiah.....
Ariz c Higginbottom b Knight..... 1 Cummings lbw b Hreley..... 0 Riley not out.....



Birkby FMA's Mark Knight calls for a quick single during his Lumb Cup final 49. International fielder Stephen Castle looks on. Picture: JULIAN HUGHES

INTERNATIONAL retained the Huddersfield Cricket Association's Lumb Cup with a narrow two-wicket win over Birkby FMA at Woodfield Park.

Birkby, batting first, recovered from a disastrous 19-4 to reach 126, thanks mainly to man of the match winner Mark Knight, whose courageous 49 restored pride in the FMA camp. Paul Higginbottom (22) provided valuable support as the innings closed at 126.

Raymond Samuda, with 6-64, and Denver Allette (2-54) bowled throughout.

Birkby's hopes rose when they had the holders reeling at 2-2, but the middle order, led by Allette (29), came to their rescue. Samuda hit out bravely in the failing light to make an undefeated 21, bringing him into contention for the man of the match award.

Birkby turned in all six bowlers but failed to make the breakthrough after the early overs and International triumphed on 127-8.

12 PLAYERS & A SCORER

1990 - TEAM PHOTO

Section "A" side Birkby FMA made a desperate attempt to get a result in last weekend's rain-ruined Association programme, but the efforts of the Dolley brothers were upstaged by Neil Castle and Abdul Ghaffar who took Commonwealth to victory.

Although the actual match result will not stand—due to the fact that three matches have to be completed—the question of the bonus points accrued by both sides will be discussed at a league meeting next week.

The Birkby side are pictured (back row, from left): R Blacker, D Dolley, D Dunstan, A Dolley, M Walker, M Elsgood, C J Brennan. (Front row, from left): K Blacker (scorer), M Chambers, T Moore, M Knight, B Knight, P Higgingbottom



TOP OF THE CLASS

1992 - HUDDERSFIELD ASSOCIATION LEAGUE SECTION 'A' CHAMPIONS



Five-wicket success crowns splendid season for Birkby

FINAL TABLES FIRST ELEVENS

Birkby FMA ..	22	15	2	5	28	20	128
Police	22	14	3	5	28	27	121
Inter-Carib.....	22	13	3	6	27	22	113
Taxes.....	22	12	5	5	26	27	111
Town Taxis....	22	10	8	4	28	25	101
Augustinians ..	22	8	7	7	21	22	89
Lock'd FMA..	22	7	11	4	19	27	82
Barkers Spts...	22	7	10	5	18	24	80
Birkby OB	22	6	11	5	18	17	69
Polytechnic	22	4	13	5	12	16	54
Badger Hill	22	2	14	6	16	14	50
Edgerton	22	3	14	5	11	15	48



Birkby FMA are hard on the heels of the league leaders Police, and the Salendine Nook-based side are pictured before their latest match (back row, from left): Alan Oates, Brian Blacker, Bryan Dolley, Mark Knight, Keith Wilson, Gary Senior, Dave Manton. Front: Ravinder Singh, Justin Cockcroft, Barrie Knight, Mark Walker, Sundeep Singh, Alan Dolley

LINTHWAITE THRILLER

SYKES CUP APPEARANCE

Birkby FMA gained entry to the prestigious Sykes Cup on account of winning the Association title. The draw pitted them against Broad Oak - and a huge West Indian fast bowler called Johnson.



Broad Oak's home ground

Needless to say, it wasn't a very pleasant experience for the Birkby boys, and in the end they were beaten fairly comfortably by the Linthwaite side.

CHANGING PLACES

1993 - GROUND MOVE

In 1993 Birkby FMA moved grounds to Britannia Works on New Hey Road, Salendine Nook.



CARIBBEAN KINGS

1995 - TEAM PHOTO



Birkby FMA enjoyed a big victory over International-Caribbean in Saturday's Association Cricket fixture, and the winners are pictured (back row, from left): Sunny Singh, John Lovatt, Brian Blacker, Alan Oates, Brian Dolley, Inderpaul Singh. Front: Robert Dolley, Alan Walker, Paul Shaw, Ravinder Singh, Keith Wilson.

CHAMPIONS!

1998 - HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE SECTION 'C' WINNERS

Birkby win Section C title

SECTION C							
Birkby FMA.....	20	13	1	0	2	4	92
Inter Caribbean .	20	9	3	0	5	3	82
Green Moor	20	8	2	0	6	4	82
Harry Lime.....	20	9	3	0	2	6	70
Barkers Sports ..	20	8	6	0	3	3	66
Crigglestone	20	6	6	0	1	7	48
Clayton West	20	5	8	0	1	6	41
Hoylandswaine..	20	4	7	0	1	8	37
Dodworth	20	4	11	0	1	4	33
Cleckheaton SJ..	20	4	14	0	0	2	26
Upper Hopton	20	2	11	0	0	7	19

LOCAL COMBAT

LIFE IN THE CENTRAL LEAGUE

Since joining the Huddersfield Central League, FMA have achieved a succession of promotions, and in recent years have only been a stone's throw away from the Premiership.



Woodfield Park: local rivals

Knight comments: 'Yes, we've done OK. Our big games always tend to be against teams we used to play in the Association, and who have joined us in the Central League - teams like Inter-Caribbean and Woodfield Park.'

ST. JOHN'S & MOOR PIPPED AT THE POST!

1999 - HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL LEAGUE SECTION 'B' WINNERS



Birkby chasing victory

BIRKBY FMA need to beat Woolley in Sunday's final set of fixtures in the NTL Huddersfield Central League to clinch the Section B title.

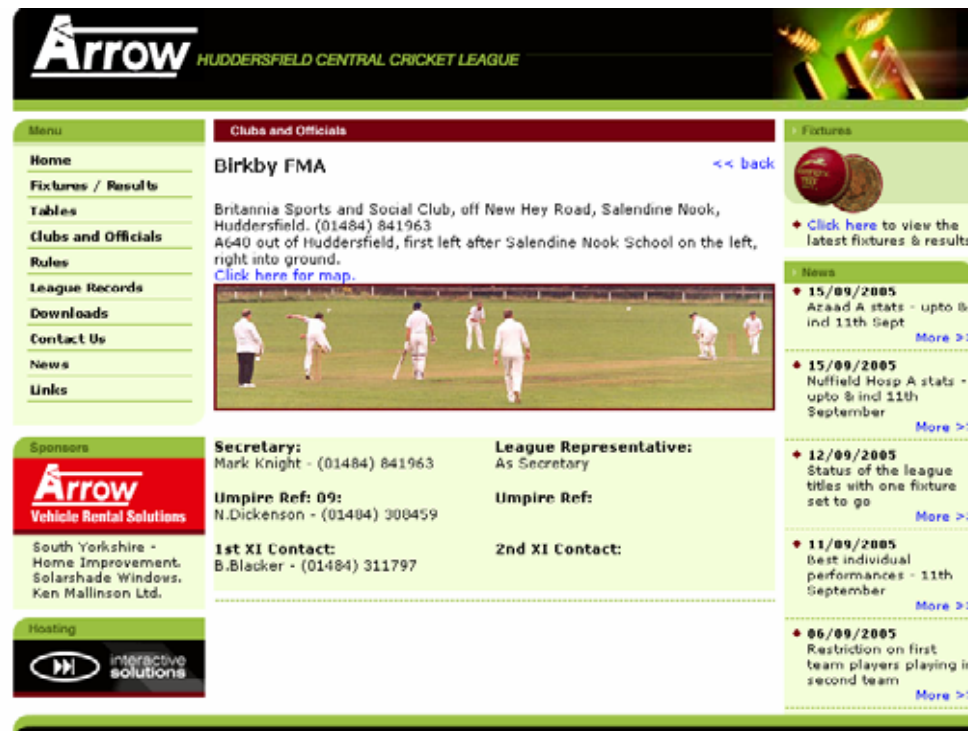
**NTL HUDDERSFIELD CENTRAL CRICKET LEAGUE
1999 LEAGUE POSITIONS**

Club	P	W	L	T	D5	D1	PTS	GMPTS
SECTION PREMIER								
1 CLAYTON WEST	22	6	3	-	11	2	93	29
2 CUMBERWORTH	22	9	4	-	7	2	91	22
3 HOYLANDSWAINE	22	9	2	1	5	5	87	20
4 THURSTONLAND	22	5	3	1	7	6	74	14
5 SHELLEY	22	4	6	-	6	6	60	8
6 OLD ALMONDBURIANS	22	7	6	-	2	7	59	20
7 LEPTON	22	4	4	-	5	9	58	13
8 CAWTHORNE	22	3	8	-	7	4	57	13
9 HIGHAM	22	4	10	-	3	5	44	12
10 WOODFIELD PPS	22	4	6	-	2	10	44	21
11 HOLMBRIDGE	22	3	6	-	3	10	43	13
12 DENBY	22	4	6	-	-	12	36	8
SECTION "A"								
1 DENBY DALE	22	11	1	-	6	4	100	25
2 EMLEY	22	6	3	-	9	4	85	12
3 CRIGGLESTONE	22	8	3	-	4	7	75	14
4 WEST BRETTON	22	6	3	-	6	7	73	8
5 LEYMOOR	22	4	4	-	8	6	70	22
6 UPPER HOPTON	22	8	4	-	1	9	62	21
7 YMCA	22	5	7	-	4	6	56	13
8 EDGERTON	22	5	8	2	3	4	55	27
9 CROSSBANK METHS	22	5	7	-	2	8	48	13
10 PENISTONE C&CS	22	2	6	1	5	8	48	11
11 ALMONDBURY WES	22	2	7	-	2	11	33	9
12 THURSTONLAND	22	1	10	1	-	10	19	9
SECTION "B"								
1 BIRKBY FMA	22	11	3	-	4	4	90	29
2 CLECKHEATON ST JOHNS	22	12	4	-	2	4	86	26
3 GREEN MOOR	22	8	2	1	6	5	86	23
4 INTER CARIBBEAN	22	9	7	-	3	3	72	25
5 WOOLLEY MW	22	6	5	1	5	5	69	9
6 BIRCHENCLIFFE	22	5	6	-	5	6	61	13
7 RUDDLESDENS	22	7	9	1	2	3	58	18
8 HOLMBRIDGE	22	6	9	1	2	4	53	10
9 BRADLEY & COLNE	22	4	6	-	3	9	48	13
10 CARTWORTH MOOR	22	2	7	-	3	10	37	12
11 CUMBERWORTH	22	3	7	-	1	11	34	5
12 FLOCKTON	22	2	10	-	1	9	26	9

BRIGHT FUTURE

CLUB TODAY

Today, Birkby FMA are unique in several respects. They only have one senior team, are no longer based in Birkby, and do not field any junior sides. They also have to hire a ground.



The screenshot shows the website for the Arrow Huddersfield Central Cricket League. The main content area is for Birkby FMA, which includes contact information and a photo of a cricket match. The website is organized into several sections:

- Menu:** Home, Fixtures / Results, Tables, Clubs and Officials, Rules, League Records, Downloads, Contact Us, News, Links.
- Clubs and Officials:** Birkby FMA, with a "<< back" link. Address: Britannia Sports and Social Club, off New Hey Road, Salendine Nook, Huddersfield. (01484) 841963. A640 out of Huddersfield, first left after Salendine Nook School on the left, right into ground. [Click here for map.](#)
- Fixtures:** Includes a "Click here to view the latest fixtures & results" link and a photo of a cricket ball.
- News:** A list of recent news items with dates and brief descriptions, each with a "More >>" link.
 - 15/09/2005: Azaad A stats - upto & incl 11th Sept
 - 15/09/2005: Nuffield Hosp A stats - upto & incl 11th September
 - 12/09/2005: Status of the league titles with one fixture set to go
 - 11/09/2005: Best individual performances - 11th September
 - 06/09/2005: Restriction on first team players playing in second team
- Sponsors:** Arrow Vehicle Rental Solutions, South Yorkshire - Home Improvement, Solarshade Windows, Ken Mallinson Ltd.
- Staff:** Secretary: Mark Knight - (01484) 841963; League Representative: As Secretary; Umpire Ref: 09: N.Dickenson - (01484) 308459; 1st XI Contact: B.Blackler - (01484) 311797; 2nd XI Contact: (blank).
- Hosting:** interactive solutions.

Mark Knight, Club secretary, explains the specific personality of Birkby FMA as a cricket team: ***'I suppose we've done well to survive against the odds. We've had a few grounds, and only one eleven, and sometimes it's not been easy. The thing that keeps us going is the camaraderie. Other players and other teams are always telling us that the banter and spirit in our team is as good as it is in any other team, if not better. This is a great compliment. The fact is that we are all mates outside cricket as well.'***



Although Birkby FMA do not run any junior teams, they often field teenagers in their side. Knight, who has been a club regular for over 20 years, says: ***'We often bring in youngsters - quite a few team members bring in their sons to play. My father played in the team, and that's how I got involved. In this sense, it's quite a family club. But having just one team is unusual, and causes a few problems...'***

...We've lost a few players recently, and at the moment we've got a pool of 16 or 17 players. Every Saturday we've got to aim for just 11, and I've got to admit that some times recently we've ended up as a 10-man side.'



As might be predicted, Birkby FMA are a pretty informal club. Knight says: ***'There's no formal committee or anything like that. We see a lot of each other as mates, and we just organise things as and when. There's very little turnover in the key posts. I've been secretary for eight years, and the treasurer has been in post for a similar amount of time. We just get on with things.'***