

CRICKET IN HEPTONSTALL



Cricket has played a major role in the social history of the village, with several clubs – including Slack – doing battle in various local leagues.

OPENING UP

KEY DATES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRICKET IN CALDERDALE

June 1834: Halifax Clarence play Bradford on Skircoat Moor.

1836: Halifax Alliance take on Huddersfield Britannia.



Monday 20 August 1838: Todmorden CC stages its first recorded match.

1860s: Inter-town matches staged involving Halifax, Elland and Brighouse.
Smaller teams emerge, too.

1870: 'Cricket Battery' (an early 'bowling machine) invented by Mr Swaine, a Halifax cricket pro.

1877: Halifax's Thrum Hall ground levelled.

1887: Founding of the Halifax Parish Cup.



July 1888: First county match at Thrum Hall - Yorkshire v Gloucestershire (and WG. Grace).

1897: Joe Nicholl opens the first 'sports shop' in Halifax on Cheapside.

10 June 1897: Yorkshire visit Thrum Hall for last time.



The village of Heptonstall from Old Town CC, Hebden Bridge

They then moved on to playing in the Hebden Bridge League and were champions of the league on six occasions.



The Popples today

Roy Collinge remembers going up to the Popples field with his dad, Jack. ***‘Everyone helped out with the ground. On Tuesday nights there were 20 or 30 of us practising on the main wicket.’***

At the 1957 Annual General Meeting there was just Heptonstall Slack remaining; attempts to merge with the Todmorden League failed and the League disbanded, Heptonstall joining the Halifax Association.



D. ACKROYD J. COLLINGS D. BURTON R. BUTTER J. CRAMSHAW
R. J. FARMING N. PARKER N. HELLIWELL R. ACKROYD
G. TURNER J. GREENWOOD M. GILL W. SAYER
E. SIMCOX J. C. MONCRIEFF T. MORTIMER.

Heptonstall Slack 1st XI, 1950s



B. GREENWOOD N. HELLIWELL R. J. FARTHING D. ACKROYD
P. ALLEN N. PARKER D. BURTON R. ACKROYD

J. GREENWOOD M. DAWSON G. TURNER E. SIMCOX
J. C. CRAWSHAW J. C. MONCRIEFF J. SAYER.

Heptonstall Slack 2nd XI, 1950s

Slack were actually the Hebden Bridge League's most loyal club.

Founder members of the Calder Valley League in 1891, they were also founder members of the Hebden Bridge League which, alongside the Todmorden and District League, was established to accommodate the second teams of Calder Valley League clubs in 1894.

22	23
Heptonstall Slack.	— Use —
FIRST ELEVEN.	
April 27 Wesleyans Away	<p>Wainwright's</p> <p>Renowned for Durability.</p> <p>.. Driving power.</p> <p>.. Balance.</p> <p>Bats.</p> <p>Re-Blades and Repairs.</p> <p>HALIFAX AGENT—</p> <p>messrs. Nicholl & Brown,</p> <p><i>24, Commercial St.</i></p> <p>Leeds Address—8, Leeds Bridge.</p>
May 4 Oldtown Home	
.. 11 Luddenden Away	
.. 18 Cross Lanes Home	
.. 25 Birchcliffe Away	
.. 27* Heptonstall Parish Home	
June 1 Cragg Vale Home	
.. 8 Salem Away	
.. 15 Hope Baptist Away	
.. 22 Wesleyans Home	
.. 29 Oldtown Away	
July 6 Luddenden Home	
.. 13 Cross Lanes Away	
.. 20 Birchcliffe Home	
.. 27 Heptonstall Parish Away	
Aug. 10 Bank Holiday.	
.. 17 Cragg Vale Away	
.. 24 Salem Home	
.. 31 Hope Baptist Home	
* Whit Monday.	
Secretary—Mr. C. HELLIWELL, North Field, Heptonstall.	

1912, Hebden Bridge League

They played continuously in the league until it folded in 1957, only the breaks for war, 1916-18 and 1942-46, intervening. Like all clubs, they had their share of characters, particularly in the 1930s when they featured at most of the league's disciplinary hearings, as the following minutes show:



6 July 1931

Resolved that we write to Heptonstall Slack with regard to certain of their players using abusive language to umpires, and that we ask them to place warning notices in their pavilion.

9 August 1933

Resolved that after reading a report from an umpire against C.E. Taylor for using bad language that a letter of warning be sent to the said player, and also a letter to Heptonstall Slack CC asking them to try and prevent such conduct in future.

3 July 1934

Resolved that I.Judson of Heptonstall Slack who was reported by an umpire for using filthy language have a letter of censure written to him. Also that he must apologise to umpire within seven days or be suspended.



1 June 1937

C.E.Taylor of Heptonstall Slack was reported by an umpire for making certain remarks and also threats to strike...the League Committee decided to suspend Taylor for four matches, and also that he must send a written apology to Mr A.Wild the umpire.

7 June 1937

It was resolved after discussing an appeal from Heptonstall Slack CC against the suspension of C.E.Taylor that the appeal be not upheld.

24		25	
Heptonstall Slack.		J. W. Horsfall,	
SECOND ELEVEN.		Family Grocer, Confectioner, and Provision Merchant.	
April 27	Wesleyans	Home	
May 4	Oldtown	Away	
" 11	Pocket Well	Home	
" 18	Cross Lanes	Away	
" 25	Birchcliffe	Home	
" 27 ^a	Heptonstall Parish	Away	
June 1	Cragg Vale	Away	
" 8	Salem	Home	
" 15	Hope Baptist	Home	
" 22	Wesleyans	Away	
" 29	Oldtown	Home	
July 6	Pocket Well	Away	
" 13	Cross Lanes	Home	
" 20	Birchcliffe	Away	
" 27	Heptonstall Parish	Home	
Aug. 10	Bank Holiday.		
" 17	Cragg Vale	Home	
" 24	Salem	Away	
" 31	Hope Baptist	Away	
	^a Whit Monday.		

Secretary—Mr. C. HELLIWELL, North Field, Heptonstall.

FUNERAL TEAS. PLAIN TEAS.
WEDDING PARTIES
provided for on the
Shortest Notice.

Address—
J. W. HORSFALL,
Waterloo House,
Heptonstall Slack.

1912, Hebden Bridge League

6 June 1939

Resolved that a letter be sent to the Heptonstall Slack club re complaint by an umpire with regard to some of their second eleven players.

TOP O' TH' CLASS!

HEPTONSTALL PARISH CC

Heptonstall Parish CC played in the Calder Valley League between 1892 and 1907. They played at Top o' th' Eaves and were section winners in 1901, 1902 and 1904.



They also played in the Hebden Bridge League for spells in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.

Heptonstall Parish.
FIRST ELEVEN.

April	27	Birchcliffe	...	...	... Away
May	4	Hope Baptist	...	...	... Home
"	11	Cragg Vale	...	...	... Away
"	18	Luddenden	...	...	... Away
"	25	Oldtown	...	...	... Home
"	27*	Heptonstall Slack	...	...	... Away
June	1	Salem	...	...	... Home
"	8	Wesleyans	...	...	... Home
"	15	Cross Lanes	...	...	... Away
"	22	Birchcliffe	...	...	... Home
"	29	Hope Baptist	...	...	... Away
July	6	Cragg Vale	...	...	... Home
"	13	Luddenden	...	...	... Home
"	20	Oldtown	...	...	... Away
"	27	Heptonstall Slack	...	...	... Home
Aug.	10	Bank Holiday.			
"	17	Salem	...	...	... Away
"	24	Wesleyans	...	...	... Away
"	31	Cross Lanes	...	...	... Home

* Whit Monday.

Secretary—Mr. T. H. DOCHAR, Northgate,
Heptonstall.

Wright Ingham,

Monumental Mason,

HEPTONSTALL, and
— NEW ROAD, —
HEBDEN BRIDGE.

Dealer in Swedish Red
and Green Granite; also
Norwegian and Labra-
dorite.

Headstones, Monuments, Tombs, Tablets,
&c., executed in Stone, Marble & Granite.

1912, Hebden Bridge League

Heptonstall Parish.
SECOND ELEVEN.

April	27	Birchcliffe	...	...	...Home
May	4	Hope Baptist	...	...	...Away
"	11	Cragg Vale	...	...	...Home
"	18	Pecket Well	...	...	...Home
"	25	Oldtown	...	...	...Away
"	27*	Heptonstall Slack	...	...	...Home
June	1	Salem	...	...	...Away
"	8	Wesleyans	...	...	...Away
"	15	Cross Lanes	...	...	...Home
"	22	Birchcliffe	...	...	...Away
"	29	Hope Baptist	...	...	...Home
July	6	Cragg Vale	...	...	...Away
"	13	Pecket Well	...	...	...Away
"	20	Oldtown	...	...	...Home
"	27	Heptonstall Slack	...	...	...Away
Aug.	10	Bank Holiday.			
"	17	Salem	...	...	...Home
"	24	Wesleyans	...	...	...Home
"	31	Cross Lanes	...	...	...Away

* Whit Monday.

Secretary—Mr. T. H. DOCHAR, Northgate,
Heptonstall.

Don't Miss the

Golden Willow Bat,

The Bat of the Season.
Every Bat honestly ..
worth £1 1s.

15/6 each. 3 for 45s.

Each Bat fully warranted.
Improved Rubber & Cork
Spring Handles.

Full Wooded and Beautiful Drivers.

To be had only from

FRED COYLE,

Somerset and Northumberland
County Elevens,

BOTTOM OF GIBBET STREET, HALIFAX.

Catalogues Free on application.

1912, Hebden Bridge League

CATTLE STOP PLAY!

HEPTONSTALL CC

Heptonstall CC played in the Halifax Association between 1944 and 1958 and 1989. They played at The Popples, but suffered a fire in the 1960s and had to build a new pavilion.



The Popples today

They re-entered the Association in 1958 as Heptonstall Slack M.I. and as Heptonstall Parish in 1959.



With The Popples in poor condition (it was common land, prone to cattle damaging the square), they leased Roils Head in 1973.

They then moved to Spring Hall where they changed their name to Moorside (1975) as the venue was seen as being at the side of the moor.

CRICKET IN THE SURROUNDING AREA



JACK BRIDGE CC

1930s - TEAM PHOTO



CRAGG VALE CC

1912 - HEBDEN BRIDGE LEAGUE HANDBOOK

14		15	
Cragg Vale.		Cricket Bats	
FIRST ELEVEN.		REPAIRED & RE-BLADED	
April	27	Oldtown	... Home
May	4	Birchcliffe	... Home
"	11	Heptonstall Parish	... Home
"	18	Salem	... Away
"	25	Cross Lanes	... Away
"	27*	Wesleyans	... Home
June	1	Heptonstall Slack	... Away
"	8	Hope Baptist	... Home
"	15	Luddenden	... Home
"	22	Oldtown	... Home
"	29	Birchcliffe	... Away
July	6	Heptonstall Parish	... Away
"	18	Salem	... Home
"	20	Cross Lanes	... Home
"	27	Wesleyans	... Away
Aug.	10	Bank Holiday.	
"	17	Heptonstall Slack	... Home
"	24	Hope Baptist	... Away
"	31	Pecket Well	... Home

* Whit Monday.

Secretary—Mr. F. MILNES, Church Bank,
Cragg Vale.

NICHOLL & BROWN,
2 Doors from G.P.O.,
HALIFAX.

Telephone 18x.

EASTWOOD CC

1952 - NOSTALGIA PIECE

TIMES AND GAZETTE, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1952

Eastwood's First Cricket Team



The reconstruction and drainage of the old Eastwood cricket field now taking place has revived many recollections of the past glories of the old club. We print above a photograph of the first Eastwood cricket team, which dates back over

50 years. The members of the team were: Left to right, standing: D. Crossley (secretary), L. Netherwood, G. Heys, T. Oldfield, A. Fielden, R. Sutcliffe. Seated: S. Sowden, J. Mitchell, T. H. Walton, F. Speak, T. Speak and J. Fielden.

HEBDEN BRIDGE CC

1885 - THE CLOWNS COME TO VISIT

CLARENCE'S CLOWN CRICKETERS

V.

HEBDEN BRIDGE.

On Saturday last the "Top Hat" Clown Cricketers, under the superintendance of Mr. Clarence, of Leeds, paid their second visit to Hebden Bridge, when the weather was beautifully fine. The manner in which the clowns, by their merry antics, amused the spectators last year resulted in the gathering together of a fairly large assembly on Saturday, notwithstanding that there were other attractions which had commanded the attention of the public. Shortly after one o'clock the clowns, attired in grotesque costumes, and adorned in not a meagre variety of gay colours, were promenaded through the town in a "theatrical" conveyance, and caused much merriment by their jocular remarks.

BIRCHCLIFFE CC

1912 - HEBDEN BRIDGE LEAGUE HANDBOOK

10				
Birchcliffe.				
FIRST ELEVEN.				
April	27	Heptonstall Parish	...	...Home
May	4	Cragg Vale	...	...Away
"	11	Cross Lanes	...	...Home
"	18	Wesleyans	...	...Away
"	25	Heptonstall Slack	...	...Home
"	27*	Salem	...	...Away
June	1	Hope Baptist	...	...Away
"	8	Luddenden	...	...Home
"	15	Oldtown	...	...Home
"	22	Heptonstall Parish	...	...Away
"	29	Cragg Vale	...	...Home
July	6	Cross Lanes	...	...Away
"	13	Wesleyans	...	...Home
"	20	Heptonstall Slack	...	...Away
"	27	Salem	...	...Home
Aug.	10	Bank Holiday,		
"	17	Hope Baptist	...	...Home
"	24	Luddenden	...	...Away
"	31	Oldtown	...	...Away

* Whit Monday.

Secretary—Mr. HERBERT SUTCLIFFE, 2,
Cambridge Street, Hebden Bridge.

11

Don't miss the GOLDEN WILLOW BAT,
THE

Bat of the Season.

Every Bat honestly worth a Guinea.

15s. 6d. each. 3 for 45s.

Each Bat fully Warranted. Improved Rubber
and Cork Spring Handles.

Full Wooded & Beautiful Drivers.

To be had only from

Fred Coyle,

Somerset & Northumberland
County Elevens,

Bottom of GIBBET ST., HALIFAX.

Catalogues Free on application.

OLD TOWN CC

1948 - 'DOUBLE' WINNERS

