

## **Halifax & District Nonconformist League** **(1908-1939)**

Extract from *Lost: The Former Cricket Clubs and Cricket Grounds of Halifax and Calderdale* by Andrew Hardcastle (Cricket Heritage Project Publications, 2006, £5)

Re-named the Sunday School League from 1937, it was a league for church teams, generally of around 10 clubs each season. All are defunct, apart from Northowram Wesleyans (now Hedge Top) and Union Croft Congregationalists. The teams were:

**Ebenezer, St James's Road** (1908-13 and 1928-39). Played at Mile Thorn, Sandhall Lane, and later at Norton Tower. They were league winners in the first three seasons and again in 1936. An earlier Ebenezer team had been in the Amateur League.

**Boothtown Free Church** (1908-13). Played at Swales Moor, Ploughcroft. Also ran a team in the Amateur League, 1912-15.

**Lee Mount Baptists** (1908-11, 1913-15, 1922-3 and 1925-39). Grounds at Bracewell Farm (Wheatley), Club Lane, Nursery Lane, Near Royd (opposite Ovenden Police Station) and Cousin Lane (opposite the top of Ovenden Way).

**Broad Street Brotherhood** (1908-9). Played at Upper Kingston.

**Ovenden Bethel** (1908).

**Range Bank Congregationalists** (1908-9 and 1934-8). Played at Cousin Lane in 1908-9, then High Sunderland in the 1930s. A Range Bank team had been in the Amateur League, 1894-5.

**Ovenden Wesleyans** (1908-9, 1920-1 and 1935-6). Ground at Nursery Lane. They were league winners in 1920. A later team from the church, **Ovenden Methodists**, appeared in the Halifax Association from 1948.

**Sion Congregationalists** (1909-20 and 1933-9). Previously Amateur League, 1908, playing at Birdcage.

**Illingworth Wesleyans** (1909-15). Previously Amateur League, 1908, to where they returned, 1917-22.

**North Parade Baptists** (1909-15). Previously Amateur League, playing at Nursery Lane.

**Hanover M.N.C.** (1909-10). Formerly Amateur League, 1903-5. Ground at Cote Hill.

**Rhodes Street Wesleyans** (1909-12, 1914-15, 1925-9, 1931-4 and 1936). Also occasionally appeared in the Amateur League, 1893-5, 1900-02 and 1913. League winners in 1914 and 1932, they had grounds at Albert Road and Mount Tabor Road.

**West Vale Baptists** (1910-13). Previously Amateur League, 1905-9.

**King Cross Wesleyans** (1910). Had been playing for some years, in 1901 at a field entered from Gibbet Street, opposite Thrum Hall Lane.

**Stannary** (1910-15). Previously Amateur League, 1905-9 and 1896. League winners in 1911 and 1913.

**Northgate End** (1910-11). Previously Amateur League, 1904-9 and 1893.

**Central Brotherhood** (1910). Ground at Albert Road.

**Heywood** (1910-22). Having won the league title in 1921, they also fielded a 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in the Amateur League in 1922, then in 1923 joined the new Halifax Association, where they continued until 1955. Ground at Hall Lane, Northowram.

**Square Congregationalists** (1910, 1913-15 and 1930-9). Played first at Savile Park, then in the 1930s at Cousin Lane.

**Wesley** (1911 and 1928-33). An earlier team had appeared in the Amateur League, 1894-5, but they eventually became a well-established club. From 1928 they played at Norton Tower, described variously as Prospect Cottage, Norton Tower and Tower Hill. After winning the league in 1933, they joined the Halifax Association in 1934.

**Guild Institute** (1911). Played at Lister Road, Godley.

**Ripponden Cons** (1911-15). League winners in 1912, they later moved to the Amateur League, 1915 and 1919-22.

**Thornfield Free Church** (1911-12). Former Amateur League side from 1898-1900.

**Queens Road Primitive Methodists** (1912-15). Played at Victoria, Gibbet Lane. An earlier team from this church had appeared in the Amateur League, 1893-5.

**Queens Road United Methodists** (1913-32). Previously Amateur League, playing at Albert View.

**Pellon Lane Baptists** (1912-14). Played at Grand View. Had an earlier team in the Amateur League.

**Brunswick United Methodists** (1912-15). Church on Rhodes Street which had an earlier team in the Amateur League.

**Akroyden Wesleyans** (1920). Joined the Amateur League for season 1921, but then folded.

**Friendly Wesleyans** (1920-39). Played at Westfield, Friendly. League winners in 1928, 1937 and 1938, they reformed in 1949 to join the Hebden Bridge League.

**Halifax Baptists 3rds** (1920 and 1922). The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs were members of the Parish League, 1919-22. Previously Baptists had been in the Amateur League, and from 1923-40 were in the Halifax Association. Ground at Nursery Lane, Ovenden.

**Halifax Boys Brigade Old Boys Assoc.** (1921-2). Played at Roils Head.

**Bethel** (1921-4). Brighouse's Bethel New Connexion had been in the Amateur League, 1899-1900 and 1902, and Brighouse Bethel in the Halifax Association from 1925 to 1927.

**St Thomas Street Primitive Methodists** (1922-31). Left to join the Halifax Association from 1932, having been league champions in 1931. They had fielded an earlier team in the Amateur League.

**Shelf Wesleyans** (1922-4). Ground at Burned Lane, Shelf. Left to join the Bradford Mutual Sunday School League in 1925.

**Southowram U.M.C.** (1922-4). Moved to the Halifax Association in 1925.

**Brighouse Adult School** (1923-8). Previously Amateur League in its final 1922 season.

**Park Institute** (1923-8). Played at Roils Head.

**Lane Head Primitive Methodists** (1924).

**Trinity Wesleyans** (1924-5). Former Amateur League side, 1905-15, who left to join the Halifax Association in 1926.

**Highroad Well Congregationalists** (1924-30 and 1932-9). Played at Roils Head, sometimes given as Norton Tower or Tower Hill, though there was at one time a cricket field below the church. They were league winners in 1929.

**Siddal Wesleyans** (1925-36). Played at Backhold, Siddal. They were league winners in 1930.

**Pye Nest Primitive Methodists** (1926-7). An earlier side had appeared in the Amateur League, 1905-7.

**Ambler Thorn United Methodists** (1929-37). Ground on Roper Lane. They were league champions in both 1934 and 1935.

**Holmfield Centenary** (1932-3).

**Salem United Methodists** (1932-9). Joined the Halifax Association in 1947.

**St Andrew's Methodists** (1933-9).

**St Bernard's S.C.** (1936-7).