



Speakers: (from the left) Dennis O'Keefe, David Thorpe, Tony Hutton, Martin Bishop and Roy Pearce

Howzat for a great night's entertainment?

By Colin Drury

A mature student bowled over an audience with a presentation on the history of Illingworth St Mary's Cricket Club.

Dennis O'Keefe, 54, of Hillyview Gardens, Northowram, Halifax, gave the talk from research he did while studying for a master's degree in history

at the University of Huddersfield.

The presentation - part of the third annual Pennine Cricket History Conference at the university - looked at the origins of the club which formed in 1884 as a way of attracting working men to St Mary's church.

Mr O'Keefe said: "It was really useful to present my

findings to an audience of experts and historians.

"It went well and I actually found out one or two things myself - apparently there was some social disorder in Illingworth around the time the club formed so I'll have to see if there's some sort of link there."

Former players and

officials from the club were among the audience of about 50 at the event on Saturday

Organiser and history lecturer Peter Davies said: "It was an excellent occasion.

There were five talks and all were well received, it got everyone in the mood for the forthcoming season.'



HECKMONDWIKE — 1976/77/78 Champions

Back Row (L-R): F. Shepherd (Committee), R. Glaser (Stoner), A. Fletcher, S. Hinchey, D. Marshall, G. Hall, G. Binks, H. Louch, A. Baxter, F. Kirshang (Committee)
 Front Row (L-R): R. Parker, B. Haigh, R. Smith, G. M. Parker, J. M. Bradby

LEFT: Heckmondwike Cricket Club celebrate their hat-trick of championships in the 1970s.

BELOW: Cleckheaton Cricket Club's Moorender commemorating their 2004 season.

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THE history of cricket in Kirklees - including teams across Spen - will come under the spotlight at the third Pennine Cricket History conference.

The event will be staged at the University of Huddersfield on Saturday March 31.

Talks on the day will focus on the history of cricket in Kirklees and Calderdale, and also in Derbyshire and Berkshire.

One speaker will also present a slide show about his favourite 30 cricket grounds in England.

"Our two previous conferences have been really enjoyable occasions," said event organiser Dr Peter Davies.

"Last year we had around 60 guests and it was wonderful to welcome them to the university.

"This year we have five speakers, covering an array of topics, and it should be

They think it's all over...

another good day."

The conference is being held in Room WG/28, main university campus.

The annual occasion is one of the many public outcomes of the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project, currently running at the university.

Dr Davies added: "Admission is free to this year's event and we will also be having a special cricket bookstall, which will be selling all our project publications. All welcome."

Call 01484 472405 or go to www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk for further details.

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ENGLAND CAN WIN IT

FORMER West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin says England can still win the World Cup — despite their uncertain start and off-field problems.

Legend Ramadhin, who will be 78 in May, still lives near Delph, where he used to run a pub.

He played in the Huddersfield League for Golcar in the early 1960s, a decade on from the last of his 43 Tests, and is still a keen student of the game.

Ramadhin believes if England's best players start to perform nearer 100% in the current tournament, they have a chance of lifting their first World Cup.

"There are several teams that are capable of winning, and England have a chance," he said.

"With Flintoff and Pietersen in the side you can't rule them out.

"I think Pietersen could prove to be one of the stars of the World Cup.

"I expect England to make the last four alongside Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and, from then on anything, can happen."

Despite the optimism over England, Ramadhin is still tipping a familiar name to pick up the trophy — three times winners Australia.

"I think Australia will win the World Cup. They have the experience of having done it before," he explained.

"I think Ricky Ponting will be one of the stars of the tournament and with Glenn McGrath playing for the last time I think he will be

Pietersen poised but Australia still looking favourites: Ramadhin

Delph-based Sonny Ramadhin is enjoying watching the World Cup, held for the first time in his native West Indies. Here, PETER REDDING gets the legendary spinner's thoughts on the intriguing tournament

desperate to end on a high and bow out in a winning side."

Ramadhin is expecting a competitive World Cup in the later stages but is also hoping that the event brings long-term benefits.

"I think the inclusion of the associate nations can only benefit the game," he commented.

"They are promoting the game of cricket all over the world and they all deserve to be there.

"I hope that this World Cup continues to be exciting but I hope it also helps to augment peace and sport between the nations."

● A special lecture about the history of Golcar Cricket Club will be one of the major attractions at the University of Huddersfield's

third Pennine Cricket History Conference on Saturday, March 31 (10am-4pm, Room WG/28, main campus).

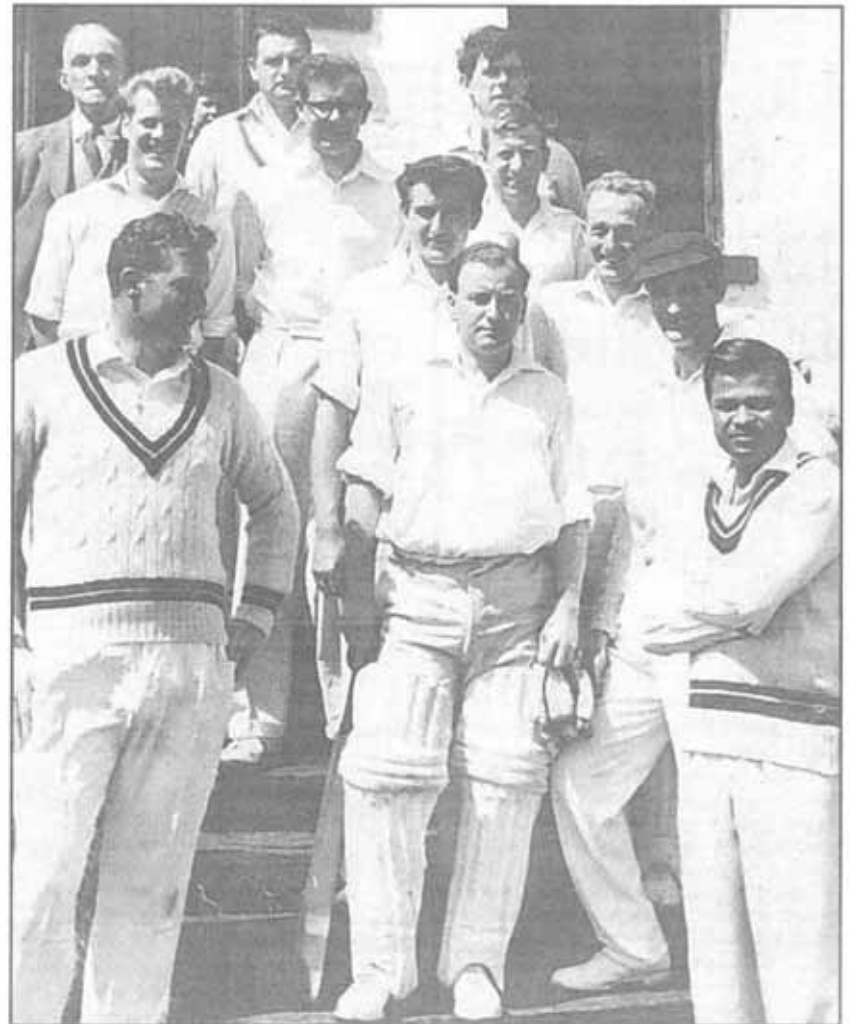
The talk will be given by David Thorpe, former player and now committee member at the Colne Valley club.

It will be entitled 'Golcar CC: A Journey with the Lilies from Scar Bottom to Sandy Lane', and will cover the history of the Swallow Lane outfit from the late 19th century to present day.

It will also highlight some of the star names who have played for the club over the years, including Sonny Ramadhin.

There's much more on the agenda, too, at the free event, and organiser Dr Peter Davies said: "Our two previous conferences have been really enjoyable occasions. Last year we had around 60 guests and this time we have five speakers covering an array of topics, so it should be another good day."

The conference has come about through the Kirklees and Calderdale Cricket Heritage Project. There will be a cricket bookstall on the day.



■ **GOLCAR GREAT:** former West Indies spinner Sonny Ramadhin (front right) is pictured with the Golcar team of 1963 before a match in the Huddersfield League. Ramadhin still lives near Delph

SPORTSscene / CRICKET

Golcar club in conference spotlight



□ **SECTION B CHAMPIONS:** Golcar 2nd XI in 1947. Back row (from left): N Hanson (treasurer), R Hall, G Earnshaw, J Ball, D Shaw, R Peace, G Fryer, P Shaw, G H Lockwood (secretary); front: R Smith, J B Ousarby, G Mear (captain), A Wood (president), R Booth (vice-captain), G K Chadwick, P Dyson and scorer B Fielding with trophy.

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Other talks will focus on the history of Illingworth St. Mary's CC, Halifax, and the story of cricket in Derbyshire and Berkshire. One speaker will also present a slide show about his favourite 30 cricket grounds in England.

"Our two previous conferences have been really enjoyable occasions," said event organiser Dr Peter Davies.

"Last year we had around 60 guests and it was wonderful to welcome them to the University. This year we have five speakers, covering an array of topics, and it should be another good day."

The conference is on Saturday March 31, 10am-4pm at the University (Rooms WG/28, Main Campus). Admission is free. Call 01484 472405 or go to www.crickethistory.org.uk.



□ **TEST STAR:** West Indian cricketer Sonny Ramadhin (right) lines up with Golcar 1st XI in 1963.

www.halifaxcourier.co.uk

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Historic: cricket researcher Dennis O'Keefe

Picture: Jim Fitton

Dennis plans to bowl them over with history

A MATURE student will be hoping to hit his audience for six when he gives a presentation on the social history of Illingworth St Mary's Cricket Club.

Dennis O'Keefe, 54, of Hillview Gardens, Northowram, Halifax, will talk about research he has done while studying for an MA in history at the University of Huddersfield.

The club formed in 1884 as a way of attracting more working men to St Mary's Church.

Initially only those who attended Sunday school or were church

members could play.

There will be anecdotes about 19th-century players being fined for smoking during games. It will look at some of the earliest matches the club played.

Mr O'Keefe, a part-time teaching assistant at Old Earth Primary School and former wicketkeeper for Illingworth, said: "I wanted to do some kind of social history: from Halifax and I'm a huge cricket fan so this seemed a good idea."

"To start with I was worried I wouldn't have

enough material but now I don't know how I'm going to fit it all in."

The talk forms part of the third annual Pennine Cricket History Conference to be held at the university.

Three other speakers will entertain an expected 60 guests.

Organiser and history lecturer Peter Davies said: "The history of an area's cricket club is often intertwined with the history of the area itself so it can be very revealing."

The conference is on Saturday at 10am. Entry is free.

Cricket conference steps back in time

THE history of cricket in Calderdale will come under the spotlight at the third Pennine Cricket History conference.

The event will be staged at the University of Huddersfield on Saturday, March 31. Talks on the day will focus on the history of cricket in Calderdale, and also in Derbyshire and Berkshire.

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"This year we have five speakers, covering an array of topics, and it should be another good day."

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Dr Davies added: "Admission is free to this year's event and we will also be having a special cricket bookstall, which will be selling all our project publications. All are welcome."

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Walsden's 1962 side — part of Calderdale's rich cricketing culture which will be discussed on March 31

Todmorden News