

The Halifax District Council League (1916-25)

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

Most of the leading clubs in the area had affiliated themselves to the Yorkshire Council, founded in 1899. Halifax, Brighouse and Elland were original members, followed later by King Cross and Rastrick. In 1916, during the First World War when less traveling was desirable, a Halifax District section was formed with the addition of Sowerby Bridge, Lightcliffe, Siddal and Clifton Britannia. Illingworth joined in 1920. By 1923 the league table had reverted to the full Yorkshire Council, though until 1925 there remained a Halifax section. Only Halifax, Siddal and Clifton are now defunct, the latter two being covered elsewhere.

Halifax (1856-1998). Began as **Halifax Trinity** in 1856, playing on Skircoat Moor, before moving to Pellon Lane around 1860. They opened a new, prestigious ground in King Cross Lane in 1862, where they could levy admission charges, have a professional bowler in daily attendance, and arrange matches against All England XIs. This ground was lost to building in 1876 and a move made to the top of Hanson Lane. Two years later they amalgamated with the Halifax rugby club to become simply Halifax, the pair moving across the road to Thrum Hall in 1886. Halifax were founder-members of the West Riding League in 1893, then founder-members of the Yorkshire Council in 1889. They joined a West Yorkshire League within the Yorkshire Council in the late 1920s, these teams all resigning in 1936 to join with two clubs from South Yorkshire in forming the Yorkshire League. In 1994 they moved to the Huddersfield League, but closed down after the 1998 season pending the sale of Thrum Hall to Asda.