

The Story of Cricket in
Calderdale & Kirklees

A TRADE UNION, FOUR PUBS AND A CHURCH!

Westborough CC

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OPENING UP: DEWSBURY NALGO CC

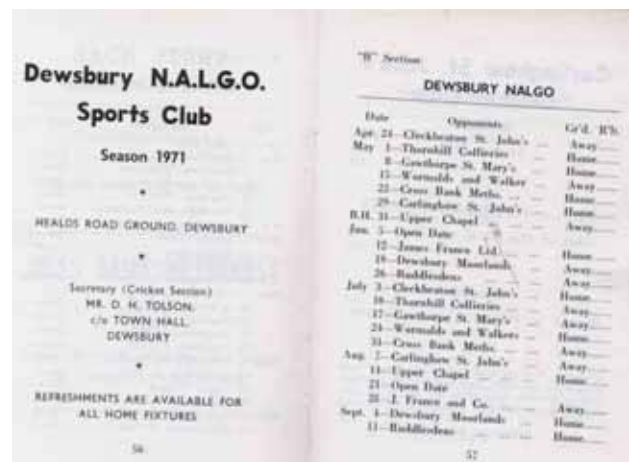
The origins of Westborough C.C. lie with two former Dewsbury & District League clubs.

One of these clubs was Dewsbury NALGO C.C., which was formed around 1960 through a local branch of the National Association of Local Government Officers.

Throughout the 1960s, Dewsbury NALGO C.C. – and other Dewsbury & District league sides - played many home games at the Sands Lane municipal complex in the town.

Dewsbury NALGO C.C.'s most

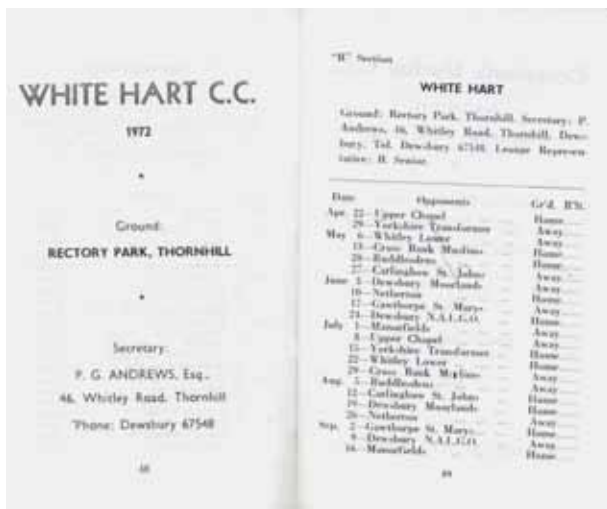
successful season came in 1968 when the 1st XI landed the Dewsbury & District League Section 'C' championship.



By 1971 the club – by now, playing their home games at Healds Road - had consolidated its place in Section 'B' of the Dewsbury & District League.

OPENING UP II: WHITE HART CC

The other club involved in the roots of Westborough C.C. was a local pub team called White Hart C.C..



In 1972 both the Dewsbury NALGO and White Hart clubs competed in Section 'B' of the Dewsbury & District League.

1972 - CONTRASTING FORTUNES

The 1972 season proved to be pivotal for both future participants in the merger which eventually led to Westborough C.C. being formed.

White Hart progressed into Section 'A' of the Dewsbury & District League as champions, losing only two matches all season.

However, Dewsbury NALGO were relegated after finishing at the bottom of the table.

1976 – TABLE TOPPERS

Four years after gaining a place in the top flight, White Hart carried off the Jessop Cup as Dewsbury & District League Section 'A' champions.

1980s – TWO BECOME ONE

During the 1970s, local government reorganisation had a major impact on Dewsbury NALGO C.C.. Both the club and the trade union branch faced a major reduction in membership and, as a result, financial resources were affected.

The NALGO Cricket Club struggled on until an opportunity to secure its future arose in the next decade. By the 1980s White Hart C.C. had stumbled on hard times and the club was also looking for a lifeline.

The two clubs decided to merge and became 'The Hart C.C.' which by 1989 was playing in Section 'C' of the Dewsbury & District League.

1991 – BLAZE TRAGEDY

Tragedy struck The Hart C.C. in 1991 when the pavilion at the club's council-owned Healds Road ground was set ablaze.



The fire caused thousands of pounds worth of damage and the police suspected arson.

1993 – 2nd XI SUPERSTARS

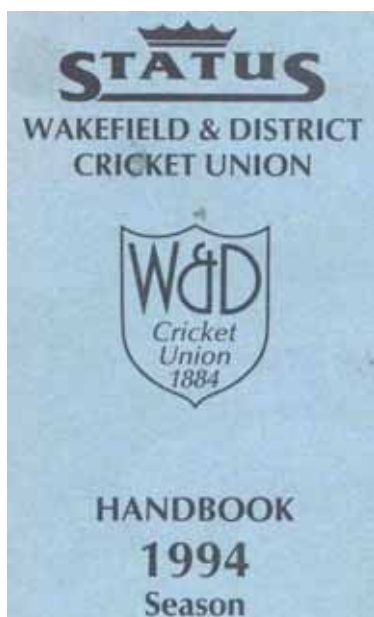
Happier news came two years after the pavilion fire as The Hart C.C. 2nd XI carried off the A.V. Kitchen Cup.

1994 – PUB CRAWL!

The future Westborough C.C. underwent another change of identity in 1994. This time the end of the club's relationship with the White Hart pub caused a new HQ to be found. The club ended up using another local pub called the Royal Oak and became Royal Oak C.C..

1994 – MOVING MOMENT

Along with the new identity came entry into a new competition as Royal Oak C.C. joined the Wakefield & District Cricket Union.



1998 – NEW BEGINNING

In 1998 the club once again took on a new identity as the Westborough C.C. was born.



They chose this name on account of their geographical base: their council-owned Healds Road HQ was located slap bang in the middle of the Dewsbury suburb of Westborough.

And for the record: Westborough is a part of Dewsbury famous for its hospital, Methodist church, reservoir and high school.

1998 – INTO THE BIG LEAGUE

Once again the change of name was accompanied by a change of league. This time the club looked outside its immediate environs and joined the Huddersfield Central Cricket League.

1998/9 – BACK-TO-BACK TITLES

The club settled immediately into life in the new competition and their first season saw Westborough land the Section 'D' title. The following year in Section 'C' proved to be no more

difficult as that championship was also won at the first attempt.

2001 – TROPHY JOY

2nd XI win G. Mear Trophy for most points won in last 6 matches of season.

2002 – GROUND DISASTER

The start of the 2002 season was hit by another fire at Healds Road. The local council stepped in and supplied the club with a small replacement clubhouse. Every cloud has a silver lining...and the fire encouraged the club to develop its relationship with Westborough Methodist Church.

And for the past few years the church hall has acted as tearoom on Saturday and Sunday afternoons, with players trooping across the road for some wonderful teatime food. The club has had to contend with fire, and also other hazards at its Kirklees-owned ground.



2002 – CHAMPIONS!

But adversity brought the best out of the club and the 1st XI netted the Section 'B' that same year.

After the title had been secured, skipper Dave Lodge thanked his players, saying: 'We have worked extremely hard this season and I am proud of every member of the squad.'



He also offered 'special thanks to our chairman Bill Parkinson, secretary Barry Mitchell and treasurer Dave Booth who have played a massive role in transforming this cricket club.'

The success was built around two outstanding performers: Andy Day, who won the Section 'B' batting prize and Johnny Mitchell who won the Section 'B' bowling award.

2003 – NEARLY MEN

As the 2003 season reached its halfway point, Westborough 1st XI were not only in contention for the Section 'A' title, but had also won a place in the Allsop Cup semi-final.



IN THE 1930s, Emley's Captain Simon Lomas (left) is seen in the picture after being hit by a Westborough bowler during the Allsop Cup semi-final at Thornhill.

Allsop final is Sykes Cup repeat

THIS season's Allsop Cup final is, undoubtedly, one of the first ever to be staged in a cricket ground. It is a repeat of the 1930s final when Emley's Simon Lomas was hit by a Westborough bowler during the Allsop Cup semi-final at Thornhill.

Unfortunately, both attempts at glory were unsuccessful as, after the cup semi-final defeat at the hands of Emley, a promotion place also proved to be out of reach.

2007 - BRIGHT FUTURE

Prior to the start of the 2007 season Westborough moved into The Combs ground at Thornhill. From 2008 onwards the club will be known as Thonhill & Westborough CC.

THE NAME GAME

- Dewsbury Nalgo CC
- The Hart CC**
- Royal Oak CC
- Westborough CC**
- Thornhill & Westborough CC
- (from 2008)

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“Over the years, we have been involved in our fair share of incident. In 1993 Darren Lodge was run out in a match v Ruddlesdens. He threw his bat in the air and it unfortunately hit an opposition player. He apologised immediately. Chris Day was playing in a tour match in North Yorkshire and hit a six through the window of the B&B he was actually staying at! And another six-hit story - Billy Parkinson hit one into the gypsies' caravans at Sands Lane. Naturally, they moved on pretty swiftly. We've also had a few serious injuries at Healds Road, which should be relatively easy to sort out as the ground is sited next to the local hospital!”

[Club secretary Barry Mitchell]

CLUB PEOPLE

'BOROUGH FOLK

Andy Day

In addition to Westborough, all-rounder Andy Day played for Dewsbury, Thornhill, Hopton Mills and Slazengers. But the team he loved the most was Westborough. His greatest moment with the club came in the Section 'B' title-winning 2002 season when he won the divisional batting prize.

Tragically, Andy died the following year after an eight-month battle with skin cancer.

Club secretary Barry Mitchell paid tribute to Andy, by saying that he was an 'excellent team man and, although he played for other teams, he came back to Westborough because he loved it best. He will be greatly missed by everyone.'

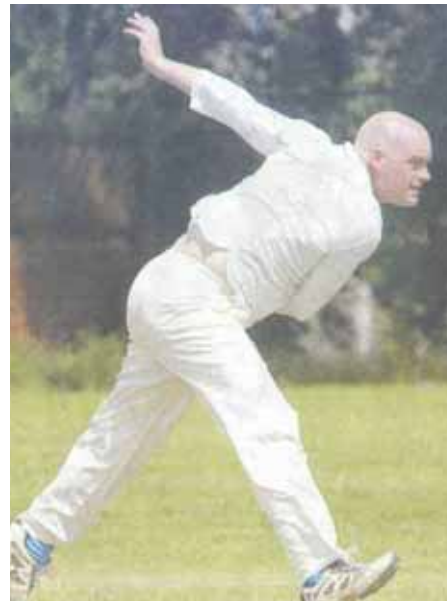
A special seat at Healds Road is dedicated to Andy's memory.

Dave Booth

Hardworking club groundsman. Dave is a Westborough stalwart who has been with the club since the NALGO days. He won the prestigious Huddersfield Central League Fred Stallard Trophy in 2004.

Jonny Mitchell

As well as lifting the Section 'B' bowling prize in the triumphant 2002 season, Johnny Mitchell also won the T. Ramsden Trophy after claiming the most clean-bowled victims in the Huddersfield Central League.



Dave Lodge

In 2002 Dave Lodge captained the 1st XI to the Huddersfield Central League Section 'B' title.



Barry Mitchell

Barry Mitchell is the man who makes Westborough Cricket Club tick. His sterling behind-the-scenes work has enabled the club to blossom over the last few years.



He has also been an invaluable friend of this HLF Cricket Heritage Project – and his assistance has been crucial as we have researched the history of Westborough C.C.. Thanks Barry!

Martin Booth

The club's athletic wicketkeeper and son of Dave.

Nick Finnigan

Feared Westborough bowler and 1st XI skipper.



Wonder Women

Like many local clubs, Westborough are indebted to their female supporters.



Billy Parkinson

Founder member who currently holds the role of club chairman.

HEALDS ROAD

A CHURCH & A HOSPITAL



Healds Road, a council-owned venue sandwiched between the local hospital and the local Methodist church in urban Dewsbury, was the club's home prior to their 2007 switch to Thornhill.

The cricketers changed in the cabins that were used as dressing rooms. The scorers sat nearby, and the club used the nearby church hall during the tea interval. The venue also attracted its fair share of local cricket-watchers.



Westborough's No.1 fan



An umpire takes tea in the church hall

Club secretary Barry Mitchell comments: *'Our previous wooden pavilion was burnt down – hence the portakabins we had supplied by the local council. It was a council-owned ground, so they looked after the outfield and we did the square, although we weren't helped by kids playing football, golfers, dog-walkers and passers-by wandering through. We even had the dry stone wall at the top end of the ground collapse! Because it was a council ground, some opposition players turned their noses up at it but it was a decent 200-par track. I suppose, really, that your view of the wicket tended to depend on the result of the match you had just been playing in! Dave Booth and myself were the groundsmen, but everybody also chipped in. We went to the Methodist church across the road for our teas, and this helped create a nice new relationship with the church.'*

PHOTO GALLERY



180 NOT OUT!

KEY DATES IN THE EARLY HISTORY OF CRICKET IN KIRKLEES

1825: Lascelles Hall Cricket Club founded.

1842: Dalton play Sheffield for £30.

1867: Huddersfield Examiner publishes scores or reports on 209 matches featuring 107 different teams.

1868: Fartown ground leased by Huddersfield St. Johns C.C.. Savile Ground, Dewsbury, hosts game between All England XI and United All England XI.

1873: Batley legend Louis Hall makes Yorkshire bow.

1883: Lumb Cup and Heavy Woollen Cup born.

1886: Huddersfield Cricket Association is formed.

1887-9: Dewsbury Savile C.C. win hat-trick of Heavy Woollen Cup titles.

1892: 10 clubs take part in inaugural Huddersfield & District Cricket League competition.

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“The club originates in a NALGO team formed around 1966. Two individuals from that era are still connected with the club: Billy Parkinson and Dave Booth. Later we merged with White Hart CC to form The Hart CC and then we became Royal Oak CC. We eventually became Westborough CC because we wanted to identify ourselves with the local community.”

[Club secretary Barry Mitchell]

LEAGUES OF THEIR OWN

Dewsbury & District
League (1960s-1994)

**Wakefield Union
(1994-7)**

Huddersfield Central
League (1998-Today)

QUOTE UNQUOTE

“Prior to moving to The Swan, Mirfield, we had a good link with The Woolpack pub nearby. Dave Shaw, the landlord, used to play for our 2nd XI and he used to supply teas for free. In return, we used the pub as our HQ. Today we have our own t-shirts and tops sponsored by the Woolpack. Our tracksuits were donated by Ian Simons, who just wanted to support the club.”

[Club secretary Barry Mitchell]

ANDY DAY

‘W.C.C. - IN MEMORY OF ANDY DAY 1968-2003’, says a plaque on a very special bench at Healds Road. Andy died in 2003 and was a loyal servant to the club, coming from a real cricketing family. In 2005 the club staged a charity cricket day at Thornhill CC in Andy’s memory.



University of
HUDDERSFIELD

This booklet has been produced as part of the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project being sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the University of Huddersfield. The aim of the Project is to make the history and heritage of local cricket accessible to the general public.

- Researchers: Rob Light and Peter Davies. Proof-reader: Robert Davies.
- Thanks to Barry Mitchell and Dave Booth at Westborough CC for their help with this booklet.
- This booklet was edited by Peter Davies; contact him via p.j.davies@hud.ac.uk or 01484 472405 if you have any feedback or if you would like to order any other booklets in the series.
- For more information about the Project, go to www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk.
- To join Westborough CC contact Barry Mitchell on (01924) 430705.
- This booklet and others in the series are distributed free of charge in the local community.



Supported by the
Heritage Lottery Fund

THE PLACE

CHAPELS AND SCHOOLS

1. The Westborough Methodist Chapel Fellowship meets weekly and has a varied programme as does the Happiness Club.

2. **Westborough High School describes itself as 'a happy successful school. We are very proud of our distinctive culture and ethos, with its emphasis on positive relationships and equal opportunities. Westborough has an excellent track record of commitment to the communities we serve.'**

3. The secretary of Dewsbury Allotments Society lives in Westborough.

TOP TRIVIA

Nickname: 'Borough'

Greatest Match: Allsop Cup semi-final v Emley at Thurstonland, 2003. Westborough lost by 2 runs.

Former Grounds: Sands Lane, Healds Road

QUOTE UNQUOTE

"We used to play in the Dewsbury League and Wakefield League – which we thought was a step up from the Dewsbury competition - but we're now happy in the Huddersfield Central League. We love the variety of clubs and grounds we visit and for this reason we would never want to see the league split into regional pools. The club has grown tremendously between 1990 and today. And even though we've changed names a few times, about three-quarters of our personnel has remained constant. In terms of local rivals I suppose it's Heckmondwike & Carlinghow – we've come across them in all three leagues we've competed in."

[Club secretary Barry Mitchell]