

Bat & Ball

The Newsletter of "The Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees"

A University of Huddersfield Project in partnership with Calderdale Libraries, Kirklees Libraries, West Yorkshire Archive Service, The Trinity Insurance Halifax Cricket League, The Drakes Huddersfield Cricket League, The Solly Sports Central Yorkshire Cricket League, The Arrow Huddersfield Central Cricket League and The Halifax Cricket Association

Issue 2 – February 2005

Project Mission Statement

In partnership with the cricket clubs, leagues and communities of Calderdale and Kirklees, this Project will preserve, celebrate and broaden recognition of cricket and its rich cultural traditions in this region.

Welcome!

Welcome to *Bat & Ball: The Newsletter of "The Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees"*, Issue 2. We are now busy building up to the Summer exhibitions which will be held across Calderdale and Kirklees – in libraries, public houses, garden centres, supermarkets, community centres, sports centres, galleries, shops and post offices. Look out for the finalised Exhibition Schedule – coming soon!



The opening of the Hartshead Moor scoreboard - 1938

SPECIAL EVENT!

THE HERITAGE AND HISTORY OF PENNINE CRICKET

A Unique Day Conference:

Saturday 19 March 2005

Venue: ROOM ZG/20, West Building, Main University Campus, Queensgate, Huddersfield

- 10.00 - Dr Peter Davies (University of Huddersfield): Welcome - "The Heritage Lottery Fund Project: The Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees"
- 10.40 Rob Light (University of Huddersfield/Leicester De Montfort University): "Challenge Matches in the West Riding c.1825-75"
- 11.20 Coffee
- 11.50 Brian, Malcolm and Freda Heywood (Co-authors of *Cloth Caps and Cricket Crazy: Todmorden and Cricket 1835-96*): "Cricket in Todmorden during the Nineteenth Century"
- 12.30 Lunch (we will go across the road to one of the local pubs)
- 1.30 Professor Jeff Hill (Leicester De Montfort University): "Lancashire League Cricket in the Inter-War Period"
- 2.10 Dr Jack Williams (Liverpool John Moores University): "Women and Cricket in Lancashire and Yorkshire between the Wars"
- 2.50 Coffee
- 3.20 Ian Tomlinson (Keighley College): "Money, Finance and Local League Cricket in the Twentieth Century"
- 4.00 Close

- Admission to this event is FREE
- Do pop in for the AM or PM session if you cannot attend for the full day
- Each talk will consist of a 20-minute talk by the speaker – and then 20 minutes of discussion
- For more information please contact Dr Peter Davies or Rob Light on 01484 473032 or via p.j.davies@hud.ac.uk or r.f.light@hud.ac.uk.

WANTED: VOLUNTEERS!

We are currently engaged in a variety of time-consuming tasks: scanning images, skimming through minute books and interviewing key Club officials and members. Several local cricket people have already volunteered to assist us, and we would very much like to hear from any other potential volunteers. The Project is a not-for-profit initiative - so just give us a call on 01484 473032 if you have a couple of hours to spare each week and you would like to contribute to the Project.

Cricket grounds through my viewfinder

Project photographer Ian Baxter reflects on his cricketing summer

I was very surprised to be asked to do photography for the University Cricket History Project. I had no involvement with the game for 40 years, unless one counts taking photographs of one nearby cricket ground.

But one of those photographs caught the eye of Peter Davies, Leader of the Huddersfield University Project to record the Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees. This was on the cover of the Centenary Brochure of the Broad Oak Cricket Club and had been described by the *Yorkshire Post* cricket correspondent as the most striking cover to a cricket publication that he could recall. Peter asked the photographer (me) if he would be interested in taking some more photographs of cricket grounds.

In a meeting early in May 2004 he gave me the job description. It was to take photographs of every cricket ground in Calderdale and Kirklees. Pictures of the playing area, the local landscape, the pavilion, scoreboard and

other buildings together with trophies and memorabilia. Then the players but also scorers, groundsmen, spectators and the ladies who make the teas! He gave me a mass of information and left me to think about it. I took the information away, read through it and concluded that to photograph almost 100 grounds to the standard requested in the time available was a sheer impossibility.

Regretfully, I told him that I would not be able to do the job within the schedule he would like. But Peter came back with a reduced requirement to cover the Huddersfield area grounds only, with the other zones being covered by someone else. This appeared to be attainable providing the weather was reasonably favourable so after one afternoon spent taking sample pictures with Peter I agreed to undertake the job.

I started in earnest at the end of June, though my first Saturday afternoon was a near disaster with heavy clouds and intermittent rain. At the first ground I got pictures of covers being taken off but no start was made. I then visited two other grounds where the teams were waiting for the drizzle to stop. I took a few pictures at both but nothing exciting and eventually gave up. That weekend was saved by a junior match played on the Sunday morning at one of the grounds visited the previous day. After that the weather was better and I never had a day when matches were not played.

On Saturday afternoons I tried to get to the first ground that I had selected before play began. Occasionally I failed because I could not immediately find the ground, or took some time to get in. Most cricket grounds have been in use for a long time and access for motorists had not been considered when they were established. One ground needed three visits to get photographs. I

missed on the first, located it at the second attempt but found no match being played and finally got pictures with cricket being played on the last day of the season.

My first priority on arriving at a new ground had to be to establish my credentials with an official of the club. The cameras raised a bit of curiosity as they do not appear to be often seen at cricket grounds and at one I was greeted as the photographer from the local paper!

When I found an official and mentioned my role in the University Cricket History project I was always given access to photograph anything I wanted. At one location I had to assure them that my pictures would not be posted on a particular website, and at several others I was asked when my photographs would be in the paper! I was frequently assumed to be Peter Davies, but having dispelled this mistake I often became involved with people who wanted to pass on information to him. I had to point out that I was not involved in the research for the Project and passed on the contact telephone number. I hope that the information did eventually get through.

The people that I met were extremely friendly and at the end of the season I was being greeted by people who I had meet at other grounds earlier in the year. The variety of grounds in the area is enormous, ranging from bare exposed fields high on the hills with stunning views and urban grounds next to a factory wall to tree-enclosed areas on valley bottoms, well hidden from public view but often very close to a main road.

Facilities too vary enormously. Some grounds have superb social facilities in grandiose pavilions while the players make do with quite basic changing rooms. At others, usually where Sport England grants have made possible new buildings, the players enjoy facilities as good as the

spectators. At some grounds there is nothing more than a ramshackle shed or an old container and the spectators bring their own folding chairs.

One abiding memory of the Project will be the very civilised institution of the Cricket Tea. While it was a minor irritation to arrive at a ground just as the players were coming in for tea, it did provide some very interesting photographic opportunities. Seen at its best both teams sit down together for a healthy-looking salad tea, while the umpires eat in splendid isolation at their own table. At one ground it seemed that all the spectators sat down to tea as well, leaving only the ground staff rolling the pitch during the interval. This is only made possible by groups of ladies of widely differing ages who appear to dedicate their summer Saturday afternoons to the provision of this essential nourishment.

At some clubs the match was obviously the social event of the week with whole families attending together. Their superb social facilities would ensure that many of them would remain until well after the cricket was over. At other clubs the ground was deserted only a few minutes after stumps were drawn. Although there was some very heavy rainfall in August, it did not come at the weekends, and from mid June onwards my photography was not restricted by the weather.

As I got into the swing of the operation and planned my itinerary to reduce travelling time, I began to cover more grounds in an afternoon - my best effort being to visit eight, taking photographs at seven of them. This increasing rate meant that my coverage of the Huddersfield area grounds was completed by the end of the season, and I was even able to get to some of the grounds in the Calderdale area. This was helped by one of the leagues changing from Saturday to

Sunday matches for the last few weeks of the season, thus giving me two afternoons for photography in a weekend.

Since the middle of September my cameras have cooled down and my wife has begun to schedule jobs for me at the weekend again. A small snowfall on a Thursday evening in November followed by a frosty yet sunny Friday morning afforded me the opportunity to follow up a suggestion made by Peter Davies that cricket grounds can look very good in the snow. They do, and some of the pictures taken that morning and published in *The Examiner* late in December, should prove it. I took some more snow pictures in the Christmas period and hope early in 2005 to see a light overnight snowfall followed by a dry sunny morning on which the road conditions will be such that I can get out to some of the more picturesque grounds in the area.

However I think that Cricket grounds only look their best when there is a match in progress and I now look forward to the start of the 2005 season and the opportunity to photograph those grounds that time did not permit me to visit in 2004.



Totally Tod

Brian Heywood is a Part-time Research Assistant on the Project and also Education Officer. He is a valuable asset because of his background in writing cricket history. This is how lancashireleague.com described the tome he recently co-wrote with his parents on the history of his beloved Todmorden CC

The Heywood family from Todmorden have produced a remarkable book on Todmorden and cricket covering the period 1835-1896.

Published by Upper Calder Valley Publications, the book is the result of years of hard work by Malcolm Heywood, the current Lancashire League President, his wife Freda and their son Brian, who still turns out for Todmorden when his suspect calves allow.

The book is superbly illustrated with 130 photos, maps and reproductions of letters and notices. *Cloth Caps and Cricket Crazy* features many tales of local rivalry, betting, the visit of United and All England Elevens and the legendary W.G. Grace.

Todmorden's unique role as a founder member of both the Central Lancashire and the Lancashire Leagues is also under the spotlight in a highly recommended book.

- The book is available from: Upper Calder Valley Publications, 7 Stile Moor Rise, Todmorden OL14 5NS Tel 01706 815939.

WHAT'S ON

Dates for Your Diary

Sat 19 March 2005 – Cricket Heritage Conference at the University of Huddersfield

Mon 4 April – Launch of Summer Heritage Exhibitions

Thurs 14 April 2005, 7.30pm, Halifax Central Library – 'Cricket in Calderdale': a special event organised by Calderdale Libraries

Sat 14 May – opening of Special Exhibition at Tolson Museum: '180 Not Out: The Development of Cricket in Kirklees'.

From Thorpe to Thurstonland

*PROFILE: Lee Booth –
Project Webmaster*

1. Which club do you play for?

Thurstonland CC.

2. How would you describe yourself as a cricketer? Totally average, hardworking all-rounder.

3. Greatest moment as a club cricketer?

Captaining Thurstonland to the Central League title in 2001.

4. Favourite club ground in Yorkshire?

Er, Thurstonland of course.

5. Which county team do you support?

Yorkshire CCC.

6. Favourite county cricketer and why? –

Stuart Law – just for the amount of runs he scores and he's still not good enough for the Aussie Test side, although I have gone off him a bit now he plays for Lancashire.

7. Favourite county cricket ground and why?

Edgbaston, some good Test match trips – England beating Oz including Nasser's double hundred and 100 by Graham Thorpe.

8. Favourite international cricketer and why?

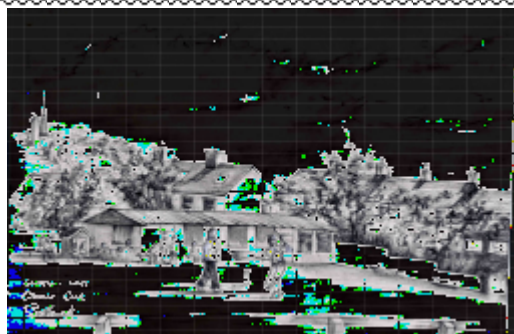
Graham Thorpe, England's only world-class batsmen of the last decade.

9 What's your view of 20/20 cricket? It's

just not cricket, is it?

10 What will be the score in the next Ashes series?

3-1 Australia



Clayton West CC's ground, Back Lane, depicted by Sue Brant, one of the Project artists



Legendary bowler Harry Hinchcliffe of Broad Oak CC

Club Profile

No.2 Slaithwaite CC

Each edition we will feature one particular club and update you on our archive holdings

Volunteer contact: Andy Keeling/Jenny Sykes

Club handbook 1918

1873-1973 Centenary Brochure

Cash Flow Charts 1980s, 1990s/2000

Visitors Book 1959

Receipt Books 1987-8x2

Scorebooks 1975, 1976, 1978x2, 1979, 1991x2, 1992, 1999, 2000

Minute books 1918-30, 1918-21, 1923-8, 1928-31, 1936-45, 1957-64, 1976-85, 1990-4

Diary/Cuttings Books 1905-32, 1933-7, 1938-43, 1944-75, 1977-99

Invoices 1977-8, 1979-80, 1983-4

Portrait Book c.1936

Cash Books 1911-59, 1973-8, 1978-83, 1979-80, 1980-1, 1981-2, 1982-3, 1983-5

Annual Report 1963

List of Presidents

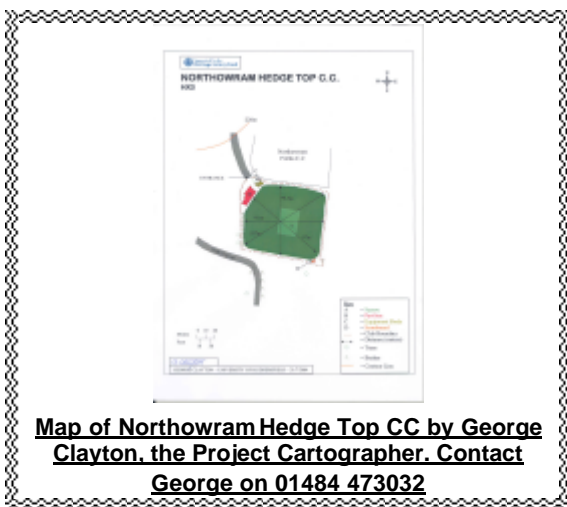
Token Book

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who has helped us so far: league officials who have given us their support; club administrators who have supplied us with official records and artefacts; club webmasters who have publicised the Project on their site; and individual members of the public who have donated memorabilia; and many, many other people. It is much appreciated.

Stop Press...

1. Project Leader Dr Peter Davies recently led sessions on local cricket heritage at Denby Dale Women's Institute and Halifax Antiquarian Society.
2. **The oral history interviews at clubs will now take place in Autumn 2005.**
3. A new evening course called *Bat & Ball: Cricket and Society in Calderdale and Kirklees c.1800-2000* will commence at the University of Huddersfield in 2006. It is aimed particularly at local cricket enthusiasts – more details to follow.
4. **The Project website has been re-launched with a new messageboard. Go to: www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk.**
5. Research Assistant Rob Light was recently a special guest on HWD Hospital Radio.
6. **Coming soon: Calderdale & Kirklees Cricket Notelets and Photographic Prints – ON SALE to the general public!**



Map of Northowram Hedge Top CC by George Clayton, the Project Cartographer. Contact George on 01484 473032

Check it out!

The Project website is now online at <http://www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk>. It will be regularly updated with the latest Project news and details of archive material which has been received along with copies of extracts and photographs from our holdings. You can also contact us online and post any thoughts, reminiscences or questions you may have about local cricket on our messageboard. CONTACT Lee Booth via lee@interactivesolutions.co.uk.

IN THE NEWS!

Did you spot the following features in the media?



Huddersfield Examiner



Dewsbury Press



The Wisden Cricketer

Contact our Press Officer, Rebecca Liburd on 01484 473032

CONTACT US!

You can contact Rob Light at the Project Office: Room Z1/09, West Building, The University of Huddersfield Queensgate Campus, Huddersfield HD1 3DH - Tel 01484 473032
Email: r.f.light@hud.ac.uk OR
Dr Peter Davies (Project Leader)
Tel 01484 472405
Email: p.i.davies@hud.ac.uk
FAX: 01484 472655

