



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 3 – June 2005

LUCKY THIRTEEN

THE cavalry has arrived!

Just as the Cricketing Heritage project was bracing itself for a wave of summer cricket heritage exhibitions throughout Calderdale and Kirklees, a squad of full-time researchers and writers began a six-week stint which will prove enormously productive.

An important second-year component of history degree courses at the University of Huddersfield is a work-placement module. The instigator of the Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees project, Dr Peter Davies, is a senior lecturer in the history department and he realised that he had a unique opportunity he could offer to students.

They could spend six weeks of their placement using their burgeoning historical skills to research the stories of Calderdale and Kirklees cricket clubs and develop valuable new skills in mounting exhibitions and liaising with the public.

A 13-strong team with a wide range of special aptitudes signed up for the cricket placement and in the second week of May they were plunged straight into a hectic schedule.

Says Dr Davies: "We have been very ambitious in our summer exhibition plans and the injection of 13 new people has come at just the right time – 13

more brains, sets of eyes and pairs of hands. The students will develop a range of skills, including historical research, writing, presentation, designing 'public' history as well as laminating and IT skills."

The age range of the students is very wide – from late teens to early fifties. All of

them have been assigned cricket clubs to research and they are using sources such as minute books, scorebooks, centenary brochures, club memorabilia, team photographs and local newspaper archives. The Internet is also proving a valuable resource.

Once the information, backed up by photographs and other illustrations, has

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

been compiled, it will be used as the basis for exhibitions, which tell the story of each and every extant cricket club in Calderdale and Kirklees. Designed to appeal to the general public and not just cricket fans, the exhibitions are being mounted in locations such as libraries, pubs and community centres close to the club that they describe.

Peter Davies says: "One condition of receiving the Heritage Lottery Fund grant was that heritage issues be opened up to the general public. Mounting the displays in cricket clubs would only really preach to the converted. Pubs and libraries give us far more opportunity to 'educate' local people about the central importance of local cricket. We are aiming the displays at non-cricket folk, women, young people and old people – everyone in fact!"

Interestingly, many of the students working on the project are NOT cricket buffs. But this is no problem, according to Dr Davies.

"Cricket is just a game, a vehicle for discussing wider social issues. Sometimes too much cricket knowledge can deflect from the main aim, which is to situate the cricket club in the context of society. So non-cricket buffs might even have an advantage here and their broader historical interests might enable them to cast even more fascinating light on local cricket's history."

Cementing the community

PROFILE: David Platt – mature student on work placement with the Cricket Heritage Project

1. What are your cricketing experiences?

School 2nd XI, Halifax Building Society Head Office team in a Calderdale evening

league, Copley 2nd XI for one season in the late-1970s

2. Who is the greatest cricketer of your lifetime?

Has to be Clive Lloyd. He was a hero when he played for Lancashire and a true gentleman when he played for the Windies. I remember he walked without question in a one day final at Lords against the Aussies and even the Aussies called him back and got the umpire to overturn his decision. Says a lot for the stature of the man.

3. Either to visit in person or to watch on TV, which is your favourite Test ground?

Headingley. There is no other crowd like a Yorkshire crowd.

4. Summarise the range of jobs you have done during your pre-university career.

Betting Office manager, Systems Analyst and Computer Project Manager
Coach Driver

5. Why did you choose the cricket heritage project as your work placement?

It sounded interesting and was very heavily historically based.

6. Do you have a specialist role among the student work placement team?

Looking after ordering supplies.

7. Historically, what has been the social importance of club cricket in Calderdale and Kirklees?

It is the cement that has held the village communities of the area together. Cricket has its own discipline which permeates into the social life of all those involved from the Club President down to the casual attendee on a Saturday afternoon.

8. What particular problems have you encountered so far in researching the history of local clubs?

Trying to unearth the past for a club with little or no records is a bit like looking for a needle in a haystack with no guarantee that the needle actually exists.

9. Is it true that you are a Lancastrian?

Yes . . . and proud of it.

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

I'm training to be a historian and its difficult enough interpreting the past. The future is almost impossible but I'll stick my neck out and go for England. It really is time that the Aussie dominance was broken.

It all goes to show

WHAT do cricketers wear beneath their trousers?

That is a question which has long fascinated non-players, especially women. The answer is on display at Huddersfield's Tolson Museum, where a major exhibition, '180 not Out - The Development of Cricket in Kirklees', opened on May 13.

One of the cabinets is devoted to cricket equipment and it includes some examples of that vital piece of protective gear usually described as a 'box' or, more coyly, as an 'abdominal protector' - although the protection of the abdomen is not the main priority.

In addition to items worn beneath the pants, the exhibition also includes an extremely natty pair of genuine, striped Victorian cricket trousers which would enable a player to cut a dash even today, in the era of multi-coloured 'pyjama cricket'.

The Tolson exhibition has been described by leader Dr Peter Davies as the 'jewel in the crown' of the cricket heritage project.

He and research assistant Rob Light worked closely with Tolson staff to produce a display which will fascinate both cricket lovers and museum goers who have taken little previous interest in the game.

The display cabinets are packed with evocative memorabilia and pictures of cricket in Kirklees from the mid-nineteenth century to the present day. And there is plenty of concise but detailed information on a wide range of aspects of the local game, including the formation of clubs, the competitions they have played in, the facilities they have developed and the equipment they have used.

A major exhibition telling the story of cricket in Kirklees has opened at one of the district's leading museums

The role of cricket in a changing society is particularly well illustrated and explained.

In the mid-Victorian period many cricket games were challenge matches played for substantial pots of stake money. And single wicket contests were mounted in order to provide gambling opportunities.

But towards the end of the century, increased leisure time for the working classes and attempts by social reformers to promote healthy recreational activities meant that cricket became much more respectable.

There was a tremendous growth in the number of clubs - in fact, when the concept of leagues was adopted (inspired by the creation of the Football League in 1888), many towns and valleys had enough clubs to mount self-sufficient competitions. Many of the clubs formed during the late Victorian period are still flourishing today.

The role that cricket has played in the development of race relations is also tackled by the exhibition. In 1934, the Trinidadian Edwin St Hall was the first black man to play as a professional in Kirklees, when he signed for Slaithwaite. His illustrious successors included none

other than Garry Sobers, who turned out for Paddock as a substitute pro in 1962.

But the post-war wave of immigration from the Caribbean and Asia meant that increasing numbers of players from ethnic minorities sought to play amateur cricket locally. Sometimes they encountered prejudice and in response they formed their own teams. But on the whole cricket has been a powerful force for racial and cultural integration.

The centrepiece of the exhibition is a cricket dice game based on the classic Owzat format. But, for people who have fond memories of rolling tiny hexagons in order to play out Test series between England and the Rest of the Universe, this is a giant version...

THE exhibition '180 not Out - The Development of Cricket in Kirklees' is at the Tolson Museum throughout the summer. Admission is free. The museum is on the Wakefield Road, close to the centre of Huddersfield, adjacent to Ravensknowle Park.

Opening times are Mon-Fri, 11am-5pm; Sat, Sun, 12 noon-5pm.

On Sat 18 June, 11am-2pm, there is an opportunity to meet Peter Davies and Rob Light for tours of the Tolson Museum exhibition and visitors can bring cricketing artifacts and memorabilia to be identified. On Sunday 21 August (1pm-4pm) there is to be a family Cricket Carnival at the Tolson Museum and Ravensknowle Park.

Stan the man . . .

STANLEY Inniss still has the tall, rangy physique of a fearsomely fast bowler, but at 69 his dreams of playing for the West Indies or turning out for an English county have had to be put on hold.

Cricket still runs through his veins, however, and the man from Barbados who became a JP in his adopted hometown of Huddersfield, and who earned an MBE for his work in the field of community relations, played in the local leagues during four decades. He began with the Fartown club in 1956. He finished with the Huddersfield Caribbean Cricket Club in 1986, at the age of 52. In between, he turned out for Shepley, the Huddersfield West Indies CC and for Brook Motors.

He still follows the game avidly, although he is barely able to watch his beloved West Indies test side any more – “because they’re rubbish”. In seeking an explanation he rejects the usual theories that West Indian youngsters have had their heads turned by basketball and soccer. Selection policies are at the root of the Windies’ woes, he says.

“There are plenty of good lads still playing” – and he knows that because he has seen them on his regular return trips to Barbados – “but they aren’t being given a chance”.

He is far more impressed by the current England set up. This summer he will visit Lords to see the Ashes Test and he tips Michael Vaughan’s side for

victory in the series. You read it first in 'Bat and Ball'.

Stanley Inniss, who lives in Birkby, has played such a prominent role in Huddersfield cricketing and community life that he was an obvious choice as a special guest speaker at the official launch of the Calderdale and Kirklees Cricket Heritage Project, which took place at Huddersfield's Tolson Museum on May 13 (see report above).

The project is designed to explore and celebrate the ways in which cricket has played a vital part in social as well as purely sporting history, and Stanley Inniss is an embodiment of this.

Arriving in Huddersfield in 1956, he was passionate in his desire to continue playing cricket, a game which he had begun to play on his knees as a small child in Barbados – "marbles cricket, we called it".

But apart from his love of the game, which he still regards as the most beautiful of sports, he found that cricket was a mean of integration into a local society still getting used to post-war immigration. Experiences varied here – as the Tolson Museum exhibition makes plain - but Stanley made many friends as result of playing the game and encountered little hostility.

There was only one on-field incident, when a batsman made a mildly offensive remark, one that he quickly regretted because Stanley's next delivery was a fearsome

At 69 he hasn't entirely given up on a career in county cricket...

thunderbolt...

Stanley Inniss was involved with the formation of two teams that aimed to get increasing numbers of young West Indians playing in the local leagues. They were the Huddersfield West Indian

Cricket Club and, later, the Caribbean Cricket Club. Both are now defunct and perhaps there was a sizeable straw in the wind when the latter club once fielded 11 players from Huddersfield's Asian community.

Asian participation in Kirklees league cricket is considerable. But the number of players from West Indian backgrounds has declined, an



The Huddersfield Daily Examiner reports the opening of the Tolson Museum exhibition. Main picture shows Stanley Inniss (right) with former England Test cricketer Eddie Leadbetter, who played for Almondbury. Also present at the opening event were England women's cricketer Clare Taylor, pictured (inset) with Peter Davies and Rob Light, of the cricket heritage project.

issue that Stanley Inniss ponders.

On this occasion he is prepared to allow that the spectre of soccer could be responsible. The massive rewards available for footballers mean that talented youngsters are much more likely to spend their time honing soccer skills than mastering the intricacies of bat and ball.

But Stanley Inniss remains hopeful for a cricket revival among the local West Indian community. And, for that matter, he hasn't entirely given up on a career in county cricket for himself...

When he arrived from Barbados in 1956, harbouring ambitions to play first class cricket, he knew that the birth qualification then in force would rule out Yorkshire. So he decided to apply for trials with another county and chose Derbyshire.

The letter was sent in 1957. There been no reply yet. Stanley ruefully asks that if anyone is heading for Derbyshire CCC this summer, could they collar a passing official and ask if they have received a letter from a young man called Inniss.

Bat and bawl . . .

THE sounds of cricket are music to many people's ears. The thwack of willow on leather. The drowsy silence of a sunny summer's afternoon punctuated by the occasional cry of 'Owzat'. Booker T. and the MGs blasting into "Soul Limbo"...

Booker T. himself probably didn't know one end of a bat from the other. But the American soul legend's instrumental hit

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Supported by the
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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.



The cover of Hawkwind rocker Robert Calvert's 1979 flexidisc 'Cricket Star'.

summons up instant images of cricket to millions of people in Britain because the BBC, when it still had the rights to televise the game, used the number as the theme tune to its test match highlights show.

Apart from "Soul Limbo", though, how much music is associated with cricket, either by accident or design? More than you might think, as Graeme Murrell discovered.

A web designer for Kirklees Council, Graeme is also an enthusiast for rare and unusual music and his ears pricked up when he heard that Dr Peter Davies wanted a compilation of cricket music to provide a soundtrack for the Owzat! exhibition at Huddersfield's Tolson Museum.

Graeme had been attending local history evening classes at the University of Huddersfield, which is how he heard about the cricket quest. He immediately volunteered to root out as much music as possible.

Soon his researches gathered momentum and eventually he was able to present Peter Davies with a CD compilation of 12 numbers, including some fascinating rarities.

The music is played continuously at the exhibition and it is well worth waiting for the whole sequence to come around. There are some familiar numbers, such as the seminal calypso songs "Victory Test Match", with its opening line "Cricket, lovely cricket". It was recorded in 1950 by Lord Beginner to celebrate West Indian Test triumphs in England.

Also well known is the 10cc hit "Dreadlock Holiday", with its refrain "I don't like cricket. I love it!"

But most of the rest of Graeme's Top 12 is satisfyingly obscure. For example, there is a number by a band named Percy Pavilion, which recorded a "Cricket EP" in 1983. It included such numbers as "Cricket in the Jungle", "Gower Power" and "Brian Johnstone's Nose". A member of this band was rock and roll eccentric Captain Sensible, from punk outfit The Damned.

Quintessentially English rockers The Kinks recorded a song entitled "Cricket", in

THE OWZAT! CRICKET TOP 12

- 1. BOOKER T - SOUL LIMBO**
- 2. LORD BEGINNER - VICTORY TEST MATCH**
- 3. LAUREL AITKEN - WEST INDIAN CRICKET TEST**
- 4. 10CC - DREADLOCK HOLIDAY**
- 5. SQUEEZE - IT'S NOT CRICKET**
- 6. SHADOWS - CRICKET BAT BOOGIE**
- 7. LORD KITCHENER - CRICKET CHAMPIONS**
- 8. LAUREL AITKEN - NIGHT CRICKET**
- 9. KINKS - CRICKET**
- 10. ROBERT CALVERT - CRICKET STAR**
- 11. PERCY PAVILION - CRICKET IN THE JUNGLE**
- 12. BBC RADIOPHONIC WORKSHOP - VILLAGE CRICKET**

the form of a sermon preached by a moralising vicar.

*Now the devil has a player and he's called the demon bowler,
He's shrewd, he's rude and he's wicked.
He is sent by sinful Satan and he's out to take your wicket*

And you know that that's not cricket.

Another rarity tracked down by Graeme was a flexidisc released in 1979 by Robert Calvert of the progressive rock band Hawkwind.

With a musician called Adrian Wagner he formed a band dubbed The 1st XI to produce a song called "Cricket Star".

The Internet was a massive aid for Graeme, although it led him down a few blind alleys – large numbers of songs by U.S. blues musicians that included references to crickets.

But there are still some musical oddities connected with cricket – the sport – which Graeme would like to track down, such as the theme tune to Fred Trueman's cult 1970s show "The Indoor League" and, most bizarre of all, a song recorded by Barbra Streisand entitled "It's Not Cricket to Picket". Someone surely has a copy in their attic...



Honley CC 1890

CLUB PROFILE:

No 3 Honley CC

Each edition we feature a club and update you on our archive holdings.

Volunteer Contact:

Tim Hirst/Peter Green/Peter Dibbs

No 3 Honley CC

Various End of Year Reports 1899 – 1963

Various handwritten contracts with professional 1885 - 1909

Various Minute Books 1879 – 1980

1967 1st XI Scorebook

Miscellaneous correspondence

Photographs:

Honley CC 1890

Honley CC 1st XI 1925

Honley CC 2nd XI 1925

Sykes Cup finalists 1938

Honley CC 2nd XI 1942

1st XI Section B champions 1943

1st XI 1949

1st XI Section B champions 1952

2nd XI Section B Champions 1952

Paddock Shield Winners 1954

Paddock Shield Winners 1970

1st XI Section B Champions 1975

Sykes Cup Winners 1982

(Photographs can be viewed at <http://www.ckcricketheritage.org.uk/southkirk/lees/honley/archive/arcgallery8.htm>)

The Honley CC Exhibition is on display until Friday 30th September at the Allied Hotel, Church St and at Honley Library.

Oddballs . . .

It's fun to raise funds...

In 1974 the Lepton Highlanders CC ledger shows that an amazing £185.80 was raised from the carnival event of egg throwing. Two club members managed to throw their eggs 200 ft!

In 1997 taxi driver Mark Hemmingway raised money for the Highlanders by having his body pierced 20 times – this was in addition to the 20 piercings he already had, hidden beneath his clothes. In 1988 the women of Bradshaw Cricket Club organised a "Knickerbocker Clothes Party" to raise cash.

Lots in a name...

In 1866 11 members of the famous Thewlis family played for Lascelles Hall in a match against Chickenley. They won. The umpire, the gatekeeper and the scorer were all Thewlises too....

In 1947 at Heckmondwike and Carlinghow United CC - three people named Malcolm (Bentley, Saville, Davies) left the club.

Adventurer Richard Hannay would be right at home going in to bat at Upper Hopton CC - there are 39 steps to walk down to the cricket pitch.

Last man out...

Tragedy struck at Broad Oak CC, Linthwaite, in 1905. Playing against Meltham in a first team match, Tom Knight was hit on the head by the ball and dropped down dead.

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; individuals who have donated memorabilia; landlords and others who have hosted exhibitions and all who have come to exhibition launches. If you would like to volunteer to help with the Cricketing Heritage Project – a not-for-profit initiative – then please get in touch. Give us a call on 01484 473032.