

BATLEY CC

The Later Years

Post-War Heroes!

1946 – 2nd XI STARS



Under the captaincy of P. Shaw, Batley stormed to the Central Yorkshire League 2nd XI First Division title. They also won the championship the following year, 1947, with F. Hirst as skipper.

Note the presence of two 'non-players' in this team photo – and the post-war hair styles!

Pavilion Changes

GROUND REDEVELOPMENT

The pavilion at Mount Pleasant today incorporates changing rooms, tea room area and scoreboard. Adorning the outside walls are adverts for a variety of local companies and sponsors, including Kozee Sleep.



There is also a seating area in front of the building where batters waiting to go out to the middle can bite their nails in peace and quiet.

The old pavilion was redeveloped thanks to the hard work of volunteers from the Club.







Having a Ball!

SOCIAL EVENTS

Over the years, the Cricket Club has put on an array of social events to help with fundraising: discos, race nights and prize draws. These photos highlight this:





BRING ON THE SILVERWARE!

1987 – TROPHY SUCCESS



In 1987 Batley won the Central Yorkshire League First Division under the captaincy of Solly Adam. In the same year they also scooped the Wheatley Cup 2nd XI Cup Competition.



ONE, TWO, THREE, FOUR!

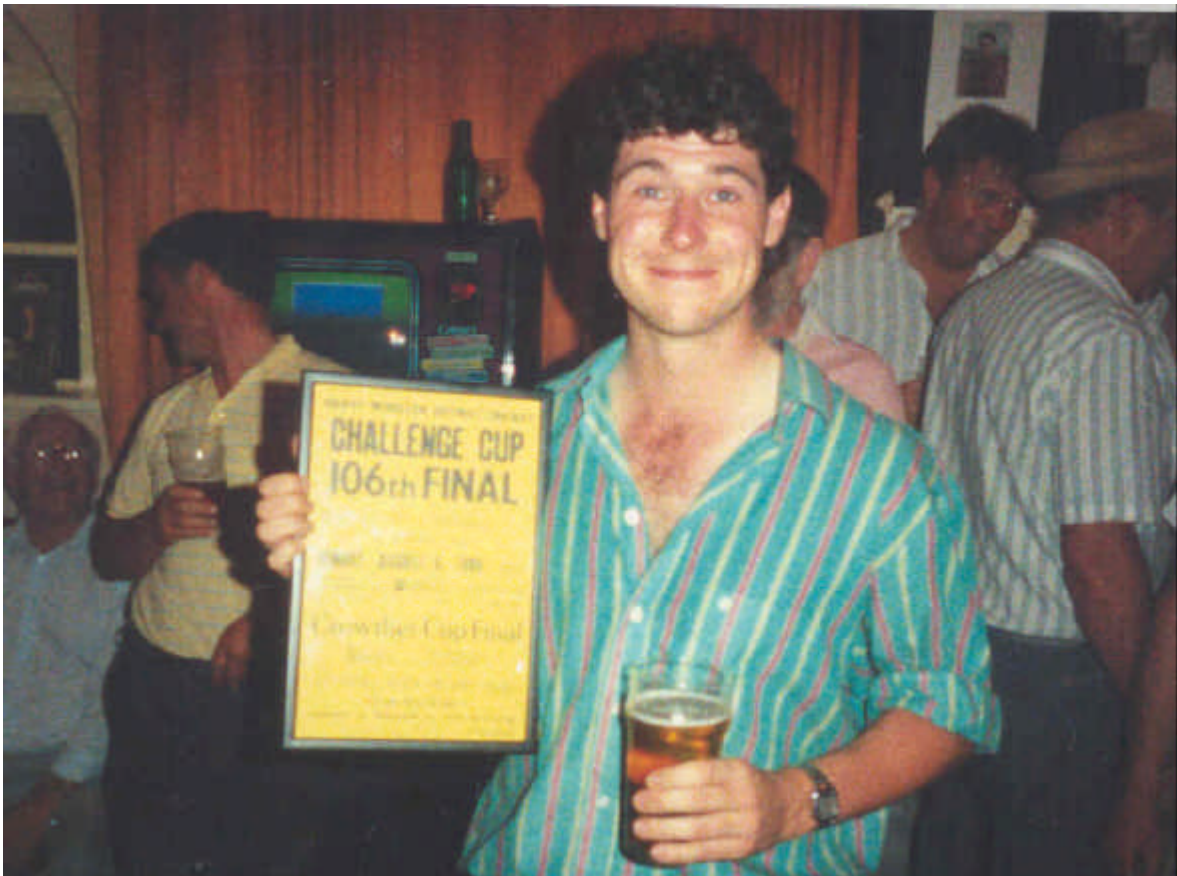
1989 – QUADRUPLE SUCCESS



Batley 1st XI, leading candidates for the club team of the season with four trophies to their name: (back l to r) Robert Cooper, Paul Heaton, John Prentice, Elliot Noble, Paul Blakeley, David Bruce; (front) David Lovell, Neil Harrison, David Dove, Richard Sidle, Tim Rukin.

1989 was an epic year for Batley CC. They won:

- the Central Yorkshire League First Division
- the Jack Hampshire Memorial Trophy 1st XI Cup
- the Yorkshire Council Play-offs
- the Heavy Woollen Cup
- the Crowther Cup (2nd XI)



Heavy Woollen Cup celebrations



These two newspaper articles pay tribute to Batley's amazing success in 1989

Saving the Club!

1990s – SOCIAL CHANGE

In the late-1990s social change impacted upon Batley Cricket Club. Its predominantly white players exited to join other local clubs where many would be paid to play.

At the same time, the Asian community in Batley and Mount Pleasant area rallied round to save the club and supply it with players. Neighbours Mount Cricket Club played a particularly significant role.



A group of Batley fans in 2004

The Pakistani newspaper, *Daily Times*, explored the situation in a special feature story:

CRICKET BRIDGES ETHNIC DIVIDE IN YORKSHIRE

BATLEY (England): Cricket is building bridges between ethnic communities in northern England, scene of race riots last year. When Yorkshire's Batley cricket club, a white bastion until recently, found it was failing to attract young players more interested in soccer, it turned to a local Asian club for help.

'Kids didn't come for Batley but for me 40 turned up,' said Mount Cricket Club's first-team captain and coach Soyeb Kayat who stepped in to help as a coach for Batley. 'We have five teams now. We can raise three more.'



Batley's Mount Pleasant ground

'Cricket is an important opportunity for sportsmen to get to know each others' culture and be friends,' said Indian-born Solly Adam, the first Asian to captain a team in the Bradford League premier division, in the 1990s.

The changes at Batley Cricket Club were also big news for the British press:

Observer
Sport
Monthly

Extract from 'Some corner of a foreign field', OSM (June 2002)

We go first to Batley Cricket Club, where [a] match is in progress: one all-Asian team - Batley - against a team of 10 whites and an Asian. [Hanif Mayet, founder of nearby Mount CC] said: 'All the white kids have gone,' he says. 'And you see over there, that's the junior school. That's 99.9 per cent Asian now.' Around the Batley ground is terraced housing that looks poorer than other areas of Mount Pleasant.



...Hanif had used the word 'ghettoisation' for Batley, and I had assumed he meant it pejoratively. Now, when he uses the word again, I suddenly realise he might mean it approvingly, and ask him if this is so. 'Yes' he says. 'I think it is the way.'

But, Hanif Mayet's view that 'ghettoisation' is a good thing – that the formation of predominantly Asian cricket

teams is the way forward – does not go down well with Solly Adam, who came to Batley as a teenager, played 1st XI cricket at Mount Pleasant, and is now a local businessman.



Right: Solly Adam, now a successful businessman

He refers back to a recent local match:

I saw the Batley versus Ossett game and...the lasting impression I came away with was the fact that Batley has an all-Asian team. It must only be three or four years since there were only one or two Asians playing there. I am disappointed it has become an All-Asian team. What we need is a better mix...We don't want all-Asian or all-white teams. We want people of all backgrounds to mix together.

LOOKING BACK...

1999/2000 – CLUB HERITAGE



At the end of the 1990s, the Matchday Programme made a point of listing the Club's honours on its front cover. At the Millennium, the Batley CC website also stated:

In 1919, following the catastrophe of the First World War, Batley won the Heavy Woollen Cup and record gate receipts of £300 were paid by 24,000 spectators who paid 3 old pence each, over the course of a Saturday and the following three or four evenings.

This was proof that with a small contribution from many local people great things could be achieved. All of the present members of Batley CC should take careful note of this. If you would like to make any kind of contribution to the successful future that Batley CC believes it can achieve, don't hesitate.

INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

THE CLUB TODAY



...UNTIL NOW