

GOMERSAL CC

The Early Years

OPENING UP

1863 – IS THIS THE BEGINNING?



The first sign of cricket in the village was in 1863. On August 14th, 15th and 16th, 22 cricketers of Gomersal and district (including several county players) starred in a match against the United England XI.

CRICKET.

GRAND MATCH AT CRICKET.

THE UNITED ALL ENGLAND ELEVEN V. TWENTY-TWO OF GOMERSAL & DISTRICT.

This long looked for match commenced on Wednesday morning last with by no means favourable weather. It was held on the ground of the Gomersal Perseverance Cricket Club, a piece of land situated near the Wheat Sheaf Inn. It is of considerable extent, but possesses the fault of sloping inwards on two sides. Around the field were a number of tents, and amongst them was one used chiefly by Mr Chas. Ward, of Heckmondwike, as a printing office for his "correct cards" of the game. There were also two large marquees for which the owners, two innkeepers, had obtained provisional licenses from the Dewsbury bench the other day. The other tents were devoted to the workers, the committee, and the contending cricketers. The contending cricketers and their friends dined together on Thursday and Friday at the Wheat Sheaf, and will do so to day. The match was commenced by



UNITED ALL ENGLAND.	
FIRST INNINGS.	
Mr T. Hearn & Hall b Smith	7
Mr G. Griffiths & Dawson b Hodgson	0
Mr C. Newman b South	0
Mr B. Carpenter & Haigh b Greenwood	18
Mr W. Caffyn & Swain b Hodgson	12
Mr C. Ellis & Brook b Greenwood	14
Mr R. Johnson b Hodgson	8
Mr G. Atkinson run out	6
G. Mason, Esq. & Brook b Greenwood	3
Mr T. Sewall & Hall b Greenwood	5
Mr J. Wisden, not out	3
Dyce	1
Total	66
SECOND INNINGS.	
Mr T. Hearn b Hodgson	3
Mr G. Griffiths & Walker b Smith	3
Mr C. Newman b Hodgson	0
Mr B. Carpenter & Thewlis b Scott	7
Mr W. Caffyn & Haigh b Hodgson	9
Mr C. Ellis b Scott	3
Mr R. Johnson & Hodgson b Hodgson	0
Mr G. Atkinson not out	7
G. Mason, Esq. & South b Scott	1
Mr T. Sewall & Porritt b Hodgson	12
Mr J. Wisden b Hodgson	5
b 3, n b 2	4
Total	54

GENERAL AND DISTRICT.	
FIRST INNINGS.	
Mr E. Scott & Ellis b Griffiths	13
Mr John Thewlis & Carpenter b Griffiths	11
Mr John Barry run out	0
Mr J. Smith b Caffyn	16
Mr Kobbewson & Johnson b Caffyn	18
Mr Luke Greenwood & Ellis b Caffyn	3
Mr M. Brooke & Carpenter b Caffyn	3
Mr W. Swain & Ellis b Atkinson	1
Mr J. B. Barker b Atkinson	0
J. M. Dyson, Esq., & Ellis b Caffyn	0
Mr John Hall run out	3
G. Scatcherd, Esq. b Atkinson	0
A. Walker, Esq. b Atkinson	0
Mr J. Boyse b Atkinson	0
Mr H. W. Hammond & Sewall b Caffyn	0
Mr G. Ackroyd b Atkinson	3
B. S. Booth Esq., & Wisden b Caffyn	0
Mr W. H. Steward run out	0
Mr W. Taylor & Wisden b Caffyn	3
Mr W. Haigh & Carpenter b Atkinson	1
Mr W. Porritt b Atkinson	0
Mr Isaac Hodgson not out	5
b 4, l b 1, w 1	6
Total	54
SECOND INNINGS.	
Mr J. Smith b Sewall	0
Mr W. Swain not out	11
Mr John Hall b Atkinson	4
Mr J. Boyse b Sewall	0
Mr W. Haigh b Sewall	7
b 2, l b 1	3
Total	25

BROAD CHURCH

1881 – VICAR FOUNDS CLUB



The date of the Club's formation is uncertain, but the majority of sources indicate that Gomersal St. Mary's Cricket Club (as the Club was then known) was founded in 1881 by the village vicar, Rev. R.F. Taylor.



It played its matches near the Wheat Sheaf Inn, on a field also used by the local football team – also founded by the sports-mad clergyman.

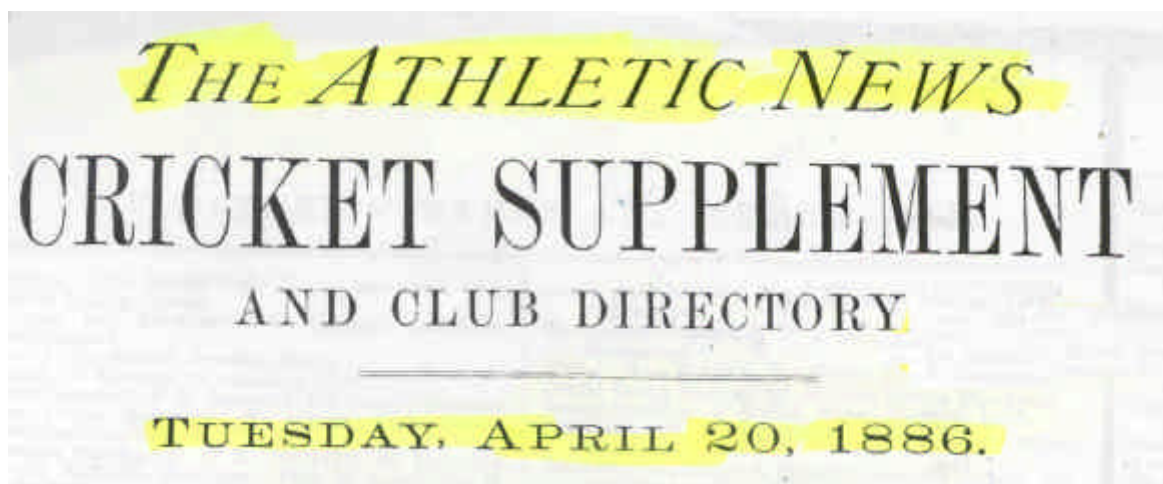
This church link is significant, and is repeated across other clubs in West Yorkshire in beyond.

IN THE BIG BOOK

1886 – ATHLETIC NEWS



In 1886 an entry for Gomersal appeared in the *Athletic News Cricket Supplement and Club Directory*.



Gomersal : J. W. Eyre, Green Tide, Cleckheaton
Cock Town : G. D. Armitage, Burlington Crescent

MOVING MOMENT

1892 – OXFORD ROAD

In 1892 the Club was re-formed and moved to what became its permanent home - Oxford Road. This had previously been the site of the Little Gomersal Colliery.

Some members remember this as the official birth of the Club, as the Centenary was celebrated in 1992. Later sources also demonstrate the difficulty the Club has had in dating its formation.



MID-TABLE SECURITY

1906 – SPEN VALLEY LEAGUE

Bingley	20	3	0	9	—	5	—	45.45
Bowling Old Lane	20	2	7	17	—	5	—	56.55
Utley	16	1	4	10	—	3	—	69.00
York	18	1	6	11	—	5	—	71.42
Musley	23	2	14	7	—	12	—	75.00
Riland	20	0	8	12	—	8	—	100.00

* Utley v. Skipton (September 15th) not played.

C. F. WOODHEAD, Secretary.

SPEN VALLEY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.

FINAL RESULTS.

	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Bye
Liveredge	16	10	1	5	25
Rastrick	16	9	4	3	21
East Bierley	16	7	4	5	19
Beckmondwike	16	5	5	6	16
Guiseford	16	6	7	3	15
Mirfield	16	5	7	4	14
Scholes	16	4	7	5	13
Hartshorn Moor	16	3	6	7	11
Staincliffe	16	2	10	4	8

F. D. SCOTT, Hon. Sec.

CHICKENLEY HAVE AN AFTERNOON'S OUTING.

The Chickenley cup-tie team very kindly visited Hopton Mills last Saturday, accompanied by a good many of their ardent supporters, and a very pleasant game was the result. Batting first, the Mills did not do at all well against Dartington and Bailes, and were all out for 70. To this Chickenley replied with 97. The feature of the afternoon's play was the good bowling and fielding on both sides. In the evening the cup was handed round for inspection, and songs were ren-

ON THE CARDS

1911 – SOCIAL OCCASION



Gomersal St. Mary's
CRICKET CLUB.

**WHIST DRIVE
AND DANCE**

IN THE HILL TOP SCHOOL
On Saturday, October 28th, 1911.

Whist to commence at 6 p.m.
Dancing at 7 p.m.

Whitham's Band.

TICKETS 9d. EACH.

Horsfall and Sons, Printers, Birstall.

WOMEN ON TOP!

1914 – LADIES TEAM



On the eve of the Great War, Gomersal were able to field a women's cricket team.



MONEY, MONEY, MONEY

1921/9 – FUNDRAISING EFFORTS

From 1921 onwards, the Club engaged in fundraising in an effort to buy their ground.

The Club devoted many years to this and finally, in 1929, the Club had enough money to make this historic purchase.



The ground today

SO CLOSE!

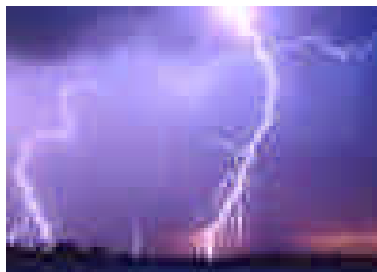
1921 – HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP FINAL

1921 was an unforgettable year for Gomersal C.C.. They reached the final of the Heavy Woollen Cup, but lost to Wakefield by 6 wickets.

HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP FINAL.

Gomersal and Wakefield met at Dewsbury on Saturday afternoon in the final tie for the Heavy Woollen District Cup. The former had previously disposed of Ossett, Dewsbury and Savile, and Scholes, the latter of Birstall, Chickenley, and Leeds. There was an attendance of 2,000 spectators.

Gomersal, who won the toss, elected to bat. Shires and Jebson opened the bowling against Harrison and Drury, and the former's opening over produced four from Drury and two from Harrison. When the score had reached ten, Drury had a very fortunate escape from being run out through hesitating before running. This availed him little, for in the next over from Shires he sent a very tame catch to Green, his share of the 13 runs scored being 8. Throp signalled his appearance by scoring the first four of the match off a bad ball from Jebson, who retired after completing the over in favour of Birkenshaw, when the score stood at 19. Both batsmen remained quiet for some time, until Harrison placed the new bowler nicely to leg for two. Shires at the other end was bowling admirably, his first six overs only producing nine runs. After Throp had despatched a ball off Birkenshaw for four, Shires got past Harrison's defence with a very good ball, and bowled him all over for 10. This was the first ball of the over, and with his third he sent Throp back to the pavilion for a similar number with only one added to the score. With only ten more added, Greave departed, being caught in the slips by Green off Birkenshaw for 10.



With the score at 51 for four wickets a severe thunderstorm broke over the ground which caused an abandonment for the day.

When the game was resumed on Tuesday there would be about 1,500 spectators on the Savile Town ground. The best stand was made by Barber and Priestley, for the seventh wicket, the score being carried from 60 to 92, at which stage Barber, who had played attractively for 28, stepped in front of the wicket to a straight ball from Jebson, and, missing the delivery, had to pay the penalty. Shires had the best bowling analysis with six wickets for 34 runs.

Although Wakefield lost their first wicket at 5, Walsh and Wright played with judgment and confidence, and after the latter had left at 31 and Webster at 44, Jebson scored with great freedom. He was run out when he had made 23, including four fours. The score was then 74, and Jones stayed with Walsh to make the winning hit. Walsh played a sound defensive innings. Scores:—

Comersal: C. Harrison, b Shires, 10; T. Drewery, c Green b Shires 8; G. Throp, b Shires 10; M. Greaves, c Green b Birkenshaw 6; H. Chadwick, b Shires 7; W. Barber, lbw b Jebson 28; J. Grimshaw, c and b Shires 0; H. Priestley, b Jebson 13; B. Jowett, c and b Jebson 0; A. Trossell, c Birkenshaw b Shires 4; C. Walker, not out 0; extras 15; total, 104.

Wakefield: M. Siswick, run out 1; H. Walsh, not out, 32; H. Wright, c Walker b Trossell 15; T. Webster, c Barber b Harrison, 11; A. Jebson, run out, 23; R. Jones, not out 21; extra, 1; total (for 4 wkts.), 104.

TABLE TOPPERS

1922 - YORKSHIRE COUNCIL WINNERS

RESULTS OF TABLES DURING SEASON 1922					
	Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Net
Amersal	19	10	5	0	84.75
Baileigh	19	15	3	3	73.25
Beaumont	16	11	5	0	68.75
Barncliffe	16	11	5	0	68.75
W. A. Ashdale	16	11	1	0	66.00
Hunslet Nelson	15	12	3	1	66.00
Open Victoria	17	11	3	3	64.75
Boston	18	11	6	1	61.25
*Wakefield	20	12	5	3	60.00
Sheffield	22	10	4	3	59.00
Rawson	19	9	4	3	58.25
Brighouse	20	12	4	5	58.00
Ilkley	18	10	7	1	56.00
Liversedge	19	10	6	3	56.00
Karby	15	8	3	4	53.50
Dewsbury and Savile	19	10	5	4	52.60
Sowerby Bridge	17	9	6	3	52.00
Holbeck	17	9	6	2	51.94
Boilerplate	19	10	6	3	51.63
Castleford	22	11	3	8	50.00
Armley	16	8	4	4	50.00
King Cross	20	10	7	3	50.00
North Leeds	16	8	5	3	50.00
Halifax	17	8	4	5	47.00
Hickmorthwaite	19	9	7	3	47.36
Whitwood Colliery	19	9	3	7	47.36
Yeadon	19	9	8	2	47.36
Sladen	19	9	5	5	47.36
Hillingworth S. M.	17	9	7	1	47.05
Leeds No. 2	17	8	4	5	47.05
Pentridge	28	15	0	10	45.42
Burley in Wharfedale	9	4	4	1	44.44
Horsforth	18	8	6	4	44.44
Tong Park	8	8	0	1	44.44
Green Lane	16	7	8	1	43.75
Hunslet	16	7	8	4	43.75
*Frickley Colliery	17	7	6	4	41.17
Leeds No. 1	17	7	7	3	41.17
Lightcliffe	17	6	6	4	41.17
Whitkirk	16	6	7	3	40.00
Ossett	21	8	7	6	38.09
East Ardsley United	16	6	7	3	37.50
Osby	16	8	4	4	36.88
Lothouse	20	7	9	4	35.00
Drighlington	17	6	8	3	33.99
Elland	20	7	4	9	33.00
Alerton Bywater	15	5	5	5	33.33
Hull	18	6	5	7	33.33
*Morley	18	6	9	4	33.33
*Rotherham	19	6	8	5	31.57
Stanningley	19	6	10	3	31.57
Sheff. G. Colliery	16	6	7	4	31.25
Hartwood Moor	13	4	6	3	29.76
Bentley Colliery	17	6	6	5	29.41
*Hanging Heaton	17	5	9	3	29.41
Derby and Cadeby	17	5	6	6	29.41
Thornhill	17	5	8	4	29.41
Whitton	17	5	6	6	29.41
Barnsley	18	5	5	8	27.77
*Chickley	18	5	10	3	27.77
Sheales	15	4	9	2	26.66
Ackworth	21	6	10	5	23.81
*Darton	17	4	11	2	23.52
Horsforth Hall Park	17	4	10	3	23.52
Rastrick	17	4	11	2	23.52
York	18	4	11	3	22.22
Burmantofts	14	3	7	4	21.42
Calverley	19	4	13	2	21.05
Festiniog	1	3	9	0	17.64
Clifton Britannia	18	3	13	2	16.66
Rothwell	18	3	13	2	16.66
South Kirby C.	21	3	16	2	14.28
Addingham	16	2	12	2	13.33
Birstall	19	1	18	0	5.26
*Cleckheaton	19	1	16	2	5.26
Leeds City Police	13	0	11	2	-84.61
Menston	14	0	14	0	-100.00

* Results Dept. 2nd not to hand.

ALL CHANGE!

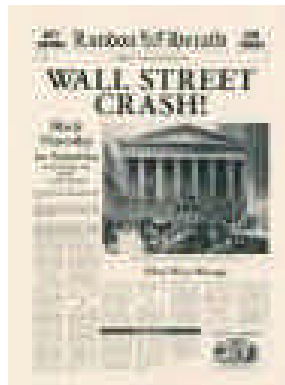
1927 – CLUB RE-NAMED



In 1927 the Club decided to change its name from Gomersal St. Mary's Cricket Club to Gomersal Cricket Club.

15 FINE MEN

1929 – TEAM PHOTO



This team photograph was taken in the year of the Wall Street Crash.



GOMERSAL CRICKET TEAM. "Guardian" copyright photo
Standing (left to right) The umpire, D. Clark, T. F. Armstrong, H. Walker, I. Sykes, H. Sykes, J. England (scorer).
Bottom row: A. Rendle, T. Starbrook, A. Baker, H. Firth (capt.), B. Hanson, C. Baxter, B. Stone.

DANGEROUS DECLINE

1930 – FINANCIAL PROBLEMS

Gomersal Cricket Club had always been financially solvent, so when a decline in profits was encountered due to falling membership, the Club was concerned.

Members thought of ways to increase income - one of the suggestions being a bar. The president, however, decided that the best way to move forward was a door-to-door canvass of local households.

GOMERSAL C.C. WANTS LARGER
MEMBERSHIP.

HOUSE-TO-HOUSE CANVASS.

A loss of £66, against which are to be offset subscriptions outstanding amounting to about £11, was revealed at the annual meeting of Gomersal Cricket Club in Hill Top School on Friday evening. Mr. F. Smith (president) presided.

SUMMER SPECTACULAR

1930 – ANNUAL EVENT

Gomersal Cricket Club & Charity Carnival
ESTABLISHED 1921
Affiliated to the Yorkshire Voluntary Charitable Association.

President - Fred Smith, Esq.

**10th Annual Grand
Carnival and Gala**

— TO BE HELD IN —
THE CRICKET FIELD
ON
Saturday, July 12, 1930

Refreshments Provided on the Ground

Gomersal Cricket & Charity Carnival

SEASON 1930

President: FRED SMITH, Esq.

VICE-PRESIDENTS:

Dr. E. F. R. Mason, Coun. J. W. Heywood, Coun. J. W. Hillard,
Messrs. S. H. C. Briggs, H. W. Broadbent, H. Moody, W. W.
Horsfall, P. S. Sugden, H. Smith, E. M. Hartley, J. A. Grimshaw,
L. W. Lees, F. W. Rhodes, Watson Bros., H. Thackray, J. W.
Shelton, A. W. Crabtree, W. Walker, G. H. Oldroyd, Ed. Wood,
F. Briggs, J. C. Briggs, H. Unwin, J. Gomersall, S. M. Mason,
G. Smith, J. Collier, C. Douglas, M. Haley, J. C. Pearson, A. Birkett,
W. H. Clough, R. M. Grylls, H. Walker, J. W. Sykes, J. Clough,
Mrs. Williamson, Dr. J. Sykes, Coun. S. Smith.

COMMITTEE:

Messrs. E. Hanson, D. Firn, A. Murgatroyd, R. Fox, P. Bland,
B. A. Hanson, A. Hosley, W. Crowther, A. Wright, B. Clarke,
E. England, M. Greaves, R. Ainsworth, H. Wright, D. Gledhill,
A. Johnson, T. Armstrong, J. Johnson, M. Smithson, A. Brooke,
W. Pendlebury, T. Parkinson, J. Charlesworth, Stanley Smith,
and the playing members of the Gomersal Cricket Club.

Hon. Secretaries:

MR. H. BANHAM and MR. E. WOOD.

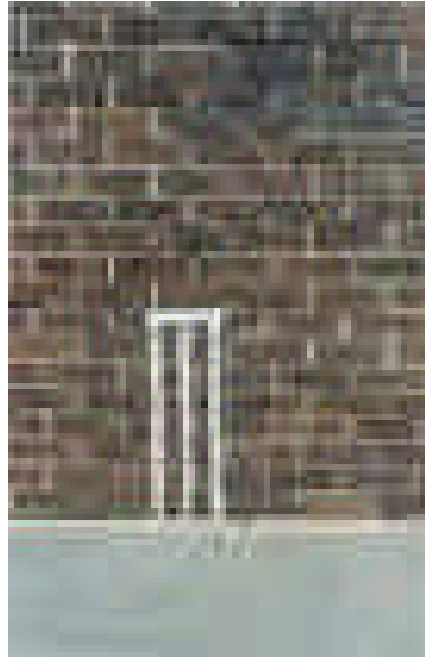
Hon. Entry Secretary: MR. E. SWALLOW

Sub-Committee:

Messrs. D. Firn D. Gledhill A. Johnson C. R. Fox.

YOUTH POLICY

1939 – JUNIOR CRICKET



Young children were encouraged to play cricket at the Club. Below is an extract from Dougie Geines. He explains that he joined the team at the age of 14.

I was first introduced to Gomersal Cricket Club at the beginning of September 1939 when, as a 14 year old schoolboy, I was invited to make up their second team in the last match of the season at Hartshend Moor.

The following year I was asked to play for the club and this was to be the start of a league cricketing career that lasted over 30 years. I played the 1940 season in the Gomersal second team and names that I can remember were Herbert Chadwick (the local cobbler) Bram Hanson and Harry Barlow. Other younger members of the team were Wilf Sheard, Bill Ibbotson and Harry Squire (who played for a number of years for Staincliffe & Batley).