

HANGING HEATON is the next club in our special summer feature on cricket and the community in Batley. The series of articles has been written by Dr Peter Davies, project leader of the Cricketing Heritage of Calderdale and Kirklees, which has been running over the last two years

Club with a past shrouded in mystery

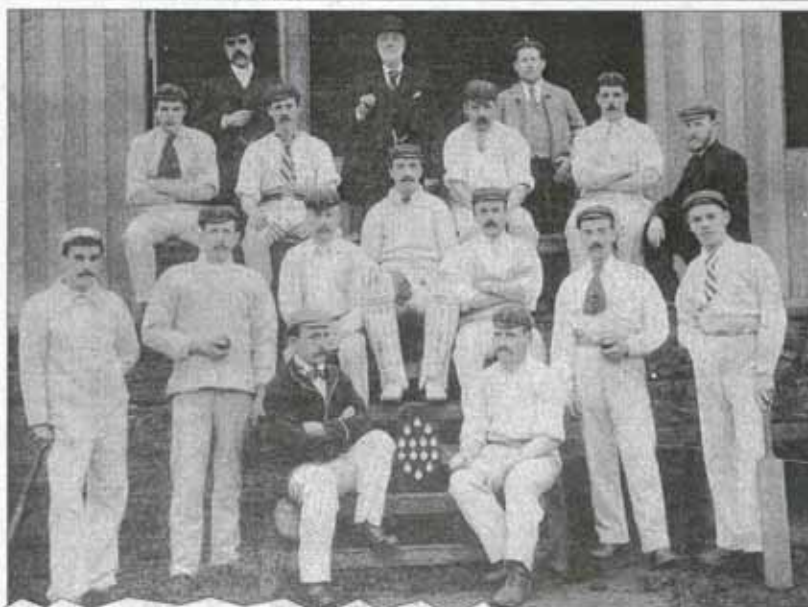
THE origins of Hanging Heaton Cricket Club, and of cricket in Hanging Heaton more generally, are shrouded in mystery. We know that in 1874 there were no Hanging Heaton teams featuring in the local press. However, around 1876 – the generally accepted date of formation of Hanging Heaton CC – there are a number of village teams fulfilling fixtures that gain the attention of local papers.

In 1876 we come across Hanging Heaton Young Britannia. In 1877 we encounter a team called Hanging Heaton Mutual Improvement. A third team (there may well have been others) and certainly the team that seems to be the most established (with a regular, expanding fixture list from 1876 onwards, and also two teams – a 1st and 2nd XI) is Hanging Heaton New Star. Hanging Heaton New Star's affiliation is unclear. Was it a group of friends? A team linked to a local public house? Or even connected to the local Ebenezer Methodist Church? Hanging Heaton CC made their bow in the prestigious Heavy Woollen Cup in 1889. They

joined the Heavy Woollen League in 1886. A minor sensation occurred in 1889 when Hanging Heaton – until this date, relatively unsuccessful in the Heavy Woollen Cup – reached the final. They encountered the all-powerful Dewsbury and Savile side, and were dismissed for 28 in 9 overs. This score remains the lowest ever in a Heavy Woollen Cup final!

UNIQUE HAT-TRICK

And in 1926 – the year of the General Strike – L. Carris of Drighlington CC took NINE wickets in a Heavy Woollen Cup encounter with Hanging Heaton. In the summer of 1939, with world war looming again, Hanging Heaton decided to join the Leeds League. During the last summer of the Second World War, Hanging Heaton pulled off a unique hat-trick – scooping the Central Yorkshire League title, the Yorkshire Council championship, and the Wheatley Cup. Hanging Heaton contested 15 of the 29 Heavy Woollen Cup finals between 1946 and 1974, winning



Hanging Heaton were Gildersome League winners in 1896.

INSET: Our sister paper the Dewsbury Reporter told the story of how the Tewitlanders were Yorkshire Council champions during World War II back in 1944.

BELOW LEFT: A matchday programme from 2004.



section was formed. In 1937 a new ladies' room received the go-ahead. The centrepiece was a 'grey/red' fireplace. The ladies' section also involved themselves in fundraising. Somewhat surprisingly, given Hanging Heaton's identification with and success in the Heavy Woollen Cup, Bennett

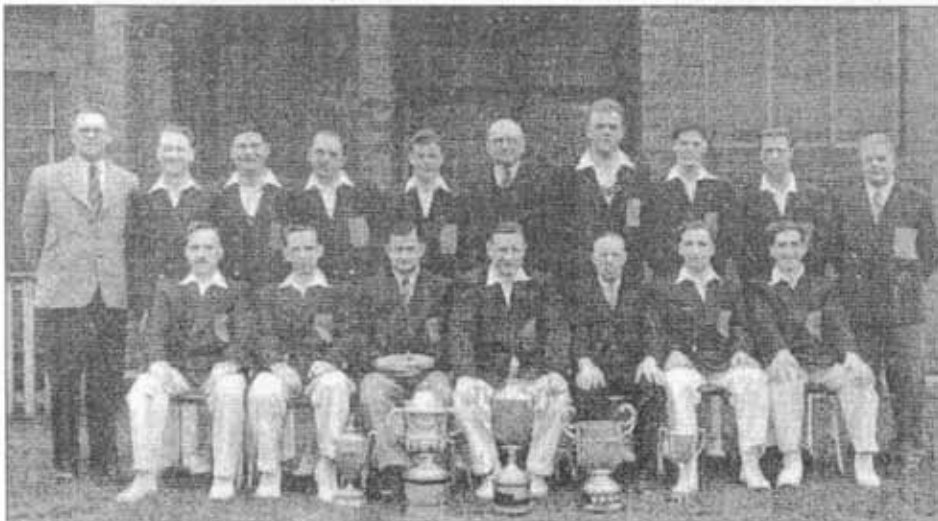
Lane has staged the final on only one occasion, in 1968. Interestingly, Hanging Heaton lifted the trophy themselves the year before and the year after. The village of Hanging Heaton – and the area surrounding the cricket ground – is famous for its bird life. The lapwing, in particular, is a common sight – so much so that the club crest now features a small tewit!

period 1957-1962 Hanging Heaton played in five Heavy Woollen Cup finals and lost all of them, the closest being a seven-run defeat at the hands of Dewsbury in 1957. Between 1979 and 1996 the club were absent from the competition. Since re-joining, normal service has been resumed, with victory in 2000, and finishing runners-up on three occasions and being beaten semi-finalists in 1996 and

Only in 1999 was there real failure with a shock 3rd round defeat at the hands of Woodlands. Overall, Hanging Heaton are the sixth most successful club in the history of the Cup: seven-times winners and 14-times runners-up. It is clearly a very special competition for the men from Bennett Lane. A landmark in the history of Hanging Heaton Cricket Club occurred in 1956 when a ladies'



Dr Davies and Rob Light have co-written three books about the history of local cricket and the series is called 180 Not Out. They are part of the £50,000 Cricket Heritage Project sponsored by the Heritage Lottery Fund, and copies are available from Dewsbury Books at Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury. The books are published by Sigma Press. Call 01484 472405 for more information.



Hanging Heaton CC were winners of four trophies in 1951.

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