

HECKMONDWIKE & CARLINGHOW CC

The Early Years

UPPER CHAPEL

ORIGINS

Heckmondwike and Carlinghow United Cricket Club was not founded under this name.



In 1890 Upper Independent Chapel was built on Chapel Lane, Heckmondwike, and it was this institution that gave rise to Upper Chapel Cricket Club - that later merged with a Carlinghow cricket club to form Heckmondwike and Carlinghow United Cricket Club.

RELIGIOUS FOUNDATIONS

EARLY DAYS



The construction of Upper Independent Chapel led to the formation of the cricket team. The church gave the local community a meeting place where they could arrange social and leisure events such as cricket matches.

Early members of the team are likely to have been closely associated with the church. Later evidence suggests that this was also the case many years thereafter.

The original ground is still used today and is situated on Chapel Lane, Heckmondwike.



BUSY BEES...AND CRICKETERS!

1892 – FIRST MENTION

The first mention of a 'Cricket Club' came in Upper Chapel literature of 1892.

INSTITUTIONS OF THE CHURCH.

25

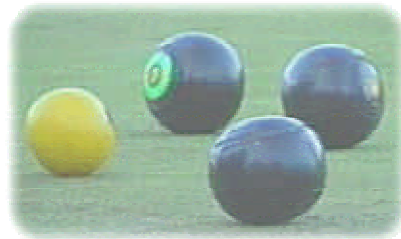
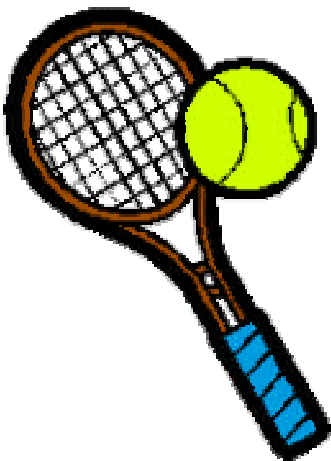
Sections 1.—Educational Section. *a*, Young Men's Christian Association. Representatives to General Council, J. O. Walker and Alfred Bruce. 2.—Reading and Recreative Section. *a*, Reading-room. *b*, Cricket Club. *c*, Rambling Club. Representatives to General Council, Henry Exley and John Oddy. 3.—Ladies' Literary and Social Section. Representatives to General Council, Misses Firth and Clegg. 4.—Devotional Section. *a*, Christian Band. *b*, Sick Visiting Society. *c*, Bible Class. *d*, Meetings for Prayer. Representatives to General Council, Edwin Race and J. J. Lockwood. 5.—Temperance Section. *a*, Band of Hope. *b*, Christian Temperance Association. *c*, Anti-Betting Association. Representatives to General Council, John Key and A. Hooldershaw. 6.—Mission Section. *a*, Tract Society. *b*, Juvenile Missionary Society. *c*, Busy Bee Society. *d*, Young Disciples Class. Representatives to General Council, Mrs. F. Hall and Miss L. Kitchingman. 7.—Musical Section. Representatives to General Council, Fred Graham and Arthur Aspinall. 8.—Sick Benefit Section. Representatives to General Council, J. A. Firth and F. Archer.

GAMES FOR ALL!

CRICKET ETC

Cricket was not the only sport that the church encouraged.

Church manuals dating as far back as the early 1900s carry reports about other sports clubs. The bowling club dates back to around 1920 and a tennis club was set up in 1922.



MIXED FORTUNES

1922 – UPS AND DOWNS

This was a very interesting season for Upper Chapel C.C.. It was not a successful season from a financial point of view but the playing record was the exact opposite.

The 1st XI finished 3rd in the league table, with the 2nd XI finishing 3rd in their division.

**FIRST ELEVEN:
PLAYED 24; WON 10; LOST 6; DRAWN 8**

**SECOND ELEVEN:
PLAYED 24; WON 13; LOST 5; DRAWN 6**

The attendance at the home matches has been very poor, and we should like to see many more spectators who will come and show that they are interested in the old club, and give us their support and encouragement in every possible manner. We should like to see a few youngsters join the club and help to keep things going for there is every encouragement given to playing members, prizes being given for batting, bowling, and fielding.

However, attendances at home matches was very poor.

TRIUMPHANT THIRTIES

1937 – SPEN VALLEY LEAGUE WINNERS



The 1930s witnessed the start of a 'boom' period. In 1937 they achieved their first major success as the winners of the Spen Valley League.

Do you recognise any of the 14 faces? And who are the four people not dressed in whites?

PRIDE OF THE CLUB!

1939 – HERALD CUP WINNERS





Upper Chapel Cricket Club continued to flourish during the 1930s.

In the last summer of peacetime – 1939 – they scooped the Herald Cup.



WARTIME WOES

1940 – DIFFICULT PERIOD



The beginning of the Second World War led to many problems for Upper Chapel Cricket Club, as it did for most of the clubs at this time.

The War meant that the Club found it extremely hard to raise a side.

The atmosphere of youthful enthusiasm continued undimmed during a period of extreme difficulty. The hazards of the black-out have been braved with a regularity which is a tribute to the popularity of "Monday night at seven."

The boys have played their games with amazing energy and in their more serious moments have revealed an intelligence and thoughtfulness which augurs well for their future and the future of this Church.

In the strictly sporting sense the year has been a red letter year in the history of our little organisation. Owing to the war the Upper cricket club has found extreme difficulty in raising a side, and no fewer than five Upperites have been called upon to play. On one occasion we had the amazing spectacle of an Upperite opening the bowling and another the batting. The degree of these lads' success is reflected in the fact that the club won the Championship Shield.