

Great Match – 1962 Heavy Woollen Cup Final

Mirfield v Hanging Heaton

The cricket season of 1962 will forever be remembered fondly in the minds of all those associated with Mirfield CC. For this particular summer saw Mirfield lift the Heavy Woollen Cup for the first time. The victory came during a purple patch in the club's history - Mirfield had previously claimed the Central Yorkshire League title in three consecutive seasons between 1958 and 1960.

Despite Mirfield's league dominance, they entered the 1962 Heavy Woollen Cup final as underdogs against the highly fancied Hanging Heaton. Heaton were going well in the league and would eventually go on to capture the title. However, following an epic clash at Savile Town, it was Mirfield who emerged victorious.

The victory was nothing more than Mirfield deserved after a gritty and hard fought performance against tough opposition. It was a match in which no one player particularly stood out from the others, but instead pulled together to produce an inspired display on both batting and fielding fronts.



The 'Mirfield twins', Colin Peacock (left) and Clive Brook (right), opened the batting but the legendary pairing were unable to even begin notching up the runs as Brook was caught for 1. It was a huge shock for the Mirfield eleven, as the form of the pair had been one of the major factors in the club's success over the previous seasons.

But while many teams may have collapsed after losing such an important player so early on in a cup final, Mirfield stood firm. They lost Grace to a catch by Smith, and were 4 for 2, but they soon managed to improve after this, however, and a successful stand developed between Peacock and Rigg.

Despite a couple of anxious moments for the pair, including a missed catch behind the wicket and a shout for lbw against Peacock, they were able to notch up 64 between them before Peacock eventually succumbed to an lbw appeal on 46. Rigg was eventually bowled for 23, leaving Mirfield 76 for 4. Ellis and Hodgson continued to frustrate the Hanging Heaton attack, and Mirfield eventually finished their innings on a respectable 110 for 5.

Hanging Heaton must have fancied their chances, especially considering the form they had shown in the cup and league throughout the season. They were, however, overcome by a stubborn Mirfield bowling attack that was quick to take advantage of some sloppy batting from the league leaders. Clive Brook was quick to make amends for his poor batting performance with an impressive bowling effort. He bowled five maidens in 17 overs and took four wickets at a cost of 35 runs. Bert Wilcock was equally influential, taking four wickets for just 23 runs.



A cutting from the time

Many spectators in attendance at Savile Town predicted the final would run into a second day. This was not the case, however, as Hanging Heaton were all out for 81 to complete a convincing and famous victory for Mirfield. The trophy was presented by the Mayor of Dewsbury to proud captain Clive Brook who was delighted that Mirfield had won the prestigious trophy for the first time in their history.

The victory proved to be a catalyst for more success at Mirfield. The following season saw them retain the Heavy Woollen Cup, as well as securing the league title to complete a memorable double for the club.