

Mirfield Parish Cavaliers CC

The origins of Mirfield Parish CC are hazy, but 1880 is generally viewed as their date of formation.

In 1912 they won the Dewsbury & District Junior League Shield outright and in 1919 took part in the Heavy Woollen Cup for the first time.

In the early and middle decades of the twentieth century, Mirfield Parish won their fair share of Dewsbury League titles at both junior and senior level.

A set of rules issued by the old Mirfield Parish Cricket Club included Rule 2: 'That the Vicar of Mirfield (if willing) be President of the Club, and the Assistant-Clergy Vice-Presidents'.

This confirms the club-church link, but also gives the vicar an 'opt-out' if he so desires!

Mirfield Parish were busy in 1959. They paid out £1 10s for a pianist – to play at their annual dinner - and the same amount for some French polish!

They also gained two unexpected items of income: a donation of 4s and a payment of 10s from Wormalds & Walkers as compensation for a missed fixture.

In 1967 Mirfield Parish won the Dewsbury & District League title for the third time in a row under the captaincy of K. Blackburn.

What was interesting was the array of clubs in Section 'A' with Mirfield Parish Church that summer: works teams (Birstall Carpets, Wormalds & Walker), a team representing early Asian immigrants (Muslim CC), and another church team (Dewsbury Salem CC).

They also scooped the prize for 'best performance in the last seven league matches' and reached the final of the Crowther Cup.

In the same year the club gained a significant amount of money from donations. They also hosted a West Riding cricket coaching session, which made them £14.

'Cleaning' was a new item of expenditure in 1967, and the club was also forced to invest in a 'towel' for 5s 6d.

Plans for a new pavilion were announced in 1970, and in the summer of 1972 cricketers at the club started eating tripe to help improve their on-field performances!

By 1980 the club were celebrating their centenary, and Yorkshire and England Test legend Brian Close visited Mirfield to help with the ceremonies.

Mirfield Parish Cavaliers CC was born in 1987 following a merger between the Parish club and another local side, Dewsbury Cavaliers.

Today Mirfield PC compete in the Central Yorkshire League and in Wellhouse Lane boast one of the most attractive and atmospheric grounds in the league.

And among their longest-serving and hardest-working stalwarts are Alan Barker, Barry Wooller and Colin Fretwell.