

Moorlands Cricket Club – Family Ties

Post-war Moorlands has had a tradition of Family involvement.

In the 50's Harry Fortis played for the Club and then in the 60's onwards his nephews Keith and Malcolm Fortis played. Harry was affectionally known as "Uncle Harry", when he became an umpire in the Dewsbury and District Cricket League. Keith captained the First XI and later went on to play for Howden Clough and Dewsbury Cavaliers. Keith's ashes are scattered on the outfield at Memorial Park, following his untimely death. Malcolm's three sons, Lee, Ashley and Andrew have all played for Moorlands at both junior and senior level. Lee has gone on to be Groundsman at the Oval.

Another family who featured heavily in the history of Moorlands was the Baseley's. Ronnie, Norman and Eric all played in the late 50's, early 60's. Ronnie's son Alan and nephew Andrew Lightfoot also played.

Other Father/Son combinations that have played include:

- Richard Blakeley and sons David & Matthew
- Peter Ramsden and son Gary, who went on to represent Yorkshire CCC
- Eddie Walker and son Andrew, and Eddie's nephew James
- Brothers John and David Blackburn and their sons David, James and Stephen
- Ex-President Stephen Wood and sons, Richard, Matthew and Liam
- Steve Grinhaff and son Nolan
- Stuart Battye and son Mark
- Geoff Moore and son Greg
- John Sheard and son Chris
- Dave Collins and son Andy
- John Douglas and son Jonathan
- David Watson and sons Michael and Paul

At one time it would have been possible to play a match Fathers v Sons, with two full sides of XI.

This family involvement certainly helped produce a number of tea ladies over the years, particularly: Sheila Watson, Wendy Blakeley, Eileen Wood, Anne Douglas, Marie Walker, Anne Battye, Julie and Susan Blackburn, Mrs Marian Sheard, Pam Grinhaff and Janet Fortis amongst others