

## MOORLANDS CC

The Early Years

# Go West Town!

## ORIGINS

Moorlands were originally founded as a church cricket team in 1884. Their full title was Dewsbury Moorlands Methodist Church Cricket Club and they were based at the Church in West Town. They played in the Sunday School League; there was a big link between church and cricket team.



In fact there was a rubric which said that in order to play members of the cricket club had to attend either the Moorlands Methodist Sunday School or Church services.

Young men were issued with an 'attendance card', which had to be stamped each Sunday they attended.



In turn, this enabled the Church authorities to determine whether individual players were eligible for cricketing duty. This ritual eventually proved to be the undoing of the Church-Cricket Club connection.

In the 1950s the relationship broke down and Dewsbury Moorlands dropped the 'Methodist Church' from their title, and went it alone.

# Defeated friends

25 MAY 1884 – LOCAL DERBY

This is one of the first recorded fixtures involving Dewsbury Moorlands – played at Bank Top against another local team known as Dewsbury Friends.

Moorlands won by 6 runs, but the fact that a total of only 60 runs were scored in the match tells us something about the state of pitches – and batting techniques! – in the late nineteenth century.

not out 8; H. Talbot, b Whittlestone 0; J. J. Taylor, not out 6; extras 3;—total for 2 wickets 43.

DEWSBURY MOORLANDS v. DEWSBURY FRIENDS.—  
Played at Bank Top. Score:—  
Dewsbury Moorlands.—A. Denton 5, H. Hirst 0, B. Cocking 4, M. Leather 0, L. Tunncliffe 0, A. Tate 18, F. Firth 1, J. Kitson 0, A. Wood 3, A. Kitson 0, H. Ineson (not out) 2, extras 2;—total 33.

Dewsbury Friends.—J. Garforth 1, J. T. Whitworth 3, W. Knowles 8, E. Law 4, H. Webster 1, J. H. Jagger 0, A. Beals 1, H. Marsden 0, A. J. Wilkinson 2, J. Davidson (not out) 2, M. Clarkson 1, extras 4;—total 27.

HEALEY v. LONGWOOD (2nd elevens). Played at Longwood. Score:—  
Healey.—Tolson 7, Dennis 3, Macanlay 0, Lister 8, Jowitt (not out) 28, Fenton 4, Preston 1, Ingham 0, Crowther 1, Asquith 15, Sykes 8; total 68.

Dewsbury Reporter, 1884

# 2nd XI Silverware

## 1933 – WHITLEY LOWER VANQUISHED

Again it was a low-scoring affair, and again Moorlands just won out. The Dewsbury & District League 2nd XI Cup was on its way to the Moorlands trophy cabinet.

**DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.**  
**MOORLANDS WIN SECOND ELEVENS' CUP.**

D. Dewsbury Moorlands were successful in defeating Whitley Lower in the final of the Second Elevens' Cup Competition on Monday and Tuesday evenings on the Ravensthorpe Congregationals' ground. Though they scored only 48—D. Auty (10) was top scorer—Moorlands were able to dismiss their opponents for 28, no player reaching double figures. H. Hargreaves was chiefly responsible for the collapse, with seven wickets for 10 runs. Scores:

Moorlands.—H. Kitson, b Parker, 4; D. Auty, lbw, b P. Wilson, 10; H. Wilson, b Parker, 6; H. Hargreaves, b Cleveland, 2; D. Asquith, b Cleveland, 4; G. Cunningham, st, b P. Wilson, 3; E. Watson, lbw, b P. Wilson, 2; O. O. Kitson, run out, 8; A. Peace, c Crossland, b Senior, 3; H. Carr, c Senior, b Parker, 1; C. Fisher, not out, 0; extras, 5. Total, 48.

Whitley Lower.—N. Kaye, c C. Kitson, b Hargreaves, 4; W. Rigg, lbw, b Hargreaves, 4; H. Crossland, c Wilson, b Hargreaves, 0; W. Senior, b Hargreaves, 4; J. Oates, b Hargreaves, 0; W. Cleveland, b Asquith, 4; D. Parker, b Hargreaves, 5; G. H. Haigh, c Fisher, b Asquith, 1; P. Wilson, b Asquith, 0; N. Hirst, not out, 1; R. Wilson, b Hargreaves, 3; extras, 2. Total, 28.

Dewsbury Reporter, 1933

# Tight Victory

## 1935 – FINAL TRIUMPH

Moorlands carried on their winning ways, and in 1935 defeated Brownhill at Hanging Heaton to net the Dewsbury & District League 1st XI Championship.

DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT LEAGUE.  
A THRILLING FINAL.  
MOORLANDS' ONE RUN VICTORY.

There was a thrilling finish to the Dewsbury and District League's first eleven championship on the Hanging Heaton ground on Saturday, when, amid the greatest excitement, Dewsbury Moorlands defeated Brownhill by one run. Both teams had fully earned the honour of taking part in the final, and an exciting struggle was anticipated.

Moorlands had first use of the wicket, and though Ault soon left for two, Lee and Gedhill advanced the score, and later, Stubbs and J. Hughes batted soundly. Perkins and Elstob, who have done exceedingly well on the attack for Brownhill throughout the season, were subdued, and the total eventually reached 102. This was not considered a big score in view of the success which Brownhill batsmen have enjoyed, but the Birstall side began disastrously, losing Platts and Dewhurst for none each. Balmforth stemmed the tide, however, and Elstob, Boyce, and Burkhead gave capital support. The century was hoisted, and it seemed only a matter of seconds before Brownhill could call themselves champions. A surprise bowling change, however, brought the desired effect from the Moorlands' standpoint, and with one run separating the sides, the last Brownhill wicket fell.

For Brownhill, Elstob took four wickets for 38 runs, Perkins three for 32, Dewhurst one for seven, and Jackson two for thirteen. On the Moorlands' side, Ault took four wickets for 28 runs, Hargreaves two for sixteen, Waterworth two for fifteen, F. Gedhill one for seven, and W. Watson one for 29. Scores:

Moorlands.—R. Lee, b Dewhurst, 28; H. Ault, b Perkins, 2; R. Gedhill, b Jackson, 29; R. Stubbs, b Elstob, 10; F. Gedhill, b Jackson, 6; E. Wroe, c Burkhead, b Elstob, 7; H. Kitson, b Perkins, 0; C. Waterworth, hit wkt., b Elstob, 1; W. Watson, b Elstob, 6; H. Hargreaves, b Perkins, 4; J. Hughes, not out, 17; extras, 12. Total, 102.

Brownhill.—F. Platts, b Hargreaves, 0; A. Crowther, b Ault, 9; P. Dewhurst, b Hargreaves, 0; G. Balmforth, c Lee, b Ault, 20; G. Scarth, b Waterworth, 7; F. Elstob, c Ault, 13; L. Boyce, bow, b Waterworth, 30; W. Burkhead, b Ault, 15; J. Perkins, c Stubbs, b F. Gedhill, 4; W. Ely, b Watson, 3; R. Jackson, not out, 6; extras, 6. Total, 101.

Mr. George Wilson, former treasurer of the league, and for many years associated with the Moorlands' Club, presented the cup to the winners, being introduced by Mr. Ernest Ault. Mr. Wilson spoke of his association as a player with the old Moorlands' side, and recalled that the fathers of most of the players taking part that day were in the first side. Particularly in evidence were the Watsons and Kitson's, names which had been connected with Moorlands since the club was started.

In addition to the cup, the winners received barometers and the runners-up clocks.

The Hanging Heaton officials were thanked for the loan of the field by Mr. Ernest Godthorp.

Dewsbury Reporter, 1935

# Female umpire

## ELSIE'S BIG MOMENT

**The Wife Again Has The Last Word** ★


What would cricket be like if we had women umpires?

No doubt the decisions made would be no less controversial than those made by male umpires.

This was proved recently, when Mrs. Elsie Cummings, an enthusiastic cricket fan, of Princess Road, Chickenley, was asked to umpire a Dewsbury and District league match between Moorlands second XI and Birstall Carr Mills second XI because the appointed umpire failed to arrive.

Very few women, I should imagine, can boast of having umpired a friendly match, let alone a league match.

But perhaps if women umpires became popular some batsmen might refrain from making wild gesticulations and glaring stares when given out by a shapely blonde umpire.



**A MAN'S JOB**

But Mrs. Cummings has no desire to become a regular umpire. "It's a man's game, and umpiring is a man's job, so leave it to them," she said.

A scorer for many years for Moorland's second XI, Mrs. Cummings has umpired once before, but she tells me that although she is very keen on cricket and watches games quite regularly, she has never played cricket and never will.

"I do not like to see women playing men's games," she said. "They can be just as useful making teas in the background, rather than playing on the field," she added.

When did she start taking an interest in cricket? When she met her husband, Mr. Gilbert Cummings, 18 years ago, and began to support his cricket team. "At first I used to take my knitting," she said, "until I was asked to be scorer, and now I wouldn't miss a match for anything," she added.

An official of the Dewsbury and District League told me this week that Mrs. Cummings had done exceptionally well and both sides had been quite satisfied with her decisions.

**Footnote.**—I do not think Mr. Cummings, who was playing for Moorlands 2nd XI, will give such glowing reports on her performance. She gave him out.

Mrs Elsie Cummings – wife of Gilbert – was tea lady and scorer at Moorlands for many years, and even helped out as umpire.