

THORNHILL CC

The Early Years

BROAD CHURCH

1861 - ORIGINS



This photo below shows Thornhill's first ground, where Valley Road Estate now stands. The Club played here between around 1861 and 1887.



However, the earliest newspaper reports that can be found for Thornhill cricket matches date from 1887.



In the beginning Thornhill Cricket Club was connected to Thornhill Parish Church.



Painting by Peter Hammond:
<http://www.phammond.co.uk/gal5.html>

Indeed, in the 1880s the church magazine made regular mention of the cricket club, and on one occasion actually referred to it as '**our cricket club**'. In this era the church also had a band - and sometimes 800 local folk would accompany the band on its trips.

IT'S A KNOCKOUT!

1883 – INAUGURAL HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP

Although then a junior club, Thornhill entered the inaugural competition for the Heavy Woollen Cup.



According to the *Cleckheaton Advertiser* it was one of the clubs that improved its standing through its participation in the cup competition.

MOVING MOMENT

1887 – THE COMBS

The Club moved to its present ground in 1887.

In the early days, the ground covered 6 acres, 1 rood and 20 perches, and the Club paid a rent to the Savile Estate.



The venue came to be known as The Combs after the former Combs Colliery.



The Club's HQ today

Archdeacon Brooke put the Club on a sound basis in the early days as well as entertaining the famous Grace brothers whenever Gloucestershire played at Savile Town.

MATCH ABANDONED!

1887 - FIRST NEWSPAPER REPORTS

Thornhill v Healey is one of the earliest recorded matches in the Club's history.

According to the *Dewsbury Reporter* Thornhill had put up a good match and would have won if the match had been allowed to go on.

However, they do not give the reason as to why the match had to be abandoned.

THORNHILL.		HEALEY.	
S Oates b Child	... 22	E Parker st J Brooke b	Peace
G Gooder b Dennis	... 1	Peace	... 1
W Peace b Dennis	... 0	W Dennis c Gooder b C	Brooke
J Brooke c Dennis b Sykes	2	Brooke	... 3
J Hinchecliffe b Sykes	... 0	G Naylor run out	... 2
C H Esamboldt c Firth b	Child	J W Lister b Peace	... 6
Child	... 18	A Sykes c Peace b Brooke	8
W Oates lbw b Hirst	... 1	E Firth b C Brooke	... 7
Rev H B Hutchings b Sykes	30	J Hirst st J Brooke b Peace	7
G Hepworth ht wkt b	Hirst	E Child not out	... 1
Hirst	... 1	F Smith not out	... 6
C Brook c Hanaway b	Dennis		
Dennis	... 18		
E Oates not out	... 4		
Extras	... 8	Extras	... 2
Total	... 100	Total for 7 wks	... 31

BOWLING ANALYSIS.				
	Overs	mdns	runs	wkts
W. Peace	... 8	3	14	3
C. Brook	... 11	6	7	3
G. Gooder	... 3	0	8	0

THORNHILL.

Thornhill made a good display in their match with Healey last Saturday, and though the result was a draw, they would certainly have won had the match been played out. Healey had only scored 31 for the loss of 7 wickets towards the century obtained by Thornhill, for whom Hutchens batted well for 30, as did Gates 22, Humbolt 18, and Brooke 13. None of Healey's batsmen reached double figures, the bowling of Peace and Brooke being too good for them.

On Monday, Hanging Heaton, thanks to the bowling of G. Brooke, who took 5 wickets for 12 runs, and G. Gooder, who also took four for the same number, were beat on their own soil by Thornhill, who obtained 87 against the home club's total of 27. For the winners, Brier 18, Rambolt 31, and Brook 14, wielded the willow capitally.



An early group of Healey cricketers

WOMEN ON TOP!

1887 – LADIES CRICKET



1887 also witnessed a women's cricket match being played at Thornhill Cricket Club - an unusual event for the era.

LADIES' MATCH AT THORNHILL.	
Played at Thornhill on Saturday. Score—	
Miss A. SENIOR'S.	MISS E. SHACKLETON'S.
Miss E. Oates b Mrs. Kaye 4	Miss E. Shackleton run out ... 2
Miss A. Popplewell run out 0	Miss E. Oates b Mrs Wm. Oates ... 1
Mrs B. Sowerby b Mrs Kaye ... 0	Mrs G. H. Oates b Miss Senior ... 1
Miss L. A. Milnes run out 0	Miss A. Oates b Miss Senior 4
Miss M. Tankard run out .. 1	Miss Rowley run out ... 3
Mrs O. Oates b Mrs Kaye 4	Miss L. Oates not out .. 13
Mrs J. E. Wood b Mrs Dunford .. 15	Mrs Dunford run out .. 0
Miss E. A. Shackleton not out ... 3	Mrs Kaye run out ... 2
Mrs W. T. Oates absent ... 0	Mrs G. Gooder b Mrs J. E. Wood ... 1
—	—
27	27

The match resulted in a draw, with each team scoring all-out totals of 27.

The *Dewsbury Chronicle* reported that the '**novel cricket match**' had generated a '**great amount of interest**' and that '**there were nine players on each side and out of this number no fewer than seven lost their wickets**'.



The loss of wickets and subsequent low scores were put down to the fact that some of the women were '**too anxious to run**'.

THORNHILL.

A novel cricket match was played on the Thornhill cricket club ground on Saturday afternoon last between teams consisting of ladies, Miss A. Senior and Miss E. Shackleton being the respective captains. The result of the game was a tie, each side scoring 27. On Miss Senior's side Mrs J. E. Wood raised 15, and in the other team Mr L. Oates 13 not out. There were nine players on each side and out of this number no fewer than seven lost their wickets through being too anxious to run. It is only fair to mention that Mrs W T Oates was absent from Miss Senior's side and therefore did not perform with the willow or the result would probably have been different. A great amount of interest was taken in the match.

PEACE OF THE ACTION!

1887 – FACTS & FIGURES

Although there were no official league competitions in this period, the newspapers in 1887 did print the end-of-year averages of the local cricket teams.

CRICKET.					
THORNHILL CRICKET CLUB AVERAGES.					
FIRST ELEVEN.					
Matches played 19, won 7, lost 7, drawn 5.					
BATTING.					
	No. of Innings	Times not out	Most in an Inngs.	Total Runs	Avg.
W. Peace.....	15	1	85*	219	14.9
S. Oates	19	0	49	238	12.10
W. Oates.....	14	0	52	160	11.6
C. Brooke	11	3	41*	126	11.5
J. Brooke.....	9	3	34	93	10.3
Rev Hutchings	7	0	30	61	9
J. Hinchliffe ...	13	0	49	117	9
W. Longbottom	4	1	16	30	7.2
Rumboldt	11	0	21	74	6.8
R. Walker	8	1	22	49	6.1
G. Gooder	14	3	17	72	5.2
A. Blackburn...	6	0	13	28	4.4
G. Hepworth...	11	1	7	41	3.8
Henry Hill			45*		
Dr Davies		2	6	4	
E. Oates			4*		

* Signifies not out.

BOWLING.					
	O.	M.	R.	W.	A.
C. Brooke.....	146	33	319	41	7.32
W. Peace.....	153	22	444	58	7.38
J. Hinchliffe	34	7	115	14	8.3
G. Gooder ...	74	13	189	18	10.9
W. Oates.....	14	4	20	2	10.7
Walker.....	28	6	75	7	10.5
S. Oates	23	2	67	5	13.2
G. Hepworth	21	3	38	1	38



SECOND ELEVEN.—BATTING.

Matches played 12, won 7, lost 5.

	No. of Innings	Times not out	Most in an innings	Total No of runs	Average
W. Gooder.....	3	1	25	72	24
A. Booth.....	4	0	32	54	13-2
P. Wyper	5	2	32*	63	12-3
C. Clegg	6	0	29	56	9-2
A. Barber	5	0	17	47	9-2
J. Schofield ...	9	0	44	77	8-2
S. Booth.....	8	0	33	58	7-2
W. Senior	10	1	26*	52	5-2
W. Longbottom	8	0	15	46	5-4
F. Blackburn...	6	1	10*	27	4-3
J. W. Longbottom	7	0	9	25	3-4
W. Wainwright	4	0	6	8	2

BOWLING.

	Overs	Mdms.	Runs	Wkts.	Average
W. Senior.....	42	12	81	22	3-15
W. Longbottom	31	6	66	10	6-6
F. Wyper.....	48	12	82	12	6-10
J. W. Longbottom	50	10	103	15	6-13

* Signifies not out.

The low batting reflect the state of the wickets in this period, but W. Peace did well to average almost 15 runs per innings.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

1889 – SPORT FOR ALL



In 1889 the Club underwent the first of its major name changes: from Thornhill Cricket Club to Thornhill Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club.

HAT-TRICK HEROES!

1890s – TREBLE SUCCESS



Thornhill Cricket & Lawn Tennis Club were the successful winners of the Waddington Cup three years running - in 1892, 1893 and 1894.



FLAT CAPS AND CRICKET BATS

1893 – CLUB STARS

This is an early Thornhill Cricket Club team photograph from 1893.



Possibly the team who won the 1893 Waddington Cup

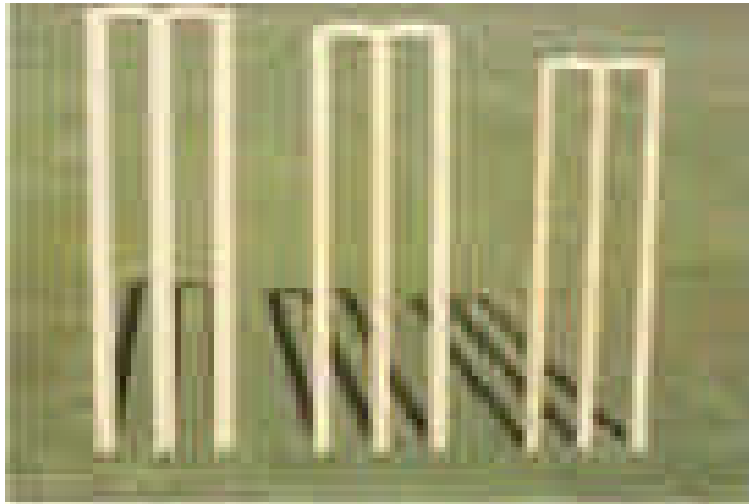
Note:

- The fact that there are 16 men on the photo: 12 players plus four Club officials?
- The ties on display – these were probably ornamental, and not worn out on the field.

FROM WAKEFIELD TO DEWSBURY

1896 – LEAGUE SWITCH

Thornhill exited the Wakefield & District League in 1896, swapping allegiances to the Dewsbury & District League.



Thereafter they plied their trade in the Heavy Woollen District League, the Yorkshire Council and the Central Yorkshire League – where they reside today.

BOWLERS JOIN THE BOWLERS & THE BATTERS

1909 – BOWLERS ARRIVE

In 1909 the Club embraced the local crown green bowlers – hence the name change to Thornhill Cricket & Bowling Club.



This moniker was to stand the test of time.

FIRST ORDERS

1911 – BAR OPENS



1911 was a big year for local cricket-watchers as the Club installed a bar. Spectators could now sit in the sun and watch the cricket.



Picnic tables enable modern-day cricket-watchers to follow the action while having a drink

DIRTY DANCING!

1911 – FUNDRAISING



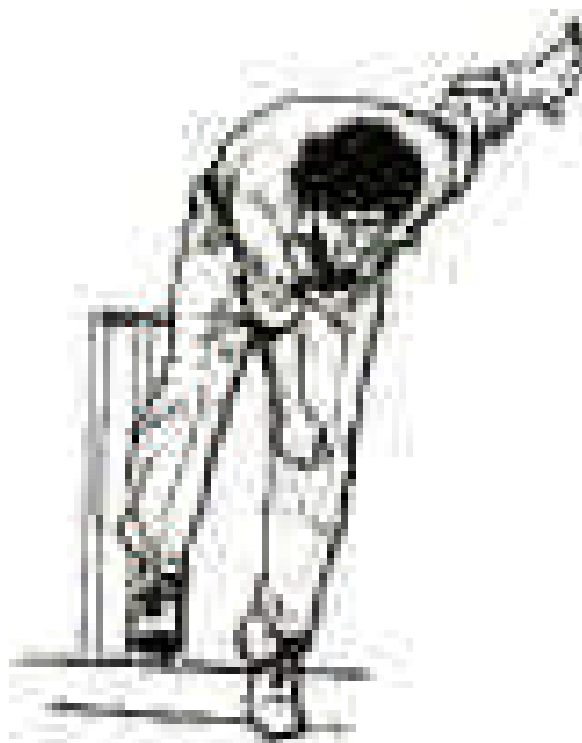
Like all cricket clubs Thornhill have had to think of novel ways to raise money.

In 1924 they decided to hold a dance on the cricket pitch!



7TH HEAVEN!

1926 – AMAZING FEAT



Thornhill's bowler Ellis took 7 wickets for 17 runs in the game against Gomersal in 1926 – the year of the General Strike.

Thornhill had totalled 121 – so, when Gomersal went in to bat Thornhill must have thought that they had lost the match. But Ellis pulled out all the stops to make sure that Gomersal only reached 91.

THORNHILL BOWLER'S FEAT.

The game between Thornhill and Gomersal on the latter club's ground on Saturday was featured by two capital bowling performances, that of Ellis, of Thornhill, being outstanding in local cricket. Thornhill had first knock, and when their total stopped short at 121, home partisans held the belief that Gomersal would succeed. But they reckoned without Ellis, who proved so destructive with the ball that the home side was dismissed for 91. The return of Ellis was the brilliant one of seven wickets for 17 runs. It should be added that Crayton, of Gomersal, also contributed a splendid bowling performance, capturing no less than eight Thornhill wickets at a cost of only 34 runs. These two feats of course, kept down the scorings, and Marshall (35), of Thornhill, and Hanson (37), of Gomersal, were the only batsmen who did anything of note. Scores:

Thornhill		Gomersal	
B. Ellis, b Crayton	26	B. Hanson, c Halstead,	
T. Brinke, c Starbrook		b Ellis	37
b Randle	1	J. Starbrook, c F.	
E. Marshall, not out	35	Speight, b Halstead	24
J. Speight, b Crayton	0	M. Chadwick, c Parkin,	
H. Shaw, c Stone, b		b Ellis	14
Pickles	12	H. Overend, b Ellis	1
F. Speight, c Simpson, b		H. Chester, run out	7
Crayton	7	W. Simpson, c F.	
C. Wiper, c Stone, b		Speight, b Ellis	1
Crayton	12	A. Randle, c Water-	
E. Parkin, b Crayton	0	house, b Ellis	6
F. Lynn, c Hanson, b		N. Pickles, c Shaw, b	
Crayton	2	Ellis	2
R. Waterhouse, c and b		A. Baker, c Parkin, b	
Crayton	1	Ellis	2
J. Halstead, b Crayton	0	H. Stone, b Shaw	0
		M. Crayton, not out	2
Extras	10	Extras	5
Total	121	Total	91

The Club suffered transport problems in 1926 due to the General Strike.



Getting to and from matches proved extremely difficult .



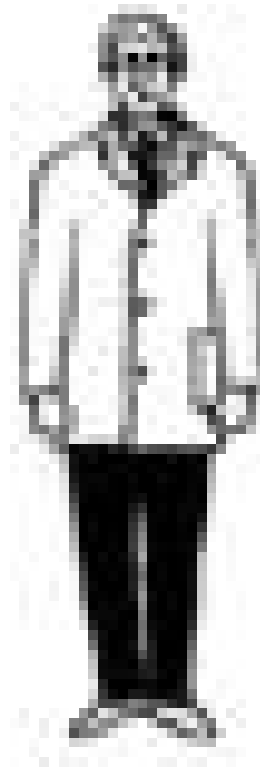
KICKING CONTROVERSY!

1932 – HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP FINAL

The Heavy Woollen Cup centenary brochure explained that the 1932 final between Thornhill and Birstall was a memorable struggle.

The umpire who had given out Thornhill's J. Halstead out lbw was *'limping and complaining that he had been kicked on the back of the leg'*.

The culprit, it seems, was not detected.

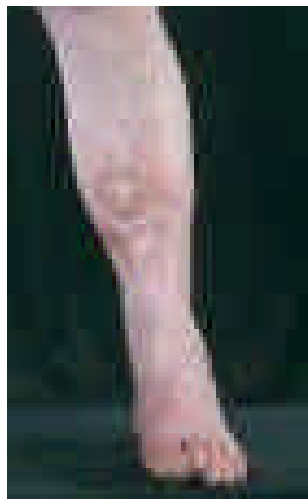


Birstall

J.Thurmand(c)	c.Riley	b.Halstead	9
G.W.Hirst		b.Shaw	22
V.Wilson	c.Senior	b.Halstead	63
G.F.Hazell		b.Halstead	3
C.Horne		b.Perkins	23
B.Holton		b.Halstead	21
L.Holton	c.Riley	b.Perkins	1
W.Goodall		run out	13
R.Stone		b.Perkins	8
J.Burke		b.Halstead	1
W.Cariss		not out	0
		Extras	<u>11</u>
			<u>175</u>

Thornhill

C.Peace	c.Wilson	b.B.Holton	15
F.Riley	c.Horne	b.Cariss	9
F.Speight	c.B.Holton	b.Cariss	7
H.Perkins		not out	58
J.Senior		b.Cariss	32
H.Macavoy(c)	st.Stone	b.Cariss	2
H.Shaw		run out	8
C.Wiper	c.Burke	b.B.Holton	15
E.Jubb	c.Thurmand	b.Cariss	1
H.Kaye		b.Cariss	0
J.Halstead	lbw	b.B.Holton	17
		Extras	<u>6</u>
			<u>171</u>



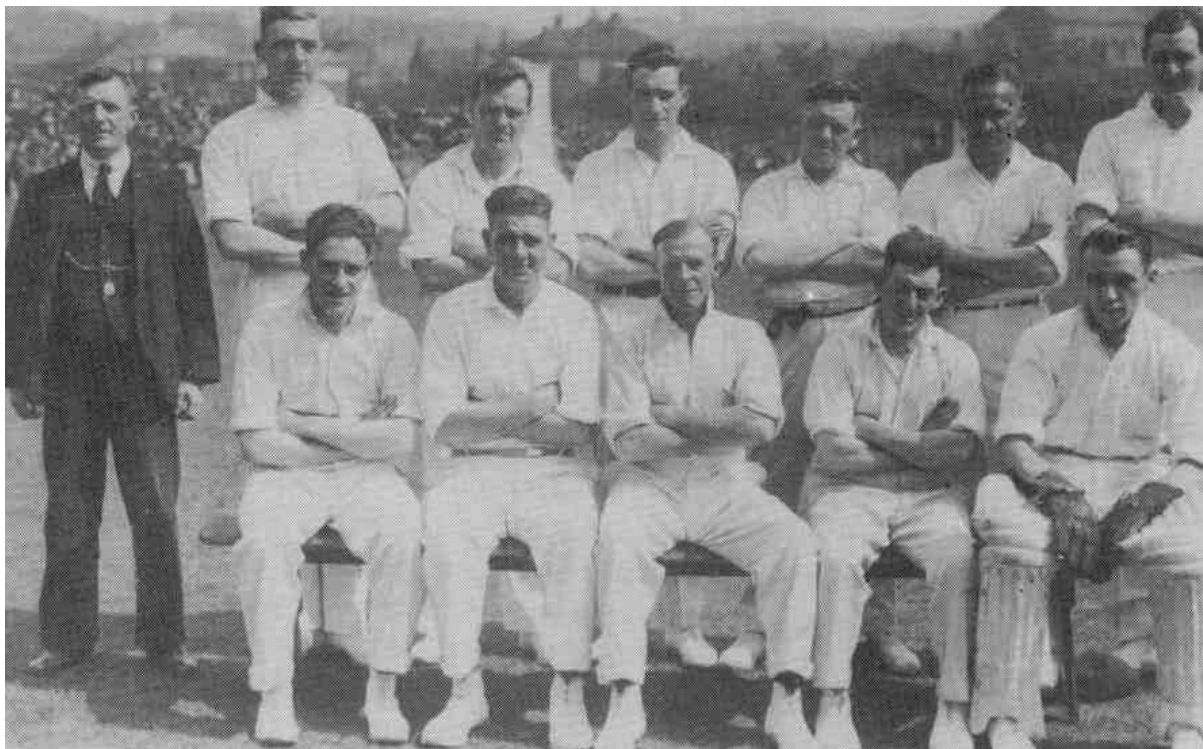
The 1932 incident also featured in the *Dewsbury Reporter*.

CUP PRESENTATION.

ALLEGED ATTACK ON UMPIRE.

At the close of the presentation it was noticed that Mr. G. Lovatt, of Liversedge, one of the umpires in the final, and the one whose decision dismissed Halstead 1bw, was limping towards the pavilion, and he complained of having been kicked at the back of the left leg. After receiving attention in the Birstall dressing room, where it was seen he had a bruise just below the knee, he was able to walk about with greater freedom and eventually a man was asked to go into the dressing room. He complied with the request, but denied all knowledge of the unfortunate incident. Mr. Lovatt accepted the man's word and the two shook hands at parting. There the matter ended, but it was a very unpleasant end to a fine day's sport.

The gate receipts amounted to £266 12s. 3d.



**Thornhill's 1932 Heavy Woollen Cup
final team**

- Can you name the gent in black?
- How many of the 11 Thornhill players do you recognise?
- What is the name of the wicketkeeper (front row, far right), for example?
- Was it one of these men who kicked the Liversedge-based umpire?

Scores

MORLEY

C. Ingham, b Burgin	30
B. Whitehead, c C. Peace, b Halstead	43
D. Price, b Burgin	0
J. M. Ingle, c R. Peace, b Burgin	20
J. Wright, c R. Peace, b Halstead	0
J. Parker, lbw, b Burgin	2
S. Brearey, b Burgin	1
J. Handley, b Burgin	0
F. Jackson, b Burgin	0
H. Hornby, retired hurt	0
Ret: H. M. Osborne, not out	1
Extras	7
Total	123

THORNHILL

C. Peace, not out	81
L. Halstead, c Ingle, b Osborne	20
S. Parker, run out	18
H. Perkins, lbw, b Jackson	1
C. Fawcett, hit wkt, b Jackson	0
A. Byrne, not out	11
Extras	12
Total: (for 4 wickets)	134



The heroes of 1942