

AROUND THE WICKET

with historian
Peter Davies

IN THE 1887 season, Cartworth locked horns with several other clubs - Holmbridge, Wooldale Free Church and Hepworth - home and away. Within a few years, their fixture list had expanded.

The club joined the Huddersfield & District Combination and the Huddersfield Association.

Cartworth Moor must have visited Lydgate on a particularly wet day in 1906. A ball, hit by one of the home batsmen, got lost in a swamp - inside the boundary! The umpire allowed all NINE of the runs which were subsequently scored to be added to the home total. This caused Cartworth Moor to write to the Huddersfield Cricket Association, asking for the match to be replayed.

The letter also enquired if 'the umpire was justified in giving Lydgate two runs for a ball that never went to the boundary, but struck a dog on the field of play'.

The committee decided that the nine runs recorded for the lost ball should count as six and that the Lydgate club should be asked to fence the swamp!

The club featured in the minutes of early Association meetings. For example:

12 August 1913 - 'Suggs' bat received in payment of advertisement was put up for auction and knocked down to Cartworth Moor for 8s.

21 September 1915 - That we pay Cartworth Moor sixpence for having the Lumb Cup box repaired.

As the *Holmfirth Express* noted, Cartworth Moor's first Tinker Cup success reflected the growing strength of the club in the 1930s.

It came in the sixth season of the competition, when Scholes were defeated in the final. The key to their success on the day was the bowling of A Kaye, who had been regarded as an occasional bowler despite taking seven wickets on two previous occasions that season.

He took six wickets for 20 runs, as Scholes were dismissed 83 short of their target.

The chief contribution to Cartworth Moor's 169 came from Swallow, who scored 55.

The final act of the victory occurred after, 'A Goddard and H Cartwright had assumed a "sticking" attitude. N Ramsden came on again, and a straight one from him finished the innings.'

The *Holmfirth Express* cricket correspondent had little doubt that Cartworth Moor would win the Lumb Cup in 1914. After the final, he reflected that:

'Cartworth Moor was an eleven which were going so strong that we had every confidence they would be in at the finish in the competition for the Lumb Cup... Their form was so consistent and their splendid all-round display led one to assume the role prophet with a quiet confidence.'

In the final, Woodhouse were defeated in a 'one-sided affair' at Armitage Bridge. After faring badly 'against those trundlers with cricket patronymics, S Jessop and Booth', Woodhouse were dismissed for 62.

In response 'the Mooramen' passed this total for the loss of just three wickets. In summary the *Express* correspondent said that 'Cartworth Moor have shown other clubs in the Holme Valley how to do things. Will these other clubs take the hint?'

CARTWORTH MOOR CC: the thirteenth in a fascinating series of cricket histories

The sky's the limit for lofty Cartworth



As the local newspaper put it: 'Some of the Cartworth Moor players should have medals enough soon to open a jeweller's shop. By virtue of their most recent victory over Moldgreen they qualified for yet another emblem of this character, and this evening, I understand, they will bring home the trophy of the Huddersfield Cricket Association.'

The club joined the Huddersfield Central League in 1920 and have remained there ever since.

Landmarks in the club's history include 1935 and 1959 when the Tinker Cup was won - and 1974, when Cartworth Moor clinched the Tinker Cup and Section C 'Double'.

Moor won the Tinker Cup in 1959... and the whole club seemed to be excited at the achievement. The hamlet was obviously very proud of their cup-winners.

Cartworth Moor is an isolated place, so when the local pub burnt down it was a tragedy.

For decades the Rising Sun - located diagonally opposite from the Gill Lane pavilion - had acted as the club's headquarters and, quite naturally, a close relationship had developed between club and pub.

Every Saturday afternoon, when the umpires signalled the end of the first innings, both sets of players would wander across to the hostelry for refreshments.

Likewise they would retire to the pub after the game - and committee meetings would also be held there.

There was snow on the ground when the fire occurred - and the local fire brigade took a long time arriving because of the hazardous road conditions.

Post-fire, a portable cabin was brought in to replace the old shed - and tea was served thereafter in this new facility.

Cartworth Moor celebrated their 100th anniversary in 1987. In the same year, Moor were promoted to Section 'B'.

Then, in April 1995 Cartworth Moor Cricket Club revealed that it was suffering from a big problem: a mole epidemic! Moor are not the only local cricket club to have been dogged by moles. Uppertong



have also had their fair share of tunnelling trouble.

Today, Cartworth Moor do not have any junior sides, but their 1st XI and 2nd XI continue to play in the Huddersfield Central League.

And their high-altitude ground, Gill Lane, stands as one of the most remarkable and extraordinary cricketing venues in this part of the country.

● CONTACT: Readers are asked to contact Peter Davies on 01484-472405 or via p.j.davies@hud.ac.uk if they have any more photos or information relating to local cricket history.



□ EARLY SPORTSMEN:

Cartworth Moor CC in the 1905 season. Left: the legendary Dougie Thorpe, whose career started in 1937 at the age of 11. After playing for Holmfirth and Holmbridge, he was still turning out for Cartworth 2nd XI aged 80! Below: a line-up from the early 1970s.