

1960s - A Galaxy of Stars

Six international cricketers represented Golcar in the Huddersfield League between 1963 and 1965.

The club had signed the Derbyshire bowling all-rounder Peter Eyre as professional but were forced to seek replacements when he was required by the county.

These substitute professionals included Jim Cumbes of Lancashire. He later played for Worcestershire and professional football for Aston Villa and West Bromwich Albion amongst others. Most recently, he has been chief executive at Lancashire County Cricket Club.

They also included three English and three West Indian cricketers who had or would go on to play for their countries. The Englishmen were Lancashire leg-spinner Tommy Greenhough and fast bowler Peter Lever, and the Derbyshire fast bowler Harold Rhodes. The West Indians, all pro'ing in the Lancashire Leagues at the time, were spinner Sonny Ramadhin and pace men Chester Watson and Roy Gilchrist.

In 1963 Ramadhin was devastating. In four matches for Golcar he took 27 wickets for 92 runs and he and Watson bowled Golcar to the Sykes Cup final. In the first round Ramadhin took 5 for 27 as Almondbury were bowled out for 68. In round 2 Watson demolished Primrose Hill with 7 for 46. Golcar looked doomed in the semi-final defending a meagre 92 all out, but Ramadhin's 9 for 19 skittled Holmfirth for 54. Unfortunately, neither Ramadhin nor Watson was available for the final which Paddock won by 7 wickets.

Golcar's league match against Paddock on 19 May 1964 featured probably the most enticing professional confrontation the Huddersfield League has ever seen. The Paddock professional was cricket's greatest all-rounder, Gary Sobers, and Golcar had hired the services of that ruthless terrorist of league batsmen Roy Gilchrist for the day. Honours between the pros ended even. Sobers hit 62 of Paddock's 150 all out, whilst Gilchrist took 7 for 59.