

We're Going to Barbados!

Golcar Cricket club first toured Barbados prior to the 1992 season.

A link was made with the North Stars club who arranged a six match tour around the northern part of the island.

Whilst there the party met former Worcestershire and Barbados fast bowler Hartley Alleyne. Hartley had considerable experience of league cricket in northern England, having helped Haslingden to two Lancashire League titles between 1983 and 86 and also played for Colne and Walsden, amongst others. Married to a Todmorden girl, Hartley was planning to return to England as an 'overseas amateur' for Walsden in 1993 but was persuaded to play as Golcar's professional instead.

With Hartley's assistance, Golcar's visits to Barbados became bi-annual affairs. The club has enjoyed the privilege of playing against some of the island's best cricketers, including Collis King and Franklyn Stephenson.

The North Stars club is thriving and their ground is now used for first class cricket. In 2004 the club had the honour of hosting the final of the Carib Trophy.

Golcar's links with the island were further strengthened when Hartley Alleyne brought a team from Barbados to play a friendly match at Golcar in 2004.

The club's international connections have been extended by Atul Bedade, Golcar's Indian professional from 1999 to 2004. Through him several Indian touring teams have played friendly matches at the ground.