

The Great Matches

Golcar v Huddersfield Wanderers 26 September 1903

This end-of-season match was arranged to celebrate Golcar's success in winning the Huddersfield League.

Golcar had lost just once in 26 matches that season, winning 13 and drawing 12. Professional Peter Hall, in the last of his 8 seasons at the club, had led from the front with 99 wickets at 7.10 each. Hall had signed for Burnley in the Lancashire League where he would play for the next two years.

The match against the Wanderers was his farewell appearance at the club. With George Hirst, Wilfred Rhodes and Schofield Haigh in the opposition it was also his most glamorous and challenging.

The Wanderers batted first and made 138 for 6, Hirst top scoring with 58 not out, Rhodes making 44 and Haigh failing to trouble the scorers.

The trio then set to work on the Golcar batsmen. Haigh (4 for 22) and Rhodes (4 for 17) broke the back of the innings before Hirst (2 for 1) cleaned up the tail. Golcar were all out for 44 in 22.1 overs, but the day was hailed a success. A huge crowd provided a healthy gate and enjoyed teas which were specially provided at the National School.

Despite the defeat, it was a fitting occasion for Golcar to say goodbye to one of its longest serving and best professionals.

The Huddersfield Wanderers team included Wilfred Rhodes, George Hirst and Schofield Haigh and we have a photograph of this team taken in front of the old pavilion at Golcar. The match itself needs to be researched in the papers of the time.

Early October 1905 Golcar v Lascelles Hall

In 1905 Golcar, Paddock and Lascelles Hall finished level at the top of the Huddersfield League. On 30 September Golcar beat Paddock in an 'eliminator' to set up a final with Lascelles Hall.

Lascelles Hall were bowled out for 94, W Lancaster taking 6 for 27, and Golcar knocked off the runs comfortably, finishing on 102 for 3. Captain G Wood made 50 not out.

The Golcar team was: G Wood (captain), D Hartley, JA Meal, A Milnes, H Pearson, A Hinchcliffe, C Beaumont, W Lancaster, T Jones, A Pogson and F Sykes.

On their return the players were greeted by crowds who lined the streets around the district. Travelling by char-a-banc they were met at the Warner House Inn. From there preceded by the Scapegoat Hill Brass Band, they toured Milnsbridge, Leymoor, Town End and Church Street before retiring to celebrate at the Junction Inn.

1945

Golcar v Almondbury (Sykes Cup round 2)

This match was the first tie in the Sykes Cup, both sides being bowled out for 85. Almondbury won the replay.

1949

Golcar v Holmfirth

This match is famous for a remarkable recovery as Golcar's innings was rescued from the depths of 78 for 8 by number 10 P Shaw who hit 88, raising the total to 233 all out.

2002

Golcar v Hall Bower (Sykes Cup)

In this match Golcar professional and former Indian one-day international Atul Bedade struck an unbeaten 234, at the time a Sykes Cup record. 178 of his runs came in boundaries – 19 fours and 17 sixes. Bedade shared a league record 9th wicket stand of 162 with number 10 batsman Richard Hall whose share was 17!