

GOLCAR CC

Top Trivia

In the first season of the Huddersfield and District League, 1891, Golcar had the league's leading batsman and bowler. Tommy Ashton hit 525 runs and professional P Pullan took 86 wickets at 6.79 each. Ashton played at Golcar for 28 seasons. His highest score was 121 against Paddock in 1903.

Golcar has never won a knockout cup outright, losing the Schweppes Cup final in 1934, Sykes Cup finals in 1939 and 1963 and the Yorkshire Champion of Champions final in 1982.

Golcar has twice been involved in a triple tie for the Huddersfield League championship, in 1905 when the club triumphed over Paddock and Lascelles Hall in the play-offs, and in 1910 with Slaithwaite and eventual champions Holmfirth.

In 1944 Golcar was involved in the first ever tie in the Sykes Cup when their second round match against Almondbury ended with both sides bowled out for 85. Almondbury won the replay.

How national and international events can impact on a club! Compare Golcar's cash assets and payments made for 1930 and 1931. By 1931 the depression which followed the Wall Street Crash of 1929 had kicked in.

	Cash Assets	Payments Made
1930	£754 6s 0d	£586 1s 11d
1931	£169 9s 10d	£73 16s 0d

Between 1951 and 1957 Golcar CC paid off all its debts and accumulated a bank balance of £1000. President George Thorpe kept a rigid control on expenditure and allowed no professionals to be paid. Treasurer N Hanson once commented 'I might be Chancellor o'th' Exchequer, but I've nowt to chancel !'

Practice was so keenly attended in the 1920s that only players selected for the following weekend were allowed to use the nets on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Practice included plenty of fielding and rolling !

On 20 July 1929, Mr Quarmby a Golcar tailor promised a new suit to the highest scorer in the Golcar team, providing they won their Sykes Cup tie at Lockwood. Joe Pearson had 'justifiable visions of a suit' when he hit 90 of Golcar's 305 all out, but Lockwood knocked off the runs for five wickets and Joe's wardrobe went unsupplemented.

No regular Sunday sport was sanctioned on the Golcar ground until bowls was allowed in 1944. The committee did not vote for Sunday cricket until 1965, so it is a surprise to find a cricket match being played before a capacity crowd on a Sunday before the war. The occasion was a benefit match for Leonard Hutton, and the prospect of seeing the county stars attracted a gate of £200.

In 1926, faced with the prospect of a General Strike, the Golcar Committee met to consider the possibility that professional GC Elton from York would be unable to play. They initially decided to play without a professional, but when the strike was called they agreed to provide Mr Elton's expenses plus broken time payments.

Talent Money in 1928 was:

5 shillings for:

50 runs
6 wickets
a hat-trick

2 shillings and 6 pence for:

30 runs
5 wickets for 30 runs or fewer
3 catches or stumpings

Exceptions were players who had not paid their subscriptions and juniors, who received 'half rates'.

On 25 November 1928 the club held a fund-raising 'Sacred Concert' of psalms and hymns at the unlikely venue of the 'Alhambra Picture Palace'.

In the 1930s, Golcar Cricket Club assisted with the benefits of several Yorkshire players. These included a benefit match for Maurice Leyland in 1934 which raised £46 18s 6d, one for Arthur Mitchell in 1937 which raised £26 3s 3d. and one for Leonard Hutton in 1939 which raised over £200. In 1935 the club raffled four bats in aid of Herbert Sutcliffe's benefit.

In 1937 it was agreed with Paddock to 'pool' the gates of the Whitsuntide matches, played home and away over the weekend, as insurance for both clubs in case of bad weather. Both second and first eleven matches were played on the same ground on the same day, the second elevens starting at 9.45am with the first eleven match to follow on its conclusion.