

**HONLEY'S JOURNEY THROUGH THE LEAGUES**



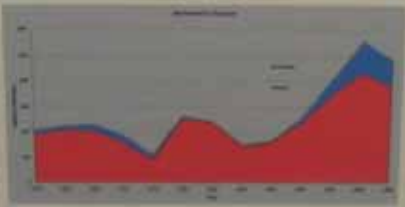
1886: Founder members of Huddersfield & District Cricket Association.  
 1893-4: Huddersfield & District Cricket Association Alliance League  
 1894: Present Day: Join Huddersfield & District Cricket League



Harry Hooley - 1886, second left - founder of Honley Club

**WOMEN'S LIB!**

1939-45 - FEMALE MEMBERSHIP



After their immense contribution to the national war effort 1939-45, women became increasingly more prominent in many areas of society following the end of the Second World War.

This is demonstrated by the proportional growth in Honley Cricket Club's female membership between 1939 and 1955. The amount of 'lib' clearly increases after 1944-5.

**THE STORY OF HONLEY CRICKET CLUB**



**PRESTIGE & PAGODA**



A 1921 side XI - note the short cricketing equipment

**TOWARDS RESPECTABILITY**

1. The 'Feast Ground'

As Mary Jagger recounts: "Previous to the George and Dragon Inn being converted into a Working Men's Club, there was a spacious field behind the Public House which is now covered by buildings and scored by roads."

This was the first piece of land on which cricket was played in Honley. But, as Jagger goes on to say, some time in the 1820s or 1830s the land could no longer be used for cricket after the landlord of the "George and Dragon" Inn constructed the reservoir out of this field and those adjoining."

2. Northgate Mount

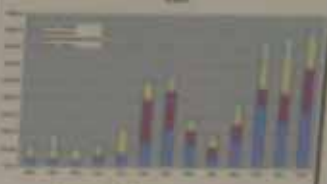
After losing their original field, Honley's cricketers were fortunate to find a benefactor living at the local County House. Consequently, as Mary Jagger says, upon the offer of a lease from the manor, they migrated to a large and elevated field behind Northgate Mount played at their disposal by Mr. William Brooks. Here the Club continued to flourish for a long time, until the present spacious ground was secured by Mr. Brooke and other subscribers."



3. Far End Lane

**MONEY, MONEY**

MEMBERS - CHANGING FINANCIAL FORTUNES



88 years of increasing cricket

This graph shows clearly how the installation of the pavilion in 1921, grounded a massive boost to the Club's financial performance. Its immediate effect was to more than double the revenue at Far End. Both were also had a major financial impact upon the Club. In each case a slump, due to wartime conditions, has been countered by a period of significant growth, which reflected the optimism generated by a return to peacetime.



This squad almost won two trophies but lost out at Northgate in the final of the Sussex Cup

quote unquote



"One of the best cricket clubs in the neighbourhood... With its picturesque pavilion, the cricket field is not only one of the largest cricket fields in the neighbourhood, but one of the old beauty spots still left among us... It has had its bright and dark days, ups and downs, trials and tribulations. When the club has been meeting highest honours, I have seen large and enthusiastic crowds line the field. If a member made a false step in a heavily contested struggle, the air has suddenly become highly charged with exciting criticism, both sides having committed that they could have played the match much better."

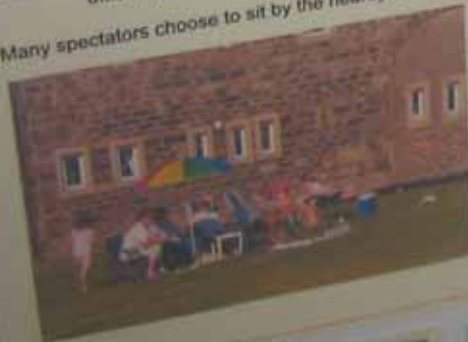
(Mrs. Jagger, Memoirs of Honley, 1924)





It is not just the pavilion building that gives the ground a distinguished look. A pair of splendid green iron gates greets visitors as they approach the main entrance - dedicated to the memory of veteran club member Bill Dransfield - and officially opened on 7 July 1984.

Many spectators choose to sit by the nearby cottages.



1984-85 Honley Cricket Club 1st XI. Back row: J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield. Front row: J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield, J. Dransfield.

## quote unquote



*"Honley have probably not won the Sykes Cup as often as they should have in relation to their appearances in the final."*

Taken from the *Bradford Huddersfield & District League Centenary Review* (1997)

## THE STORY OF HONLEY CRICKET CLUB



## PRESTIGE & PAGODA

## GEORGE F. THORNTON



**KNIGHT OF  
HONOUR**  
G. F. Thornton

George Thornton played for Honley, Wakefield and Metham but spent 20+ decades at Teston

## RICHARD HIRST



Richard Hirst began his association with Honley Cricket Club as a player in 1958. He played in 1960 as a player and in 1970 when he was a member of the Yorkshire County team. After his playing days ended in 1970, Hirst continued to serve the Club. In 1975, he was named as a Knight of Honour. He has also served as a trustee and was on the ground committee before his untimely death in 2003. Hirst also served as a trustee and was on the ground committee before his untimely death in 2003. Hirst also served as a trustee and was on the ground committee before his untimely death in 2003.



## BEARS & BEATINGS!

### 5 FACTS ABOUT HONLEY

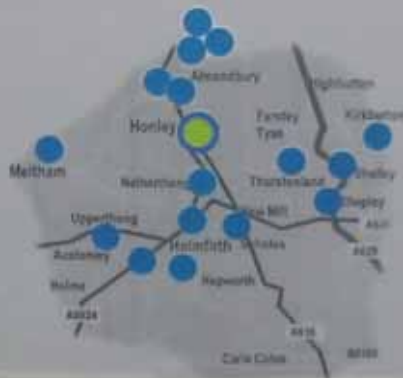
1. In 1570 Sir Robert Stapilton (Lord of the Manor) was fined so heavily for avoiding taxes that he was forced to sell his estates in Honley.
2. The winter of 1634-5 was so cold that the corpse of one Mannaduke Pepper could not reach Almondbury Parish Church for burial and had to be detained at Honley for a while!
3. 'Pitching' is an old custom in Honley. When a boy wished to court a girl in another village, he had to pay for a pitcher of ale for the locals, if he didn't he was beaten.



4. King George V and Queen Mary visited the village in July 1912; they took tea at Northgate Mount with Mr and Mrs Brooke.
5. In January 1951 Tasha the Bear escaped from her cage in Hope Bank. Failed attempts were made to persuade her to return but as darkness approached she had to be shot.



## MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF OTHER EXISTING CRICKET CLUBS NEAR HONLEY



## VILLAGE OF 600 PEOPLE

### KEY DATES IN THE HISTORY OF HONLEY BEFORE THE CRICKET CLUB WAS FORMED

- 1086 'Harlesax' mentioned in the Domesday Book
- 1503 Chapel-of-ease established
- 1660 Population of 600
- 1789 St. Mary's Church secured the consecration of its own churchyard.
- 1805 A vigilante group set up in Honley to deal with the drunk and disorderly
- 1806 First Methodist Chapel built - Green CM.



- 1911 Census shows that the population in Honley is 2,018 made up of 1,491 males and 1,427 females
- 1821 Census shows population in Honley = 3,551
- 1823 G. Drake & Son, Corn Merchants established
- 1831 Census shows Honley population = 4,525
- 1841 Census shows Honley population = 5280. There were 1,100 houses in Honley. One house in this was home to five families. Average age = 28.

### FOR SALE

Property for sale in the village of Honley. The property is a large stone building with a gabled roof and a chimney. It is situated in a quiet residential area and is available for sale. For more information, please contact the estate agent.

# QUIZ!



1921: Back row: H. Wilson, E. Gurney, H. Brown, F. ...  
Front row: H. ...

## They Play On League's Biggest Ground



Can you help us identify in which year, or decade, these photos were taken?  
Email us on 01474 254242 or 01474 254243



### MAP SHOWING THE LOCATION OF KEY CRICKETING LANDMARKS IN HONLEY

- Honley's current ground at Far End Lane
- Honley's previous grounds
  - Westgate ('Fast Ground')
  - Northgate Mount
- Honley cricketers' favourite watering-holes (2001)
- Honley Wanderers' new ground (opened 1902)

