

**AROUND THE WICKET**  
with historian Peter Davies

LINTHWAITE CRICKET CLUB: the fifth in a fascinating series of cricket histories

# Triumph of spirit and determination

**I**N 1873 the New Inn was the setting for the meeting that would lead to the formation of Linthwaite Cricket Club.

The founders appear to have been Fred Schofield, Dan Hirst, F.W. Lewis, Josiah Lockwood, Joshua Booth, Edward Schofield, Tom Schofield, Joe Whiteley, J.W. Knight, Enoch Smith, Fred Shaw (Causeway Side), Fred Shaw (Lane Top), J.H. Parkin, Randolph Dalton and G.H. Lockwood.

At first, Linthwaite played on a field at Crack Hill, but in 1876 moved to their present headquarters. On 30 October 1876 a ground rent was agreed: the club would pay £7 per year to John Schofield.

Soon after, on 20 November, an area of turf (40 x 30 yards) was laid thanks to George Telford, a local man, at a cost of £18.

The club employed a professional player for the first time in 1882. He was Joe Redfearn of Lascelles Hall. He earned 8/- per Saturday appearance and 2/6 per coaching session. Redfearn went on to play one first-class match for Yorkshire, against Surrey at Bramall Lane, in 1890.

Linthwaite CC were one of the ten original members of the Huddersfield and District Cricket League. They have had continuous membership since 1899 and scooped their first league title in 1909.

**T**he Huddersfield & District League was founded by Golcar man Arthur Shaw in 1892. Linfit's triumph came 17 years after the League had been founded.

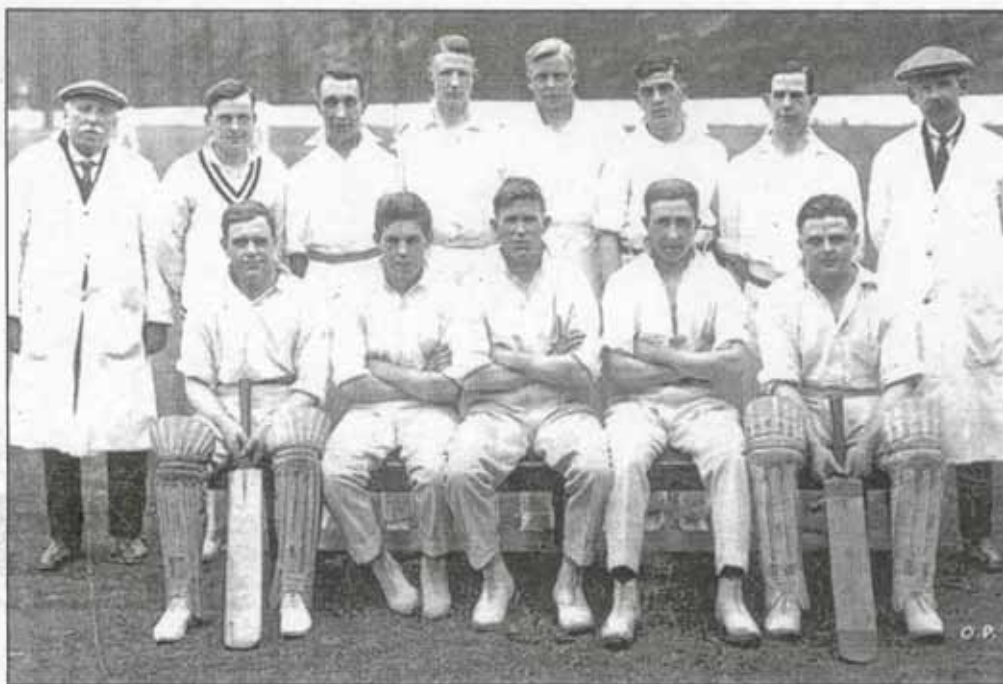
From 1917 to 1920 inclusive, Linthwaite won the league championship three times and were runners-up once. They had also been a force to be reckoned with in earlier times.

Many splendid cricketers were associated with Linthwaite in this period, most notably the Shaw family and 'Bill' Ellis.

In September 1917 Joe Jebson captained Linthwaite to victory over league leaders Slaithwaite in order to take the Huddersfield and District League title. Slaithwaite were previously undefeated in the league, and Linthwaite battled through semi-final and final tie play-offs in order to become league champions.

**I**n a league title-deciding match against Kirkburton, at Paddock in 1920, Linthwaite scored a massive 495. George Knight (104) and H. Iredale (58) put on over 100 for the first wicket, and Joe Jebson (77) and 'Jimmy' Pearson added 140 for the last wicket.

Linthwaite were Section B champions in 1941. It was a doubly significant year, for the club was also able to purchase its Manchester Road HQ off the Radcliffe Estate.



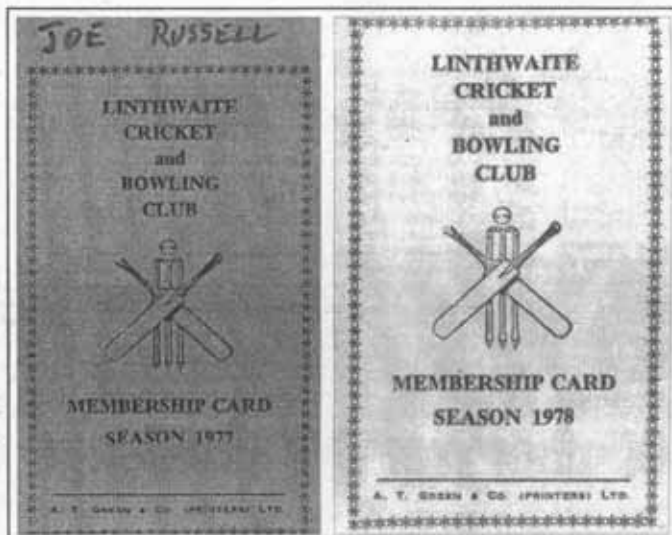
**□ TEAM LINE-UP:** Linthwaite Cricket Club. The photograph dates from 1929 — note the distinguished-looking club umpires

Linthwaite won the Sykes Cup for the first time on 8 August 1942, beating Thongsbridge in the final at Fartown. Stanley Brown had an incredible run of scores in the final stages of the 1942 competition, which ultimately saw him awarded a trophy for the highest batting average.

**I**n the immediate post-war years, a group of club members set to work on building the wall that now surrounds the ground. In 1951 an informed observer described Linthwaite as a 'hotbed' of local league cricket.

Between 1969 and 1979, there were dark days for the club, with Linthwaite having to

**□ TAKING TO THE FIELD:** The Linthwaite players come out at Fartown for the 1950 Sykes Cup final. They lost to Elland on this occasion but, after their victory against Thongsbridge in 1942, they did win the trophy again in 1956. Pictured right are two membership cards and fixtures lists dating from the 1970s



apply for re-election to Section B of the Huddersfield League on eight occasions.

**A**fter propping up the other 23 clubs in the Huddersfield & District League for five successive seasons, Linthwaite achieved a rare mid-table position in 1978, thanks in no small measure to the help of Yorkshire county stalwart Barrie Leadbester, one of the best opening batsmen in the country.

In 1986 a cricket match was staged at Linthwaite between a Yorkshire XI and an Australian XI, in an attempt to raise £13,000 to complete work on a new clubhouse.

Today, Linthwaite are indebted to a willing band of club officials, including many women — Hilary Holmes, for example, is the current club secretary.

●Readers are asked to contact Peter Davies on 01484 472405 or via [pj.davies@hud.ac.uk](mailto:pj.davies@hud.ac.uk) if they have any more photos or information relating to local cricket history.

