

# PADDOCK PEOPLE

## Wright Jessop

Wright Jessop came from Kirkheaton and was a contemporary of George Herbert Hirst and Wilfred Rhodes. He arrived in Paddock to become landlord of the Commercial Hotel.



A natural all-rounder he batted with great style, was a useful bowler, a magnificent slip fielder and most memorably a colourful character. While batting he would clear the boundary with a particular shot and then run to the side of the field to see how far the ball had gone!

# Herbert Robinson



Upon his death at the age of 82, the *Huddersfield Examiner* described Herbert Robinson as ‘*an outstanding worker for Huddersfield League cricket and one of the game’s best known personalities.*’

He began his career with Paddock when just 12 years old, and played in the Club’s victorious Sykes Cup side of 1923. After a spell in the Bradford League, which included three Championship successes with Brighouse, he returned to Paddock and played in the ‘Double’ winning team of 1937. He later became President of both Paddock Cricket Club and the Huddersfield League, and also wrote a regular column in the ‘*Examiner*’ under the pseudonym ‘Cryc’.

# Percy Holmes



**Although he was born in Oakes, and first played cricket at Oakes Council School, it was as a Paddock player that Percy Holmes first emerged as a cricketer of note. In 1911, just two years before his Yorkshire debut, he won the Huddersfield League batting prize while plying for the Club, with a batting average of 32.26.**

**Over the next 20 years he scored 30,573 first-class runs at an average of 42.11. For much of this time, of course, he formed a legendary opening partnership with Herbert Sutcliffe. He was Wisden Cricketer of the Year in 1920, but, remarkably, played in only 7 Test Matches for England.**

# Gary Sobers



## Gary Sobers playing as deputy professional for Paddock in 1962

Although Gary Sobers only played in two matches for Paddock, they came in the early 1960s when he was at the peak of his remarkable career. At the time the *Huddersfield Examiner* described him as *'lean, lithe and elegant. A natural cricketer if ever there was one, and surely the greatest all rounder in the world today.'*

In 1964 he stood in for David Milner, who was away playing for Derbyshire, in a match against Golcar. This placed Sobers in a head-to-head tussle with fellow West Indian international, fast bowler Roy Gilchrist. Honours ended even as Sobers scored 62 and took 2 for 39, while Gilchrist's figures were 7 for 59 as Paddock got the best of a drawn match.

# Willy Watson

Right from his early years as a schoolboy at Paddock, Willie Watson seemed destined to play first-class cricket. He scored runs freely for the Club as a teenager before making his Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI debut as a 17-year-old. By 1939 he was making his 1<sup>st</sup> XI debut at the age of 19.



**Willie Watson in the 1937 Byrom Shield- and Sykes Cup-winning team**

Watson made 13,953 runs for Yorkshire before moving on to Leicestershire in 1958. By the time he retired in 1964, his tally of first-class runs had reached 25,670 at an average of 39.86. He also played in 23 Test Matches for England, between 1951 and 1959, scoring two centuries and three half-centuries.



**Willie Watson is also remembered as one of a select band of 'dual' football and cricket internationals. He played four times for England at football and was released by Yorkshire to travel to Brazil with the World Cup squad in 1950.**

# **Chris Balderstone**

**Chris Balderstone began his career as a schoolboy with Paddock and, like Willie Watson, went on to play both cricket and football as a professional.**



**He was selected for Yorkshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI in 1960, as a left-arm slow bowler, and by 1961 had progressed into the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. Limited opportunities saw him sign for Leicestershire in 1971 where his career blossomed. He made two appearances for England, both in 1976, before retiring in 1986 to take up a position on the first-class umpires list. He scored 19,034 runs and took 310 wickets in first-class cricket.**



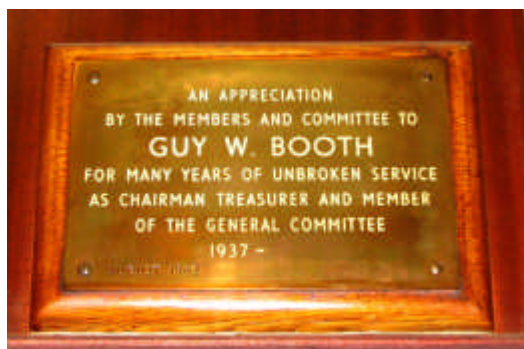
**Sadly, Chris Balderstone died in 2000 at the age 59.**

# Sam Livesey



**Sam Livesey was a stalwart of the Club in its formative years. His devotion to Paddock caused Herbert Robinson to remark, in the Paddock CC centenary brochure, *'I make no apology for mentioning, in the second part of the Club's history, the part played by Sam Livesey. His loyalty remained as steadfast as ever and I am delighted in the fact that he lived to see the day when his beloved Paddock was again a power in the League.'***

# **Guy W. Booth**



**From 1937, Guy Booth served the Club in a number of capacities for many years. His work was recognised in 1962 with a plaque in the clubhouse which was dedicated to his many years of unbroken service as Chairman, Treasurer and member of the General Committee.**

# **Mansoor Akhtar**



**The signing of Mansoor Akhtar caused quite a stir in 1985. But the Pakistan international proved his worth to the Club by winning the Huddersfield League batting prize.**