

HILL TOP HEROES

Tom Wood

According to the *Huddersfield Examiner* series '*King Willows Haunts*', published in 1932, Tom Wood was the '*principal figure*' in negotiations to obtain the Hill Top ground in 1881 when '*he did more than any other man to procure for Slaithwaite the ground they at present have.*'



He also led the way when funds needed to be raised for the new club rooms which were built in 1901. On this occasion a loan was issued in £1 shares and of the 112 sold Tom Wood bought 50. It was a great loss to the Club when he died in 1903.

Harry Wallace

According to 'King Willows Haunts' *'what might be termed Slaithwaite's "Golden Age" is closely linked up with who was their professional from 1910 to 1915.'*

Described as a *'left arm fast bowler and very serviceable bat'* in 1932, Wallace was *'commonly reckoned to be one of the finest professional cricketers the Huddersfield League ever had.'* During his five years at Slaithwaite three league titles were secured. He scored 2,241 runs for the Club at an average of 24.35.



Roger Clarkson

LEADING BOWLING AVERAGES 1972 (All Matches)

	O.	M.	R.	W.	Ave.
R. Clarkson, Slaithwaite (P) ..	323.3	116	582	66	8.82
L. Davis, Marsden	250.2	74	532	60	8.85
P. Dibb, Siepley (P)	238.5	60	528	57	9.26

Roger Clarkson was Club professional from 1971 until 1975. His 66 wickets at an average of 8.82 were pivotal as Slaithwaite won the Section 'B' title in 1972. He took a total of 338 wickets for the Club at an average of 11.09.

Harry Eagland



Harry Eagland was a star player in the late nineteenth century. In 1899 he won the Huddersfield League batting prize with an average of 43.1 which was remarkably high for the time. Alongside his brothers, Will and Tom, who scored 108, he appeared in the 1892 Lumb Cup-winning side. Tom scored 108 as Primrose Hill were beaten in the final.

Charlie Moxon



Charlie Moxon opened the bowling for Slaithwaite in the 1950s and 1960s. He played as an amateur and mostly bowled alongside the Club professional who was given the more responsive end. However, his record is still one of a quality performer. He took 455 wickets for the Club at an average of 14.45.

E. Hutchinson



Previously at Scarborough, E. Hutchinson was professional at Slaithwaite for three seasons. In 1928 he took 99 wickets at 8.06; 1929, 119 wickets at 10.16; and in 1930 79 wickets at 12.91.

His performance in 1929 set a new league record for the number of wickets taken in one season and he was presented by the club with a gold cigarette case. In all, he took 297 wickets for the Club at an average of 10.19.

George Dawson



George Dawson was a wicketkeeper-batsman who started his career with Slaithwaite in the 1920s. In 171 innings he scored 2,088 runs at an average of 14.40, before moving on to become a professional with clubs such as Holmfirth and Meltham.

Tom Walker



Tom Walker, one of Slaithwaite's leading players in the 1930s, joined the Fleet Air Arm in 1942. By 1944 he was stationed in South Africa, from where he wrote *'an interesting letter about his cricketing experiences'* which was featured in the *Huddersfield Examiner*.

He played in a four-division league for a team called 'Alma', which included four Currie Cup players, one of whom, George Georgem, had scored 97 against the previous Australian touring team. In his first match Walker scored 75 and, after scoring 315 runs in 9 completed innings, was selected to play with the South African Navy team.

CRICKET IN
SOUTH AFRICA
INTERESTING LETTER
FROM TOM WALKER

L.A. ~~F~~ Tom Walker, Royal Navy, who before he joined up was captain of Slaithwaite cricket team, has written an interesting letter about his cricketing experiences in South Africa to Mr. Fred Bailey, secretary of the Cricket Club's comforts fund, in thanking him for gifts received.

Compared to the Huddersfield League, he explained, *'distances out here are no object'* with trips of 700 miles fairly common. The report ended with the following description of the grounds in South Africa:

'Jack Hobbs once described Newlands as the prettiest and finest ground he has ever played on, and I quite agree with him. There are lots of other fine grounds including ours at 'Alma', which is about half as big again as Slaithwaite's. The grounds out here are very hard and fast, and by jove it does get hot.'

Tom Walker resumed his career at Slaithwaite after the War. In total he scored 7,261 runs for the Club at an average of 23.71.

Steven Hirst & Hedley Dawson Dawson



Steven Hirst, far right and Hedley Dawson, far left, are pictured here enjoying the 1991 Sykes Cup success.

Hedley Dawson scored 4,080 runs for the Club in the 1950s and 1960s before serving as both Club and Huddersfield League secretary.

Steven Hirst played for the Club before becoming Chairman. He then played a major role as Slaithwaite once again became a leading force in Huddersfield cricket.

Steve Mace



Steve Mace first arrived in Slaithwaite from New South Wales in 1989. He was an immediate success and after scoring 1,031 runs and taking 31 wickets, returned for four more seasons as the Club's overseas professional.

He scored over 1,000 runs in each of his first three seasons and became so popular in the town he was regarded as an honorary 'Slawiter'. Mace starred in the 1991 Sykes Cup final, scoring 75 as the Club won the trophy for the first time since 1946. He scored 4,837 runs for Slaithwaite in five seasons, averaging 42.43.