

In 1961 tickets for the Sykes Cup Final were sold before the match day for the first time.

The League received a most pleasing letter from George Waites, who had acted as professional at Slaithwaite, Shepley and Lascelles Hall. He was leaving Yorkshire to take up an appointment in Scotland, but he thought he ought to say that his days in the Huddersfield League had been the happiest in a long career.

In 1963 the Junior League joined the Joe Lumb Cup competition. Also in this year the second eleven middle Saturday holiday fixture began to be played mid-week before the holiday, and for the first time the Paddock Shield final was played on the ground of one of the competing clubs.

After discussions with the Umpires' Association it was agreed that umpires should be graded.

The League was admitted as a member of the League Cricket Conference. Conference was a strong body and had a lot of influence at Lord's when league matters were under discussion.

The administrative side of the game had a calm spell in the 1960s. In 1964 the only item worth noting was the decision that annual meeting voting should be carried out by a postal vote from club secretaries.

In 1965 it was decided that the Sykes Cup and Paddock Shield finals should be played on different days. This was also the first year of official Sunday cricket.

There was something of a shock when the League received an income tax demand for £133. After appeal this was reduced to £51-10s-9d.

Accusations were made by some club officials that illegal payments were being made to so-called amateur players. These accusations had gained some Press publicity which resulted in a long discussion at a League meeting. People making these insinuations were asked to provide some examples which the League would gladly investigate.

It was resolved that a player wishing to transfer from one club to another must sign a transfer form.

In 1966 the Sykes Cup final was played on a Sunday due to the World Cup soccer final being held on the normal Saturday.

From the very beginning of the League, the dates and times of all meetings had been notified by postcard to all officials and committee members. As most meetings were held on regular days and postal costs were rising the procedure was scrapped — not without some harsh words.

When the Huddersfield Borough Council began their research into the Sports Centre project the League was asked to become involved in the discussions when cricket facilities were decided.

In 1966 the first two Saturday matches were abandoned before the weekend. The Bradley Mills club had another problem as their field was flooded for several weeks.

Sunday cricket was now becoming universally popular. Not without misgivings from some quarters, it was agreed that the Sykes Cup final should be played on a Sunday as a regular fixture from 1968 onwards.

Life was not easy off the field in 1968. A minute was recorded that "beef should be on the menu at the League Dinner, but if the foot and mouth disease epidemic prevented this, turkey should be the replacement". Almost like an 1892 minute.

It was alleged that Primrose Hill had played two ineligible players in a match against Marsden. The Primrose Hill representative made an unreserved apology and said how sorry he was, the more so because if the two players in question had not played, his team would probably have won.

The May meeting of the League Council was held at Huddersfield Town Hall as the normal meeting rooms were unavailable.

A League meeting had fixed an admission fee of one shilling for the second round matches of the Sykes Cup competition. Four clubs made a charge of two shillings. Broad Oak, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton and Lascelles Hall said they thought that the one shilling was only a recommendation. The arguments

went on for several meetings with the four clubs adamant that they would not return half their "gate" money to the League.

Eventually a proposition was carried that unless the monies were forthcoming by the end of the following month the clubs would be expelled from the League. They paid.

In 1969 a new format was tried for the League Handbook in an attempt to make it commercially viable. It was not a success and after a trial period of three years the League reverted to the original format.

Several clubs had superior performances in the sixties. Thongsbridge started the decade by securing the League and Cup double in 1960. Holmfirth repeated the feat in 1969. Lascelles Hall, Sykes Cup winners twice, Champions once and runners-up once, were always conspicuous.

But the team to really give a good account of themselves was Paddock. Starting the decade in Division "B", they were champions when gaining promotion in 1962. Then they became "A" Division champions in 1964 and 1965 and winners of the Sykes Cup in 1963, 1967 and 1968.

Kirkburton always, or nearly always, the bridesmaid, managed to win the Sykes Cup, were runners-up in the League twice and usually looked capable of winning something with their accent always being on attractive cricket. Huddersfield were champions on two occasions and Almondbury, after a good spell early in the sixties, gradually lost ground.

The Winter Shed at Marsh had to close in 1966 as it was becoming too expensive to maintain. It had been in use for more than 30 years thanks to first of all, Mr DM Henshaw, and after his death in 1953 to Mr J M Henshaw, his son. It had been a most generous act by the two cricket-loving gentlemen.

Some highlights during matches in the sixties:-

Two outstanding bowling performances in 1961 were R Hall seven for 3 for Golcar v Bradley Mills and T Holroyd playing for Linthwaite, seven for 8 against Paddock.

On May 23 in the Paddock v Slaithwaite match, the home team scored 171, Slaithwaite were 134 for 9 when S Knight was joined by C Moxon. They scored the winning run off the last ball.

More bowling highlights in 1965 were P Dibb, Slaithwaite v Lascelles Hall, six for 6, and R W Bartels, Marsden v Golcar, seven for 7, Golcar being 33 all out. A Netherwood in the Almondbury v Golcar match had eight for 15 for the home team and D Stow, of Hall Bower, seven for 9 against Meltham.

On June 5, 1965 A Timewell, aged 18 years and in his first season as the Rastrick wicket-keeper, took six catches in the match against Dalton.

N Scrimshaw, for Primrose Hill v Shepley hit the stumps seven times in his eight for 28 but finished on the losing side.

On May 7, 1966 I Aspinall, of Bradley Mills, took five for 6 including the hat-trick in the match with Kirkheaton.

Two fine batting accomplishments were H Dawson, of Slaithwaite v Bradley Mills with three sixes and six fours in his 50 made in 37 minutes and I Calvert's 100 scored in 73 minutes for Kirkheaton against Lockwood. It included nine sixes and nine fours. The matches were on July 16, 1966.

On April 29, 1967 Lascelles Hall dismissed Golcar for 74 runs. Lascelles Hall batted their first eight overs without scoring, were 59 for 1 and 73 all out.

Alf Topp (Meltham) took his 1,000th wicket for the club on May 15, 1965.

In 1965 brothers C Booth and D Booth captained Meltham first and second elevens respectively to winning the Sykes Cup and Paddock Shield.

Playing with the League team against the Durham Senior League in the League Cricket Conference Cup in 1966, Stuart Armitage (Thongsbridge) did the hat-trick.

On May 26th Raymond Hall, of Golcar, in a match against Linthwaite had an opening spell of nought for 22 but was recalled and had a final analysis of 10 for 42.

In 1970 the Holmfirth club made an attempt to form a Holme Valley League. This was not in opposition to the League as the matches would be played on Sundays and in the evenings. Enough support was not, however, forthcoming because of the difficulty in fitting in the fixtures. The League did suggest to them that a knock-out competition, similar to the one being established in the Colne Valley, may be more feasible.

In the Meltham v Lascelles Hall match on June 6, 1970 the Meltham No.11 went to the crease when 34 runs were required for victory. He was bowled when the scores were equal.

The secretary reported that his position was becoming untenable due to the extra work involved in organising inter-league fixtures and attending the meetings associated with cricket administration generally. The League Council therefore agreed that he should have some assistance. A demarcation was decided on. The assistant would take over all registrations, fixtures and League tables. In recent years this position has had the status of joint secretary.

The Colne and Holme Valley knock-out competitions were causing trouble by playing matches on the same day as the League teams in the League Cricket Conference Cup. After discussion, the two bodies promised that this would not be repeated.

After some complaints on the attitude of certain players to umpires the League president reminded all representatives that the clubs were responsible for their players' actions on the field. There was far too much cavilling at umpires' decisions and too much time-wasting by players. These things must be eradicated otherwise there would be difficulty in obtaining sufficient umpires to staff the League's matches.

In 1971 there was a discussion on the possibility of returning to one division with clubs playing each other once. Ground venues would be reversed in alternate years. However, only eight clubs were in favour of this change.

The League became a member of the Yorkshire Cricket Association.

On the sudden death of the League secretary an advertisement was placed in the local Press inviting applications for the position. The only applicant was an 18-year-old lady. The League showed how old-fashioned it was by rejecting her application.

It was announced at a League meeting that Mr David Beaumont was asking for very young juniors to attend Paddock Youth Club for coaching. They were asked to go along with a bat and a tennis ball. This was the start of an era when Under-13 cricket was being organised. Over the years the League has had reason to be grateful for the men who have given so much of their time to junior cricket. Names are not being mentioned because there is always the danger of missing one.

In 1972 the League's title was changed to "The Huddersfield Cricket League." Outside forces were instrumental in this rather than the League itself. Probably in these modern times "The Huddersfield and District Cricket League" was a bit of a handful.

At a meeting of the League Council that year a representative complained that the League should not prevent clubs playing domestic matches when the League was involved in inter-league games. He proposed that the League should withdraw from all inter-league competitions. This was a bit rich because the same person had castigated the League officials some years previously because the officials had been against joining the same competitions.

During 1972 Yorkshire Television showed film of a match played at Honley.

1973 brought a revolutionary change in one of the most sacred aims of the League, i.e. the controlling of professionalism. The Huddersfield League was not the only league bedevilled by the growing disease of "back-handed" payments to players.

County cricket rulers had already decreed that there would be no distinction between amateurs and professionals. They labelled all cricketers simply players.

Everyone connected with Huddersfield cricket knew that players claiming to be amateurs were being paid. Sometimes, or mostly, payments were made by individuals and not the clubs. But the end product was the same, professionalism under another cloak.

Many meetings were held by the League after charges had been made against clubs. On every occasion, however, the League officials were made to look foolish as it was virtually impossible to furnish proof. And some clubs threatened legal action if they were penalised for indiscretions by their members.

For many, and not only the traditionalist, it was a sad, sad day when in 1973 the objects of the League were reduced to a curt "The promotion of the best interests of Local Cricket, Club matches and County cricket."

It is perhaps a sign of the times when we find in the 1978 handbook, probably due to financial constraints, that the League has no objects at all.

In 1973 Hills Supplies became the League's first major sponsor by supporting the Sykes Cup competition. The Under-13 competition was established this year, and the White Rose Trophy, an inter-league competition organised by the County Club for players under the age of 23 born in Yorkshire, was also formed. The Huddersfield League was one of the instigators of this latter competition.

The liaison between the League and Radio Leeds began in 1973.

In 1974 the Huddersfield Examiner was the sponsor of the Mini Cricket competition. In the same year a presentation was made to Mr Lewis Firth, sports editor of The Examiner, on his retirement. Mr Firth had been reporting League meetings for 48 years.

The Sports Centre was first used for net practice in 1974, the League making itself responsible for the expenses of the junior coaches. The League was delighted to hear a letter read from the manager at the Sports Centre in which he congratulated the League on the exceptionally good behaviour of cricketers at the Centre.

In 1975 the League became a member of the National Cricket Association, the Yorkshire Cricket Federation being wound up two years later. The Under-13 competition became a League thanks largely to the work of Mr G D Beaumont.

In 1976 the Benevolent Fund was disbanded as adequate insurance cover had become available from the NCA. This was the first year of the Indoor Cricket competition and the Coaches Association was also established.

Mr F Hellawell (Armitage Bridge) retired from the League Council after 27 years' devoted service.

After twice rejecting an invitation from the organisers of the Champion of Champions to join their competition, the League now agreed to become a member. Competing teams are the champions of most of the senior leagues in Yorkshire playing on a knock-out basis.

1977 was the first year of the Shaw's Pickles six-hit competition.

On November 5, 1977 a presentation evening was held at Slaithwaite Town Hall when a set of decanters was presented to the retiring League president, Mr Alec Lodge, by Mrs Beaumont, of Almondbury. This gift was from all the tea-room ladies in the League.

Early in 1978 Armitage Bridge won the Radio Leeds Cricket Quiz Trophy in competition with clubs from all the major leagues in Yorkshire.

Also in 1978, along with the Bradford League, the League were the instigators of the Yorkshire Senior Leagues competition, John Smith's being the first sponsor.

Due to the heavy financial loss incurred by playing in the League Cricket Conference Knock-out it was decided to withdraw. The League then took part in what was described as the "John Smith's Knock-out competition".

On April 12, 1978, as a token of appreciation for their efforts, the former president, Mr Lodge, invited the tea-room ladies to a social evening at the Almondbury Working Men's Club. One hundred and fifty ladies had an enjoyable evening.

On a far less enjoyable note we then had another sad example of the times we live in. The Rastrick pavilion, used for changing purposes, was completely destroyed by vandalism. This was a tragedy. Rastrick have always been a club that officials have been able to rely on to give 100% backing to the League. As is so often the case, this reverse brought new-found strength and the club now have one of the best pavilions in the League.

The Lascelles Hall club was fined £10 and severely censured for making an illegal approach to a player in another League. The Rastrick club denied a rumour that it was about to join a Calderdale Premier League.

Mr H France (Broad Oak) retired from the League Council after many years' service for the League and as secretary of the Junior Leagues.

In 1979 the League won the White Rose competition, and Elland won all the League's major trophies.

The Huddersfield club made an objection related to having lost a ball at Dalton. The Dalton representative explained that the householder in whose garden the ball had landed made a practice of keeping all such balls until the end of the season. With a bit of luck Huddersfield would get their ball back in September!

In the 1970s Holmfirth, at times, looked unbeatable. Champions of Division "A" five times, four times winners of the Sykes Cup, was quite an achievement. Even more remarkable was the fact that another team, probably just as good, could have been selected, consisting of former Holmfirth juniors now playing with other clubs.

Elland, as usual, were always in contention, while Meltham, with Madan Lal, and later with Nirmal Nanan, had a good run. Kirkheaton won the Sykes Cup in 1973 and 1974.

In 1972 the Meltham club had to play every match except the last second eleven match on other fields. During the previous winter they had treated the square with a worm killer, followed by a sprinkling of soil. The worm killer caked under the soil, preventing the grass from germinating.

The club representative described it as being like a "paddy field". The first eleven played on the grounds of their opponents. The second eleven played on any ground available.

In 1971 Glyn Jones, of Kirkburton, took the last four Elland wickets in consecutive balls.

V Mylett (Elland) performed the hat-trick when playing for the League team against the Bassetlaw League. The match was in the League Cricket Conference Cup in 1974.

N Nanan (Meltham) won the League batting prize in 1977, 1978 and 1979.

On July 30, 1977 Allan Lamb, a young South African (later an England Test player) playing with Holmfirth hit 149 out of 228 for 3 against Elland at Holmfirth. This was eight runs short of the 157 made by the Kirkburton professional, S B Minhas, also against Elland, in 1959. At the time 157 was the highest individual score since the introduction of limited overs cricket.

Also, on July 2, 1977 Allan Lamb hit five sixes and a four in one over for Holmfirth against Lascelles Hall at Lascelles Hall. The unfortunate bowler was Stuart Greaves and the hits were 4, 6, 6, 6, 6. Lamb scored 95 in 70 minutes and 90 of his runs came in boundaries. Holmfirth, 150 all out, Lascelles Hall 144 for 9.

On July 7, 1979 Brian Collier (Rastrick) in a game against Primrose Hill equalled the 157 by S B Minhas but N Nanan (Meltham) had made 158 against Lascelles Hall in 1978. This was the new record score.

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**I**n 1980 Huddersfield played all their fixtures on the grounds of their opponents due to the termination of their tenancy at Fartown by the directors of the Huddersfield Cricket Athletic and Bowling Club.

For probably the first time the County club showed some direct interest in the activities of the League, when Raymond Illingworth, manager, attended a meeting at the Almondbury club to discuss matters of mutual interest and to increase the involvement of the League in County affairs.

In 1981 the League gave permission for clubs to enter a team in another league always on the understanding that it did not conflict in any way with the commitment of the club under Huddersfield Cricket League rules. The reason for the innovation was an application from the Paddock club to be allowed to enter a third team in the Association League.

The League has always had a keen interest in schools' cricket. Problems were arising for the Schools' Cricket Association due to a severe cut-back in many facilities. Clubs were asked to encourage

local schools to use their fields and to help in any way they could to improve relations between the schools and the League.

On May 16, at the end of the Marsden v Honley match, it appeared that Honley had won by 3 runs. Ten minutes later it was announced that the game was a tie. One of the old star-chamber meetings was held and in its wisdom the League Council declared the match a tie.

A proposal was made by the Almondbury club that teams from the Central Yorkshire League be admitted to the Sykes Cup competition. It was not approved.

The Broad Oak club played at Lord's in the final of the Whitbread Village competition. Unfortunately they lost.

On May 1, 1982 at the Broad Oak v Bradley Mills fixture, a sight screen was blown over and fell on Trevor Holmes, the Broad Oak wicket-keeper, before the match began. Holmes played in the match and afterwards he went for a check-up to discover he had a few broken ribs, a cracked breast-bone and a hairline fracture of the skull. He played in the next match on the following Saturday.

Mike Bocarro, of Honley, on May 22, 1982 established a new record for the highest score in overs cricket. He made 177 runs, including 15 sixes and 15 fours, against Marsden. On the same day Peter Dibb, opening for Paddock, made four runs in 19 overs.

In a sequence of matches Dibb had scored 140 runs in 170 overs. Peter at the time said "There was too much pressure, I was probably being ultra cautious".

In 1982 a team of Huddersfield Cricket League juniors won the Yorkshire CCC cricket quiz.

The Broad Oak club suggested that the League should accept another two clubs.

In 1983 the Sykes Cup final was played at Honley due to a Charity Rugby match having been arranged at Fartown on the same day as the final.

A spin-off from the meeting with Raymond Illingworth was a decision to increase the number of overs from 45 to 50 in both League and Cup matches. This was applied in 1984.

Just to show what an honest lot we are in Huddersfield, Kirkburton, after playing an ineligible man in the third round of the Paddock Shield competition, apologised and withdrew from the competition.

A League vice-president expressed some concern at the lack of interest in League affairs by some clubs. He fully appreciated the many problems club committees were experiencing, but some clubs gave the impression that they thought the League was some kind of body completely detached from the clubs. It was ridiculous that it was proving very difficult to obtain nominations for the Management Committee of the League. He said we were rapidly reaching the stage when the League would be run by its officials. That was wrong and certainly not democratic.

A proposal to play the Sykes Cup final on a Saturday was not accepted.

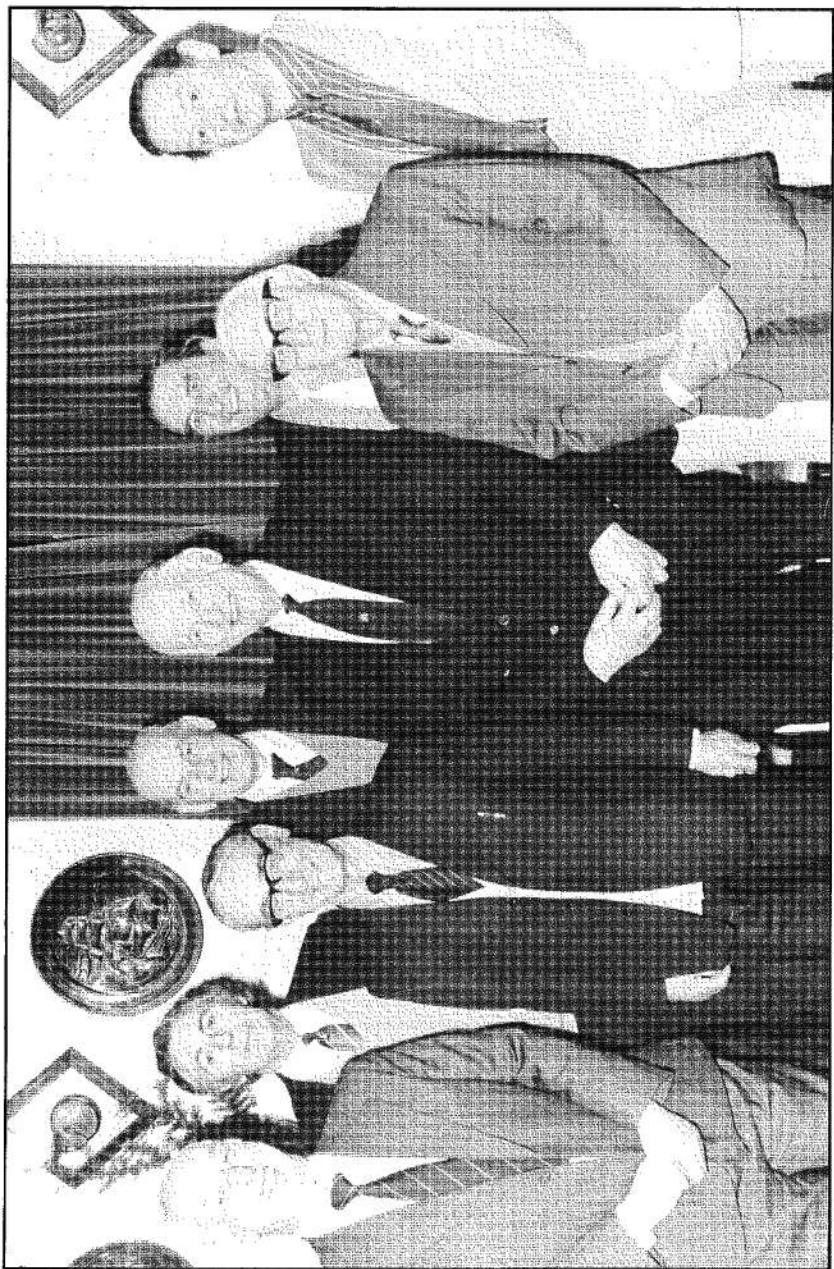
Mr Donald Pearson (Linthwaite) retired as club representative after 31 years' service. "Laughing Boy" Donald had also been secretary of the Colne Valley Junior League for many years, and he still maintained his position on the Junior League Executive.

Concern was expressed at the growing tendency by some clubs to become involved in outside competitions while not supporting their own League.

After wondering for some time what certain umpires carried in their tackle bags we discovered at least one item. Players were mystified to see different bails from the usual club bails in position on the stumps. It was agreed that if umpires introduced their private bails, the captains should be informed.

Satisfaction was expressed at a League meeting when it was announced that Richard Blakey, Paul Booth and Stuart Fletcher — all developed via our juniors — had been given contracts by the County club.

In 1984 the family of the late Tom Walker, a playing member of above average ability, and a former



ALEC LODGE, the doyen of Huddersfield League administrators, was honoured in 1986 to commemorate his fifty years of attending the League's Council meetings. Mr Lodge is pictured (fourth from right) with then Huddersfield League officials (from left) fixures secretary Hedley France, chairman Raymond Smith, vice president Harry France, treasurer Jack Beaumont, president Jim Dawson, former Huddersfield Examiner sports editor, the late Lewis Firth, who reported Council meetings for 46 years, and general secretary Hedley Dawson.

representative of Slaithwaite club on the League Council, donated a trophy to be awarded to the groundsman at the club winning the Greenwood Trophy.

The League was pleased to accept the offer from the Curator at the Ravensknowle Museum to make available a cabinet in the Sports Room to display cricket items.

In 1984 the League won the Yorkshire Senior Leagues competition for the first time.

Concern had been growing at the number of players being brought into the country to act as professionals for league clubs. Several leagues had introduced a ruling whereby a club could register only one player who would not be eligible to play for England. In 1984 the Huddersfield League adopted this ruling.

Some of the members at Elland had been trying to persuade the club to leave the League in order to join the Bradford League. After serious consideration it was agreed they should remain in the Huddersfield League.

In the mid-80s there had been a lot of talk concerning the constitution of the League. Many thought the time was opportune to introduce new blood. Applications to join the League were made by Kexborough, Lepton Highlanders, Scholes, Skelmanthorpe and Penistone.

In 1986 cricket lovers in the district were saddened to hear that the Lockwood and Huddersfield clubs were leaving Birks Bottom and Fartown respectively. They were starting anew at Laund Hill and at the ICI ground in Leeds Road.

Lockwood, one of the founder members of the League had fought a torrid battle against vandalism for many years. It is difficult to find words adequate to praise the few stalwarts who had struggled so long only to have to lose a final battle when their lease was terminated.

The Huddersfield position was very similar. A few had been prepared to fight tooth and nail to keep going at Fartown but they eventually had to call it a day. On reflection, the stalwarts of the 80s were suffering for happenings in former years when cricket at Fartown was subsidised by the rugby section.

In 1986 the League introduced its first Honorary Life Member, Mr Ben Jessop. Ben is recognised throughout the length and breadth of the country as Mr Junior Cricket. The positions he holds are far too numerous to record here. He was the chairman of the YCA from the first meeting. He represented the YCA at Lord's. He is the national organiser for the Under 13 and Under 15 competitions and is president-chairman of the Joe Lumb Cup competition. And, of course, he played his cricket at Rowley Hill and was chairman at Lascelles Hall for many years until moving to Sheffield in 1948.

The introduction of players from across the seas has caused problems. By no stretch of the imagination could Craig McCreadie be used as an example in a coach's manual. Unless, of course, it was in a before and after example. In a match at Broad Oak, batting in his usual aggressive custom, he was facing up to a 6 ft 4 in West Indian.

After one or two shots calculated to make someone like Boycott hold his head in despair, he "yarked" a ball pitched outside his off stump to somewhere beyond square leg, the ball eventually clattering against the wall of the local church. "Hit straight man" moaned the bowler. "I have done" said Craig "straight into the churchyard."

The League team won the Yorkshire Senior Leagues Trophy for the second time in 1986.

The expansion of the League began in 1987 when Kexborough and Skelmanthorpe were admitted. They both went into Division "B" and made a good start, Skelmanthorpe being third and gaining promotion, with Kexborough fifth. To bring the League on an even keel, for the first year three clubs were promoted and one relegated.

In 1988 the Penistone and Scholes clubs entered the League to make up two divisions of fourteen clubs each.

During the 1987 season the slow over rate was more pronounced than ever before — and it had been a cause for concern in years gone by. Fines were imposed on clubs when their players took longer than

three hours to bowl their fifty overs.

In 1989 the Elland club won all the League's major trophies for the second time.

Proof that administration was becoming more difficult was provided in the late 80s when monthly meetings of the League Council were discontinued. For many years it had been obvious that clubs were prepared to leave the running of the League to the Management Committee. Whether this is a truly democratic way or not is open to question.

There is no doubt about it, running a senior league is now very much like running a business. Officials are handling many complex situations and handling large sums of money. In fairness it must be said that the clubs themselves face some difficult obstacles. Being in cricket administration these days is hardly the enjoyable pastime it was in former years.

In the 80s the leading team must be Elland. Champions five times, Cup winners four times, second eleven champions four times and Paddock Shield winners twice. The club won the League's four major trophies in the same season on two occasions.

The players shared in the glory as individuals. When Roy Dexter won the League batting prize in 1981 it was at the time the highest ever average of 78.20. Stewart Bradley won the League batting prize in 1983 and 1984.

The icing on the cake came when Elland's Richard Blakey was awarded his County cap by Yorkshire in 1987. He had progressed through their junior section.

Lascelles Hall proved to be Elland's closest rivals with Broad Oak and Shepley always looking as if they could be among the honours.

The Under 15 League was launched in 1985 after a few friendly games. The instigators were from Meltham. Colin Smith, Gordon Holroyd and David Brearley have done a great job with a minimum of fuss.

On May 26, 1986, a Spring Bank Tuesday, in the match Dalton v Almondbury, the wind was so strong that some deliveries were not reaching the batsman. The game was abandoned as a draw.

In the Elland v Lascelles Hall match on May 14, 1981, Roy Dexter, of Elland, hit 166 (12 sixes and 13 fours). He still finished on the losing side.

In 1988 S Sharma (Golcar) made 1,002 runs and had an average of 100.20, this being the first time an average of over 100 had been recorded.

In 1951 a pale-faced youngster named Peter Dibb was registered with the Honley club. In 1990 Peter Dibb, a wiry old veteran, is registered with the Hall Bower club. He has been around a bit since 1951. Wherever Peter has played he has been recognised as a model cricketer, always fit, always pleasant. At the time these notes were written he had amassed 12,303 runs and 1,659 wickets – all in our League.

Accurate records in the first 30 years of the League are not available. We have tried, oh how we have tried, to find cricketers who have scored the most runs and most wickets.

We know that W Bedford took 1,366 wickets for Huddersfield in 19 years, but what about his other years? It is said that his final total was 1,712 wickets. We do know that Eddie Leadbeater (Eddie first played for Almondbury in 1941 and is still playing) has taken at least 1,721 wickets in our League. Any better offers?

1989 provided the highest score to be made in overs cricket. On May 29, T Butt, of Dalton, in a match against Primrose Hill, knocked up 189 not out. His innings included 16 sixes and 18 fours.

Funnily enough, only two days previously on Spring Bank Saturday, Michael Thornton, of Holmfirth had gained the honours when he made 183 not out versus Golcar.

Also in 1989 the young Lockwood player, Imtiaz Ahmad, still a schoolboy, scored six centuries. Although we must take into account that 50 overs are now being played and that the runs were scored in Division "B", this is by any standards a remarkable effort by the youngster.

From the young to the not so young. Peter Dibb, to whom we have referred earlier, had the best bowling feat of the year when he took eight for 13 against Penistone on August 19.

When writing King Richard III, Shakespeare used the oft-repeated phrase “now is the winter of our discontent”. In 1989 discontent spilled over into spring, bringing winter weather at the same time. It also was accompanied by one of the outstanding schemozzles of the decade.

One thing is certain about cricket administration. If you do nothing, you don't get into trouble. If you do something, look out, somebody will be after you.

The chaos was caused by the League president and a vice-president investigating the conditions of playing areas after a long period of bad weather. On the Wednesday prior to the season starting the Bradford League had already called off all their matches. The man on the “telly” said “rain, sometimes heavy, until Sunday”. A telephone call to the weather centre confirmed the forecast.

The two officials visited most of the clubs. Some fields were actually under water and some, through no fault of club officials, had never been touched. It was decided to suggest that the games be called off.

The League secretary and fixtures secretary did not agree. They explained that a minute had been passed to say that games should not be abandoned. That being so, they were correct. At this point the vice-president opted out.

The president contacted as many of the Management Committee as he could. They decided the matches should be off, and they were.

As always happens, the Saturday was a beautiful day. It would be, wouldn't it! Nevertheless a large majority of the fields were not fit to play a serious game of cricket.

The usual letters appeared in the Press accusing the two officials concerned of losing revenue for the clubs. It costs a lot of time and money to be a cricket official, that is probably why there is no queue of volunteers. These remarks do hurt at times.

It all blew over and such a thing won't happen again — or will it?

The final season of coverage on the field of play brought some remarkable scores. It is certainly a risky job forecasting what the future holds. 1990 will be remembered as the year when scoring records were broken by both individuals and teams.

In 1935, when Albert Sykes, of Huddersfield, scored 1,042 runs, it was the first time the 1,000 target had been passed since 1914. The League made a special presentation as a commemoration. Not until 1971 was the feat repeated when John Shaw, then a professional with Thongsbridge, hit 1,020 runs. In the last decade, however, it has become commonplace for 1,000 runs to be registered, although it must be recognised that in 1984 the overs per team were increased from 45 to 50.

Thirteen players made 1,000 runs in 1990 and it is a sobering thought that seven of the 13 are overseas players. Team-wise the 300 mark has been recorded seven times. There have also been 75 individual centuries and one double century.

Dalton have provided much of the action. They amassed 364 for four on the Spring Bank Monday against Primrose Hill. In the return fixture the following day Sabih Azhar, of Dalton, who 24 hours earlier had rattled up 154, set a new individual record score in League matches by making 193.

A week later, however, Imtiaz Ahmed, of Lockwood, smashed an incredible 204 not out against Penistone, which is now the new highest individual League score.

Honley went on the rampage against Broad Oak on September 9, to register a new record Section “A” total of 330 for four. Not to be outdone, the Hall Bower second eleven got in on the act by making a remarkable 412 for seven against Bradley Mills in late August. The young Andrew Booth (son of Ian) and veteran Geoff Heywood scored 163 and 105 respectively.

So, what can we make of this massive increase in the runs scored? We all have our views on the problem. And, believe me, it is something of a problem.

Point one is that, generally speaking, playing areas and amenities are better than ever before. More finance is certainly directed on to the middle than in the past, and it is replacing the hard work previously expended by voluntary workers.

But, to me, by far the most important factor is practice, or shall we say lack of it. More games are now being played. This is very nice for half the team, but what of the remainder? Where do they learn the crafts of the game when a batsman has a quick two over slog, or the bowler a couple of overs to rest the main bowlers.

Some players are naturals and appear to be able to manage with a minimum of practice, but the large majority simply cannot improve without being able to have regular practice. I could go on at length on this theory. I will rest my case by repeating that in the halcyon days of League cricket it was said that the finer points were learned at practice and after practice, when players rolled the whole of the square with a hand-roller.

In 1990, Skelmanthorpe at times looked invincible. Joining the League in 1987 they bettered the accomplishments of Hall Bower who, after their admittance to the League in 1940, had a purple patch. Achieving the double at any time is a creditable feat but to do so after such a short time in the League is most unusual. It is obvious that the club has an enterprising committee.

One has also to commend Shepley, who ended the season without a trophy after fighting so hard. It was a case of so near and yet so far in all the competitions they played. Much of the credit must go to Geoff Gill, one of the best captains in the area.

With Almondbury and Dalton in the top division during the centenary season some exciting days are in store. Dalton will certainly set their stall up to make an attempt to lift a trophy. A most interesting centenary year is guaranteed.

This history would not be complete without the selection of a team comprising players who started their careers with Huddersfield League clubs and went on to play for England.

So here goes: Percy Holmes (Paddock), Ken Taylor (Primrose Hill), Chris Balderstone (Paddock), Billy Bates (Lascelles Hall), Willie Watson (Paddock), Richard Blakey (Elland) wicket-keeper, George Herbert Hirst (Kirkheaton), Wilfred Rhodes (Kirkheaton) captain, Schofield Haigh (Armitage Bridge), Alec Coxon (Dalton), Eddie Leadbeater (Almondbury).

It is doubtful if any other league could match such a team.

It is many years since I visited Huddersfield to attend my first meeting of the League Cricket Conference. Since then many overs have been bowled, many wickets taken, many umpires' decisions queried and yet I still have fond memories of the warm welcome I received that day.

One of the welcoming party was, of course, Alec Lodge, and when you consider the contribution he and many others have made to the survival and development of cricket in Huddersfield you can understand how the organisation is respected throughout the country.

They always play the game hard, but fair, and while the contest on the field is fought in a positive way the after-match conversations and welcome are warm and friendly irrespective of whether the Huddersfield Cricket League has won or lost. And that is, of course, the whole essence of this game of cricket.

It is truly remarkable that an organisation can continue for 100 years with changes of personnel, changes of clubs, changes of rules, changes of fortunes and yet, after all these changes, the organisation continues to flourish with vigour.

Although I will not be here to see the Bi-centenary, I know that there will be one and that the same high standards respected throughout the country will still be kept.

J D ROBSON  
Chairman, National Cricket Association

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## SYKES CUP – FOREWORD

*Much of the information related to matches has been taken from the notes of Mr Raymond P Prior, who says that he enjoyed the Cup matches from 1945 to 1954 so much that he later researched the period 1920 to 1959. Mr G Raymond Smith (League chairman 1984-89) has supplied a detailed study of the information available after 1959. I am grateful for the excellent material supplied by these gentlemen.*

**B**eing involved in cricket administration at an early age was fortuitous. I had the opportunity of speaking to men who had either played with, or seen in action, some of the stalwarts of the famous Lascelles Hall teams of the last century.

In addition I had the privilege of working alongside some great administrators, e.g. Herbert Sykes, Herbert Atha, Billy Bolt, Herbert Cheetham, J Wilson Senior and the man responsible for the Sykes Cup Competition, Mr George Walker.

I first met Mr Walker when he acted as deputy League secretary on the occasions when Mr Wilson Senior was indisposed or on holiday. He was an extremely capable man, a stickler for detail and over the years he had rendered yeoman service to Huddersfield cricket.

A member of the Paddock club when a youngster, he was secretary there for nine years. Later he transferred to the Huddersfield club where he was cricket secretary from 1921 to 1931. He was secretary-treasurer of the Alliance (later the Council) League from 1896 to 1914, and from 1914 to 1920 he held a similar position with the Huddersfield and District Cricket League.

He was highly respected because he had a deep knowledge of league cricket in the district from the very beginning.

Mr Walker explained to me that when the League was established Arthur Shaw had envisaged some kind of cup competition may be necessary. This was primarily because behind his mind he was afraid that clubs remaining in the Cricket Association might possibly take offence at other clubs leaving to form another League. In other words, they could be expelled from the Lumb Cup competition. As we have seen, League clubs did in fact leave both the Association and the Lumb Cup competition at the end of 1896, because of fixture congestion, and were not subsequently involved in any sort of cup cricket.

As was to be expected it took the League many years to become stable. The First World War upset matters just when it seemed the ship was on a steady course. Once the war was over, there was some talk of an extra competition to maintain and probably increase enthusiasm. That great trio of international cricketers, Hirst, Rhodes and Haigh, had all spoken highly of their days in the Lumb Cup competition and how they had enjoyed participating.

After further discussions, on one occasion with Mr Herbert Cheetham who was at the time connected with Bradley Mills and later with Fartown, it was decided to ask Sir Charles Sykes if he would be prepared to give a cup for a knock-out competition. It was Mr Cheetham who thought of Sir Charles, but the approach was made by Mr Walker as he had been a friend of Sir Charles for many years.

When Mr Walker was able to announce at the annual meeting in 1919 that he had the offer of a cup for a knock-out competition, members of the League Council were delighted.

Sir Charles did suggest to the League that he would like any profit from the competition to be given to local charities. He mentioned the Royal Infirmary in particular. During the Second World War this was amended slightly to allow the League to cover its working expenses. Finally, when the National Health Service came into being the financial side was left in the hands of the League Council.

When the Sykes Cup competition began the rules were straightforward with no suggestion of a suspension or time limit on any innings.

By the late 1920s, however, concern was expressed that some matches became farcical when the team batting first remained at the crease to register large scores, with the inevitable consequence of ties continuing into the following week. Travelling expenses were such that a financial loss was often incurred.

In 1932 Slaithwaite proposed that a suspension rule be applied. Basically it was that the side batting first suspended its innings at 200. If the side batting second passed this total the side batting first had the option of going in again or of asking their opponents to continue their innings. The proposal was carried by 17 votes to 7.

For some unknown reason, however, this alteration does not appear in the official rules in 1933 or 1934. Indeed, it was not included in the Sykes Cup rules in the League handbook until 1935, and even then the rule was not exactly as passed at the 1932 meeting. Suspension was now to take place after 200 runs had been scored or at the end of two and a half hours to play, whichever occurred first, and the right of the team batting first to decide on the suspension or continuation of their opponents' innings was left out. Accordingly, the new rule applied equally to both sides.

In 1936 an addition to the rule made it clear that it applied only once to each side, and that no further suspension of a resumed innings would be required however long it lasted.

For season 1939 a further change of rule reinstated the right of the team batting first to decide at the appropriate time whether its opponents should suspend or continue their innings, irrespective of the number of wickets which had fallen.

In 1945, 150 runs was substituted for 200 runs in the case of the team batting first, the latter figure continuing to apply to the team batting second. The following year suspension at 150 runs was applied equally to both sides.

Also in 1946 a new provision enabled the fielding captain to require the team batting first to continue its innings at the normal point of suspension, if eight wickets had fallen. The option of the team batting first to require the continuation of its opponents' innings remained unchanged. This remained the position until 1953, when the "eight wicket" rule was applied equally to both sides.

A further significant change in 1953 provided that the suspension rule should apply continuously "throughout the match." This meant that each sequence of 150 runs or two and a half hours batting in the course of an innings resulted in a further suspension (subject to the "eight wicket" rule). This change was a direct result of Honley's marathon innings of 557 in the previous year's semi-final.

The suspension rule was finally abandoned in 1960, when, after much discussion, a limit of 45 overs was imposed on the innings of each side. In 1984 the limit was increased to 50 overs per innings.

A century of cricket existence is a truly mystical accomplishment and serves to indicate the dedication given to the Huddersfield Cricket League by so many people during that time. Men of quality and possessing a vision of consequence have handed on great traditions for generations to follow.

Accepting these facts, everybody who has enjoyed any contact with the League during these 100 years should be proud to have been offered the opportunity of membership.

Players and member clubs will have contributed vast chronicles to the history of the League. In doing so they will have extended the influence of cricketing skills to a far wider audience. The enormous talents of the international and County cricketers produced by the League have benefited not only Yorkshire but all the cricketing world. Their names will live forever in the annals of a marvellous cricketing fraternity. For without them, and their love for the League they have served, the Huddersfield Cricket League would not be able to stand and celebrate all the good of the last 100 years.

As chairman of the League Cricket Conference I am delighted to offer my warmest congratulations, to all the officers, players and clubs in the Huddersfield Cricket League. I wish you all a momentous and happy Centenary season. May your success continue well into your second century.

R CHERRY  
Chairman, League Cricket Conference

## THE COMPETITION

When clubs first played for the Sykes Cup in 1920 the League consisted of 20 members. It was necessary to reduce the number to 16 so a preliminary round was played.

It is only in comparatively recent years that it has been compulsory for League matches to be played as per the fixtures. Therefore, in the early days of the Cup competition the preliminary rounds counted as League matches, with teams not engaged in Cup matches also playing League matches on the same day.

Problems could arise because the time when stumps were normally drawn for League matches was the stage when League points were awarded. But then the match continued as a cup-tie. Remember this was the period of voluntary declaration in the League. Obviously it was not easy for the captain who might want to declare for League purposes but had to bat on for the Cup!

In the first preliminary round to be played there was a match to whet the appetite. Lascelles Hall whipped out Broad Oak for 113 but were then skittled out themselves for 110.

In a first round match Slaithwaite made 165 at Linthwaite. The home team looked in trouble at 40 for 5, and although they recovered to 116 for 9 it looked like a comfortable win for Slowit. However, the last pair stuck together until only four runs were required. With what looked like the winning hit Vic Lockwood was caught on the boundary.

Linthwaite objected to two Slaithwaite players who, it was alleged, lived outside the five mile limit. An inquiry decided that the two had business qualifications. Linthwaite accordingly lost the match, the objection and their deposit.

In the next round Slaithwaite had another nail biter. They had made 161 and their opponents, Meltham Mills, looked doomed at 148 for 9, but on this occasion the last pair made the runs.

The first Sykes Cup final was a tremendous occasion. Sir Charles and Lady Sykes were present at Fartown. The teams involved were Friarmere and Almondbury. It was August 21, the match started at 1.30 pm on a glorious day in front of 3,976 spectators.

Friarmere, favourites to win, decided to bat on a perfect wicket. In Fisher's first over two wickets fell and it looked as if a surprise result was in the offing. However, catches were put down (Almondbury made a habit of that in Sykes Cup finals), the Friarmere captain, A Milnes, batting at No 5, made 102 and the innings closed at 289. Almondbury could muster only 152 in reply, so the Sykes Cup in the first season went "over t'op".

Lady Sykes presented the Cup and in a few well chosen words Sir Charles said how pleased he was that the competition had aroused so much interest.

Friarmere retained the Cup in 1921.

In 1923, as the League had increased to 22 clubs, so the preliminary round had to be increased to six matches.

1924 saw a third meeting in the competition between Huddersfield and Slaithwaite, this time in the final. The match did not start until 6.20 on the Saturday and it was Tuesday before it ended. The match was ruined as a spectacle. It was third time lucky for Slaithwaite when they came out the winners by 147 to 138. Fairly close but apparently never exciting.

Funnily enough in 1925 the two teams met yet again, this time in the semi-final at Hill Top. Rain again was a spoil-sport and Saturday was a wash-out. On the Bank Holiday Monday the home team had made 282, with Huddersfield being on 109 for 1 at stumps. On the Tuesday evening Slaithwaite, in a sporting gesture, delayed the start until the not-out batsman George Senior turned up, he having arrived late due to travel difficulties. Senior made 120 and Huddersfield won by four wickets.

The 1925 final, between Huddersfield and Friarmere, proved to be one of the most exciting in the history of the competition. Batting first, Huddersfield made 294 all out, with major contributions coming from H Haigh (91), J H Freer (77) and L Sollis (61 not out). By the close of play on the Saturday Friarmere had responded with a steady 151 for 4, to leave the match nicely poised.

When play was resumed on the Monday, Friarmere, despite an early setback, made good progress, and when the score reached 270 for 5 they appeared to be coasting home. At this point, however, Sollis made a crucial breakthrough for the Fartowners, which led to the last five wickets falling for 23 runs and a remarkable victory for Huddersfield by just one run. A Rhodes, the last man to be dismissed, was actually run out chasing a single which would have tied the match.

For Friarmere P Sharples made 65, A K Whitehead 58, C Bradbury 51 and J A Neal 49, the sixth wicket partnership between Sharples and Bradbury yielding 119 runs. Truly, a memorable match.

In 1926, as the League now comprised 24 clubs, eight preliminary matches had to be played, and also in this year the semi-finals were played on neutral grounds. In the first ten years of the competition Friarmere, Huddersfield and Kirkheaton performed the League and Cup double.

The highest individual score ever was made by Jack Washington, of Broad Oak, in 1928. He made 210 against Kirkburton, and unless the format of the competition is changed it is unlikely that it will be bettered. Broad Oak's final total was 471 and a demoralised Kirkburton team were all out for 191 on the Monday evening.

The Broad Oakers were slaughtered in the final. In an unpleasant match Huddersfield made 261. This was not too large a score on a good wicket at Fartown in an unlimited overs game, but the weather again came into contention. It is remarkable how, on many occasions, the final has started in glorious weather only for it to change at tea-time resulting in play being postponed until the Monday.

On this occasion, when Broad Oak went in to bat there were clouds aplenty, and Washington and Hirstwood made many appeals against the light. They were rejected and the crowd became restive. To cut a long story short, play was eventually stopped for bad light, but by this time Broad Oak were on 13 for 3. There was no play on the Monday and Tuesday, they were caught on a "turner" on the Wednesday and were all out for 92.

1929 saw a feast of runs in the preliminary rounds. Eight totals of 300 or more were made, Meltham Mills having the highest score with more than 400. A most remarkable performance was once again a match with the Broad Oak club being involved. Against Honley they made 506 runs at a rate of 120 runs per hour. W Renshaw hit 127 and Fred Whiteley 107. The Honley team was then dismissed for 160, 666 runs thus being scored in one afternoon.

But pride of place must be given to the Friarmere v Paddock tie in the preliminary round. Paddock had made 287 for 9 when Fred Metcalfe joined Herbert Robinson to make the total 432. The home team did not capitulate, totalling 304. 736 runs scored. Mind you, it was not until the following Thursday that the game ended.

A curious incident occurred in another of the preliminary rounds. The umpire at the bowling end did not hear an appeal, the square leg umpire did – and answered it, but his decision was then reversed by his colleague. The League Council dealt with both umpires. One was censured for being too slow and the other for being too quick. During the 1929 competition Meltham had four players named Hirst batting in succession.

Came the final with Huddersfield being involved again. As in previous years, not everyone looked kindly at the final being played on the ground of one of the competing clubs. So, on this occasion, the final between Huddersfield and Holmfirth was played at Lockwood. It was an interesting if not exciting final, with Holmfirth the victors by 271 to 236.

1930 was a season when nothing of special note was reported, but 1931, as a complete contrast to 1929, brought a series of low scores in the preliminary and first rounds.

The second round created more interest. A typical all-round performance by Stanley Hammond, of Elland, decimated Lascelles Hall. He first scored 123 runs and followed this by taking five wickets.

Two other matches provided good entertainment: Paddock 197 v Broad Oak 200 for 8, and Marsden 331 v Primrose Hill 293.

The remaining second round match was Meltham v Holmfirth. Holmfirth with 191 looked to be coasting home when Meltham had made only 159 for 9. At this point wicket-keeper Clayton (usually a second teamer) went to the crease. The required runs were then made, with the final overs being bowled in poor light.

The 1931 final was a boring match. The aftermath was a lot of talk related to rule changes being made to prevent teams being in the field most of the Saturday. In this particular final Broad Oak were at the wicket until nearly 7.30 pm to make 407. By the close of play Meltham had tumbled to 77 for 6 and on the Monday evening were all out for 89. At the presentation the Meltham captain said "We came pot hunting but all we did was leather hunting!"

Preliminary rounds due to be played on May 28, 1932 could not be started because of appalling weather. Much to everyone's surprise, instead of matches beginning the following Monday as per rule, an emergency meeting was called and it decided they should start on the Wednesday. They did, in good weather and were completed in two nights.

At the emergency meeting tempers became frayed and one representative, who took exception to League programmes being disrupted, suggested that the Cup should be handed back to the donor. He was well and truly shot down.

Although the competition had, over the years, produced excellent cricket in some matches, there was also the odd match which developed into a pathetic example of all that is bad in the game.

Huddersfield and Slaithwaite took part in yet another nerve tingling match in a 1933 second round fixture. In the match at Fartown, Slaithwaite made 178 batting first, and, with Huddersfield on 134 for 9, it looked like an easy win for the Colne Valley lads, but the Huddersfield last pair, Billy Mitchell and Trevor Sykes, took the score to 177 when Hubert Trower raced from his position in the slips to take a fine catch on the leg side.

In the final of that year Meltham Mills won the Cup for the first and last time in their history.

As has already been noted, an innings suspension rule was introduced in 1932. This appears to have operated on an experimental basis for three seasons before being formally incorporated, with slight amendments, in the competition rules for 1935.

The 1934 season brought some exceptionally good matches, one of the best being between two Colne Valley rivals, Slaithwaite and Golcar. It was reported that 5,000 spectators witnessed the game, which was won by Slaithwaite with two wickets to spare.

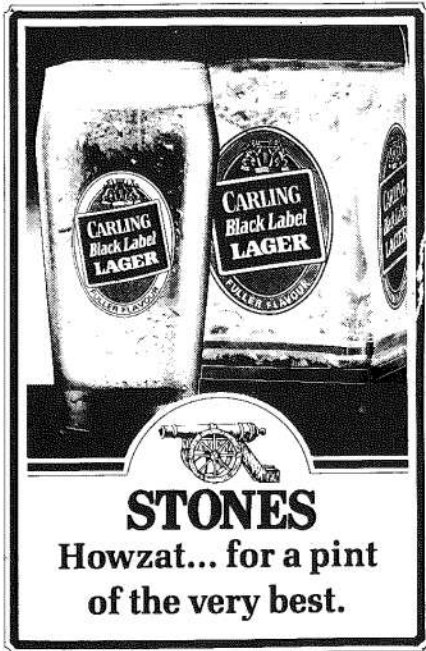
The final in 1934 was a topic of conversation for several years. The participants were Kirkburton, from Section "A", and Broad Oak, from Section "B". It turned out to be an enthralling match. Kirkburton, after a poor start, rallied from 77 for 6 to 199 all out. Broad Oak did not fare much better early in their innings as they slumped to 86 for 7 and then improved to 109 for 8. Even so, it appeared to be a case of fighting for a lost cause when Eddie Shackleton joined Fred Whiteley. The pair added 62 runs and it was Shackleton who went at 171 for 9.

Tragedy then struck Kirkburton. One of their fieldsmen had to leave the field and a substitute in ordinary clothes, without spiked boots, jumped over the rails to take his place. He promptly dropped a fairly easy catch and then, when the last pair went for the winning run, the fielder made a poor return. Broad Oak were home and dry. Whiteley was chaired off the field. After this incident it has always been customary for teams in the final to have a 12th man changed and ready for the fray.

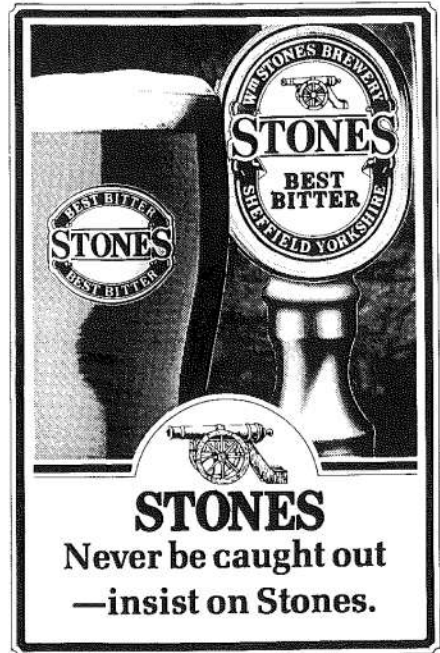
There was a good first round match at Marsden in 1935 when they entertained Kirkheaton. Play ended on the Saturday with Marsden at 275 for 5 and Kirkheaton suspended at 183 for 5. Marsden batted all Monday evening to reach 467 all out. On the Tuesday Kirkheaton finished at 275.

In the same round there was another high scoring match at Fartown, Huddersfield 398, Holmfirth 282. Rather peculiar that on a wicket a couple of yards away, a few days later, Essex skittled out Yorkshire for 31 and 90. Sir Leonard Hutton had a pair.

During the middle and late thirties, Bill Dennis, the Elland professional, was creating havoc among local batsmen. In a second round match against Slaithwaite he performed the hat-trick. It was his first year at Elland. In his first seven years with the club he took 704 wickets. He had a trial at Lascelles Hall in 1934, but the club was advised not to sign him as he had a knee injury due to playing football. The informant said he would not last long!!



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The Huddersfield v Linthwaite final in 1936 was something of a disaster, Linthwaite made only 54 with R V Ward taking seven for 17. Huddersfield knocked off the runs without loss. The Mayor, who presented the cup, arrived just in time. He had had another engagement at the Honley Show.

Linthwaite soon had the opportunity to gain revenge for the 1936 debacle. The result in the preliminary round the following season was Huddersfield 90, Linthwaite 170 for 4 suspended.

1937 was not a year to be remembered, but young Willie Watson (later of Yorkshire and England fame) made a fine 121 not out for Paddock against Lascelles Hall. When Linthwaite beat Broad Oak at Golcar in the semi-final, it was reported in *The Examiner* that the tea provisions included "many hundred fancy cakes, nine hams, 12 tongues, a piece of beef a yard long and 800 teacakes." It looks as if they had their priorities right. The match was not too good.

In 1938 all clubs played a first round followed by a new system when byes were made in the second round. The idea was to play the second and third rounds in the evenings in order that League fixtures were not disrupted. Not everyone agreed with playing evening matches. Indeed the president of the League was reported as saying it was a recipe for disaster and the biggest mistake ever.

In spite of all the criticism, evening cup-ties were played the following year and they did prove to be a financial success.

A first round match between Paddock and Slaithwaite turned out to be something of a marathon with a feast of good, interesting cricket. On the Saturday Slaithwaite suspended at 206 for 3 and Paddock, in a rain-affected innings, were 167 for 1. Willie Watson had scored 80 not out but he had to play with the Yorkshire Colts on the Monday and was unable to continue his innings.

On the Monday, Paddock suspended at 198 for 1 (i.e. really 198 for 2), Slaithwaite batted the rest of the evening, progressing to 307 for 5, and on the Tuesday were all out for 395. Paddock batted the rest of Tuesday and a rain-affected Wednesday to make 307 for 5.

Thursday was a blank day due to rain so a special League meeting was called and the match was scheduled to continue on the following Monday. It did, and Paddock were all out for 346. It was a fine effort over five different days. The loss of Willie Watson did not help the Paddock cause.

In the 1939 final Lascelles Hall beat Golcar to take the Cup for the first time. In the third round tie between Meltham Mills and Lascelles Hall, Tommy Lodge, who was then a teenager with Lascelles Hall, had a remarkable performance. He took seven for 9 in three spells of bowling and a four was given from a ball hitting a dog on the square or it would have been seven for 5.

Slaithwaite signed Tommy as a professional, but his promising cricket career was spoilt by the war. He did play for Yorkshire in 1948, was professional at Perth and also played football for Huddersfield Town and in Scotland.

The Sykes Cup competition continued throughout the war years. Although some good competitive cricket was played, however, it lacked some of the sparkle and skill of the pre-war years. Obviously many outstanding cricketers were missing. Players available had to work long hours and were also engaged in Civil Defence duties. This sometimes involved night duties on the day before a match. Nevertheless some interesting games were played. Men who in normal circumstances would have retired, donned their whites and youngsters were bled a little earlier than usual.

In 1942 Stanley Brown, a hard-hitting Linthwaite batsman, had a Cup batting average of 239. He went to the wicket on three occasions and was only once out.

The 1943 final between Slaithwaite and Elland produced some more high quality cricket. Elland were the winners, but the match was remembered because of a polished innings by C Fraser, a young West Indian serviceman. He had a fine partnership with Tommy Lodge at a time when Slaithwaite were in dire trouble.

In this period Slaithwaite made a habit of being in the Sykes Cup news. In a third round match against Rastrick in 1944 they were 0 for 3 and all out 85. Rastrick, from being 42 for 2, collapsed to 72 for 6 and were finally all out for 83.

A 1944 semi-final between Broad Oak and Kirkburton at Paddock was broadcast by the BBC. It was something of an innovation at the time to have a league cricket match on the air.

A second round match between Golcar and Almondbury had a rare result. It was a tie. Almondbury won the replay.

The 1945 semi-finals certainly had some "Roy of the Rovers" action. Kirkheaton met Lascelles Hall at Almondbury. "Yetton" were at the bottom of Section "B", eventually having to apply for re-election. Lascelles Hall were placed comfortably in Section "A". The Saturday before the semi-final neither team had a fixture so they agreed to play a match at Lascelles Hall in aid of the local Comforts Fund — much to the disgust of the Lascelles Hall professional who believed in keeping his powder dry. Lascelles Hall won easily.

The semi-final was a different kettle of fish. Much to the annoyance of his colleagues the Lascelles Hall skipper sent his opponents in to bat on a perfect wicket. It was hardly the stuff to set the blood racing as Kirkheaton, at suspension, were 99 for 2 after two and a half hours. Lascelles Hall were all out for 110 and their neighbours had no difficulty in finishing them off without further loss.

Harry Webster, the Kirkheaton professional, was the tormentor in chief with both bat and ball. It made it a bitter pill for Lascelles Hall because Webster, his brother, and their father before them, had all been Lascelles Hallers.

It was thought the scene was set for a fairly humdrum final. Two second division sides in opposition, Huddersfield runaway leaders, Kirkheaton well and truly stuck at the bottom. Notwithstanding the semi-final even the more knowledgeable people did not expect lightning to strike in the same place twice.

It certainly looked that way when Webster and his opening colleague were out for ducks in the first over. Fred Berry, born in Kirkheaton but professional at Huddersfield, and at the outbreak of war on the Surrey CCC books, dealt with Kirkheaton as Webster had dealt with Lascelles Hall in the semi-final. He took seven wickets and Yetton were all out for 102.

It looked easy for Huddersfield, and it should have been easy, but Webster had different ideas. Result: Kirkheaton 102, Huddersfield 54 (Webster seven for 22).

The Kirkheaton president, George Herbert Hirst, was delighted. As he said "Cricket is a funny old game."

The first round in 1946 again had Webster in the limelight. He took six for 38 to help dismiss Hall Bower for 72. Kirkheaton had batted first and made 78 for 5. It must have been thrilling stuff for two and a half hours.

Going to the other extreme, in the third round there was a superb match between Meltham, 373 (A Taylor 146), and Paddock, 231 (Willie Watson 86).

In the semi-final at Fartown what should have been a splendid match between Elland and Broad Oak turned out to be a bit of a farce. The match was played on the Saturday before the Elland holidays. On an ideal cricket day Elland suspended at 129 for 5. The next two and a half hours brought Broad Oak to 123 for 7. The Elland skipper had then to decide his policy as he knew three of his players were unavailable the following week, on holiday.

He asked Broad Oak to suspend, told his holiday-bound batsmen to set about the bowling and hoped for the best. When stumps were drawn on the Saturday night Elland were 197 for 6 (Brompton 89). On the Monday evening Harry Hinchliffe whipped out the remaining batsmen and the innings closed at 224.

The farcical scene was then set. Elland fielding only eight men tried to grab the last three Broad Oak wickets. At 197 for 8 it looked as if Broad Oak could pull the match out of the fire but a mini-collapse saw them all out for 200.

And so the scene was set for a classic final between Elland and Slaithwaite. It had to be a match to anticipate because of the participants. Elland had Horace Walker, Chapman, Drinkwater, Brompton, Frank Sykes, Hammond and Bastow. Their opponents matched that list with Tommy Lodge, Tom Walker, Arthur Sykes, G A Dawson, Trower and Habergham. All names to revive happy memories.

Hubert Trower could probably be said to be the "man of the match" with his seven for 68, but there were many top line performances. The result: Slaithwaite 288, Elland 244.

Johnny Hunter, the brilliant Australian rugby full-back at Fartown, played his cricket at Bradley Mills in 1947. His cricket was as exhilarating as his football. In a first round match at Kirkburton he made 178 of his team's 488. Kirkburton made 254. In the second round Hunter came down to earth with a bang—he failed to score.

In the third round Thongsbridge, playing Slaithwaite, slumped from 50 for 0 to 87 for 6, recovering to 124 for 6 at suspension. Slaithwaite suspended at 127 for 4 but George Kaye carried his bat to take Thongsbridge to victory. He made 155 and his team 314. Slaithwaite totalled 217 with their former colleague, Hubert Trower, now professional for the opposition, taking six wickets.

Paddock and Lascelles Hall met in the final after two low-scoring semi-finals, with Stanley Speight taking six for 11 for Paddock against Thongsbridge and Alec Lodge seven for 23 for Lascelles Hall against Shepley. Although interesting, the final was nothing to get excited about until the last hour on the Monday evening when Norman Kaye set about the Lascelles Hall bowlers with relish, showing scant respect for line or length. Paddock won with two wickets to spare.

In 1948 an incident occurred which resulted in a compulsory stoppage of play at 9 pm being introduced. In the Honley v Meltham match, in trying to avoid another evening's play, Meltham resumed their innings after suspension needing only 12 runs to win. It should only have taken a few overs. Unfortunately, Frank Kitson, the Honley wicket-keeper, sustained a serious injury, and the delay when he was having attention meant the winning run was not made until after 10 pm.

The competition in 1948 brought a controversial objection by Hall Bower against Lascelles Hall in the semi-final, played at Holmfirth. The story begins at Holmfirth when Lascelles Hall played and beat the home club in the first round. Due to deplorable weather the tie lasted until well into the second week. Alan Entwistle, the Lascelles Hall professional, contracted a bad cold which developed into pneumonia. He was seriously ill and it can be said that it ended what looked like being a promising career in the game. He did play in the last match of the season but he was obviously a poorly man.

The Lascelles Hall club had applied to Yorkshire and Lancashire for a deputy professional each Saturday but no-one had been sent. The same procedure was carried out on the semi-final day when, much to everyone's surprise, JP Whitehead, the Yorkshire County colt, appeared. This in itself presented a problem because Lascelles Hall already had eleven men.

To cut a long story short, Whitehead's speed was too much for Hall Bower. He took nine wickets and Hall Bower were dismissed for 50 to lose by seven wickets. It was an unpleasant time for the Lascelles Hall club as all kinds of rumours circulated about sharp practice. All untrue. Entwistle was very ill and the club was certainly not aware that for the first Saturday in weeks a deputy would be sent to them.

Hall Bower lost their objection but the damage had been done. It resulted in a most unpleasant cup final in front of the largest ever gate of 11,000 plus. Lascelles Hall had engaged Whitehead for the rest of the season when he was available. He was available for the final against Meltham.

It was obvious from the start that Lascelles Hall were in for a rough time from the spectators. Whitehead was exceptionally fast, so much so that a ball going through the slips and having hit a concrete post was disfigured. It left the umpire with no choice but to ask for a replacement.

Only eleven balls had been bowled. Lascelles Hall did not have another new ball and Meltham refused to loan them theirs. The Huddersfield club had some but they were locked away and the man with the key was not available. Eventually someone went to town, bought a new ball and then the League president and the Huddersfield representative ceremoniously bowled eleven balls, using the new ball. All very amusing for the spectators but it did not improve the tension on the field of play.

The game progressed from Saturday to Monday afternoon, Monday evening and Tuesday evening. Meltham made 330 with Lascelles Hall fielding nine men, Whitehead being absent playing for the Yorkshire second eleven and the captain with an injury. Lascelles Hall made 199. For Meltham, their

professional, George Bottomley (a great all-round cricketer), scored 137 and had a stand of 167 with F Q Woodhead (85). Peter Brook (Meltham) was the game's outstanding bowler with six for 54.

Whitehead had a scintillating knock of 48 for Lascelles Hall and a young left-arm pace bowler, Bryan Shaw, after having figures of nought for 57 at one stage, finished with five for 88 in 25 eight ball overs. A creditable performance.

After the debacle with the ball, the League began to supply balls for the semi-final and final ties.

Just after the war in a Sykes Cup match at Broad Oak the writer had one of his rare successful days, taking several wickets for not many runs. Broad Oak capitulated to this unusual burst of power to be all out for 80. On these occasions, uppermost in the mind of the bowler is what will the paper have to say about the performance. Will it use phrases like "blistering speed", "spearhead of attack", "menacing bowling", "frightening pace", etc.

At just over 50 without loss, an easy victory was in sight but that old warrior, Harry Hinchcliffe, had other plans. He started off with a hat-trick, scythed through the middle order and when your hero strode to the wicket at 10A (after many years the skipper was too much of a gentleman to call me number eleven) the score was 79 for 9.

Never has a cabinet minister made his way to a summit conference with more instructions than the poor batsman on this occasion. My colleague at the other end was a seasoned veteran who had entered the fray at number three. He welcomed with with fatherly advice. It was, he said, the last ball of the over. Stop it somehow or another and leave the rest to him. The bowler sidled up to the wicket, he delivered a perfect half-volley. With one foot pointing to square leg, the other to point and using the bat something like a blacksmith's striker in reverse, the ball was half hit to give a dolly-catch to the bowler who gleefully accepted the offering. Out of the corner of my eye I saw the chairman of our selection committee uncross his legs, cross them the other way and say something to his neighbour which I thought would be well worth listening to!

As I made my way back to the pavilion by myself (for some reason my fellow batsman seemed not to be with me) I still thought the papers could not ignore the fine bowling feat. My dreams were shattered by our skipper who greeted me by saying "Well, that's another match tha's lost us."

In 1949 the cricket failed to match the excellent weather which prevailed throughout the competition and in a poor final Huddersfield easily beat Honley.

The following season was notable for some slow scoring. Teams were totalling only 70 or 80 runs in two and a half hours. It certainly gave League administrators something to think about. The final was not too brilliant. The fact that Drinkwater, the Elland batsman, had the best bowling analysis (five for 49) speaks for itself.

Probably the most exciting match in the 1951 season was at Shepley against Paddock. Paddock suspended at 133 for 5, but when Shepley were only 87 for 8 they did not enforce the suspension as the match looked all but over. This was a disastrous decision as Shepley went on to make 185. Paddock collapsed from 133 for 5 to 157 all out. Captains did on occasions make certain decisions in an attempt to save a further night's travelling.

In the 1951 semi-finals Rastrick beat Lascelles Hall (who had then lost in five successive semi-final or final games), and Elland easily beat Kirkheaton.

The weather again played a vital part in the final. It started on the Saturday and eventually ended on the following Tuesday when 2,000 spectators were admitted free. It was ruined as a spectacle. Rastrick, with 145 for 5, had a comfortable win against Elland's 144 all out. Jack Gledhill took five for 40 in 28.4 overs for Rastrick and Tom Thornton made 60 for Elland.

In season 1952 the semi-finalists of the previous year all went out of the competition in the first round, Huddersfield beating the cup holders, Rastrick, on their own ground. They bowled them out for 36 with Stephen Fielding taking seven for 13.

In the semi-finals Huddersfield had a two-wicket victory against Thongsbridge at Honley in a match which could have gone either way.

The other semi-final between Broad Oak and Honley was a marathon of the highest order. It started on a Monday and continued until 8.30 pm on the sixth day.

Some players were due to go on holiday and didn't go. Some went on holiday only to return each evening to play. Pity the poor wives!

The final scores were Honley 557, Broad Oak 269. A book could be written about the match. Pride of place must go to Jack Wood, the Honley professional, who scored 189, and John Crowther (Broad Oak), who made 139. C Sykes (85) and R Mellor (74) were also in the runs for Honley.

Wood completed a fine all-round performance by taking seven for 70 in 39 overs. Broad Oak used nine bowlers and were unfortunate insofar as their professional, George Boothroyd, sustained an injury. He was unable to bowl after his initial spell and had to bat with a runner.

If the semi-final at Fartown had brought a feast of runs, the final on the same pitch brought a famine. At the end of the first hour Honley were exactly 11 for 1. After just under two hours they had struggled to 36 for 6. Members of the League Council were huddled in groups discussing what could be done to revive the Cup competition. A quick thrash by the seventh wicket pair improved matters and the suspension came at 103 for 6. It was a dull, dismal affair which, owing to inclement weather, eventually petered out the following Tuesday evening. Scores: Huddersfield 228, Honley 151.

It was a fact that the halcyon days of the 1920s and thirties seemed a long, long time ago. Slow play had been a problem in League cricket for some time, but due to the sudden death aspect in the Cup competition it had not been apparent. Now came the moment of truth.

A dramatic improvement was expected in 1953 after all the hot air of the preceding winter. It did not materialise; in fact, if anything the problem became even worse. A second round match between Marsden and Honley brought 175 runs in 106 overs.

Fortunately, the final between Broad Oak and Elland provided some rich entertainment for appreciative spectators who had been starved of the cricket furnished in the glory days. Elland made 256 for 5 after two suspensions, Tom Thornton making 103, J Orton 67 and S Richardson 53 not out. Broad Oak were dismissed for 211, Noel Horsfield, their opening bat, making 76. Harry Holroyd, of Elland, was the most successful bowler with six for 75.

It was strange to see the bowling analyses of the two professionals. Jack Gledhill (Broad Oak) had nought for 104 and Ernest Needham (Elland) two for 54. They were two of the most prolific wicket takers of the decade. However, in this match the all-round quality of play was the thing that took the eye.

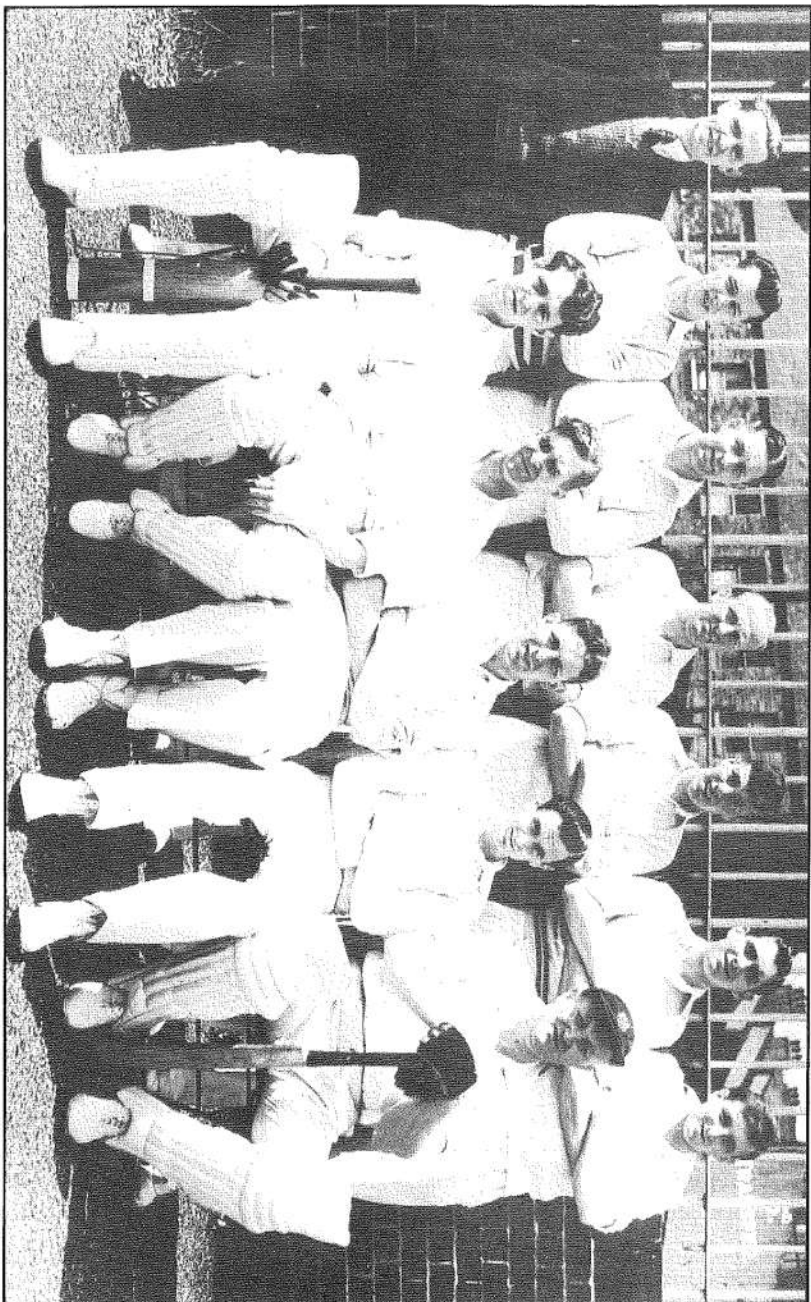
Gledhill made up for this performance when the teams met yet again in the semi-final the following year. He had the amazing figures of 28.3 overs 16 maidens 26 runs and seven wickets. Not to be outdone, Needham did even better with 15 overs 7 maidens 21 runs eight wickets. It was an extraordinary game. Elland managed to score only 105. They appeared to be in for a hiding when Broad Oak were 86 for 4 but the last six wickets fell at the same total.

In the other semi-final Slaithwaite had no problem with Lascelles Hall whom they beat easily. The scene was set for another classic final.

Keen and interesting, sometimes fascinating, it looked first as if Slaithwaite would win and then Elland, who had suspended at 114 for 5. Slaithwaite had a frightening start, being only 19 for 3. Four catches were then dropped off Needham's bowling, so, taking full advantage, Tom Walker, ably assisted by Tom Sykes, lashed the Elland attack to all corners of the field. Slaithwaite suspended at 150 for 5.

Batting again Elland reached 255 for 8 and dismissed their opponents for 256. They had no trouble scoring the two runs required for victory. This was Needham's match. He made 78 not out and took five for 89 in 38 overs.

The early rounds in 1955 provided some superb cricket in good weather. The semi-final at Fartown was of timeless test vintage, or so it seemed. It was Almondbury v Lascelles Hall for six evenings and was



**LINTHWAITE — SYKES CUP WINNERS 1956**

Players only: M Thornton, G Fryer, K Oldham, J Sykes, G Hoyle and J Smith  
Front row: L Thornton, D Pearson, B Chappell (captain), T Holroyd and S H Biggs

the only Sykes Cup game to be played when each team had three bites of the cherry, so to speak. The sequence of scoring was:

Almondbury	126 for 3	suspended	Lascelles Hall	135 for 1	suspended
"	268 for 6	"	" "	235 for 6	"
"	330 all out	"	" "	334 for 6	"

Douglas Rigby, with 98 not out, and Cedric Mear, with 39 not out and five for 83, were outstanding for the winners.

For the third season in succession the final was a good one. Indeed, the League president, who had seen them all, described it as the best ever. Lockwood 261 and Lascelles Hall 238 may give the impression that it was a comfortable victory for the Birks Bottom side. The score was misleading; it was a game of high quality cricket played in excellent spirit.

Raymond Prior, in his description of the final, says "it was a refreshing and exciting final, timeless cup-ties were saved for a few more years – perhaps it would, in retrospect, have been better to go out in this blaze of glory."

For the seventh time in nine years Lascelles Hall had reached the semi-final or final stage without winning the Cup. The defeats had all been at the hands of different clubs.

For several years League officials had been aware that the Cup competition was stagnating. The early vitality had gone. Although the 1955 final had been generally applauded it was decided to change the structure. It had been recognised for at least twenty years that the president, Herbert Robinson, wished to have a League of three divisions.

A large majority opposed the scheme but Herbert was never a man to give up trying, nor did he suffer fools gladly.

He suggested a scheme to liven up the Sykes Cup by inviting eight extra clubs to join the competition, four each from the Central and Association Leagues.

Some representatives immediately shouldered arms and said it was a way of promoting his three division scheme via a back door method. Many meetings were held, some heated discussions ensued but eventually the new format was approved.

With 32 clubs involved no byes were necessary – in fact for two or three years the draw was made right through to the final at the annual meeting.

The first year with the new clubs saw a quite peculiar happening. Linthwaite won the cup, playing five times on the way and not once did they have to score 100 runs.

It was a poor final, with Primrose Hill, who were at the top of Section "B", playing Linthwaite, struggling at the bottom of the same section. After a dour struggle Linthwaite suspended at 92 for 5. They then summarily disposed of Primrose Hill for 47, the lowest ever score in the final.

In 1957, Denby Dale became the first "outsiders" to beat a League team when they coasted to victory over Honley by five wickets.

High scoring in the competition appeared to be a thing of the past. It was becoming quite an exception. The 1957 final, as an event, was a poor affair. Thongsbridge struggled to 59 all out and Broad Oak lost only two wickets to gain an easy win.

Weatherwise 1958 was a shocking year – at any rate for the Sykes Cup matches. At the end of the first week of the second round, five matches had not even started and only spasmodic play had been possible in the other three. There was a tie, only the second in Sykes Cup history at the time. Hall Bower and Slaithwaite had each made 100 runs. Slaithwaite won the replay.

In 1958 the rules still necessitated suspension at 150, but in one match Thongsbridge suspended at 171 for 9 as Stanley Norton, their professional, knocked 26 off the final over.

Only 1,579 spectators turned up for the 1958 final between Huddersfield and Kirkheaton. Yetton suspended at 91 for 6, Huddersfield at 145 for 4, Kirkheaton were then all out for 99 – in 55 overs. More meetings of the League Council!

It had been probably the most miserable season ever in Sykes Cup cricket. Never short of ideas, Mr Robinson trotted out another one. He suggested that all matches up to the final should be of 45 overs each innings, with the final played to a finish as in pre-war years. It failed.

During the 1959 competition Alf Topp and Brian Hirst, of Meltham, were a formidable duo. In the third round of the competition they bowled 72 of the 75 overs bowled. In the semi-final they bowled 63 out of 69 and in the final 45 out of 51.

Although the final was such a dismal affair, the ties in 1959 generally showed some improvement on the performances in recent seasons. Having said that, it was obvious that the approach to the game had sadly seen off the casual spectator, only the hard core remaining. Only 2,638 saw the final when Meltham, 155 all out, beat Lockwood, 115 all out. A view of the match by an official was “neither entertainment nor spectacle, and the final proof that we must have 45-over innings if we are to keep the support we expect”.

Incidentally, the Meltham and Meltham Mills Brass Band played at the final. They, at any rate, played very well.

At the next annual meeting clubs voted by a large majority to bring in 45-over innings for the 1960 Sykes Cup matches. And so, to use a well-worn cliché, with the advent of overs Cup matches, it was well and truly the end of an era. The first 10 years of the Sykes Cup brought a fillip to the game in the area. It also brought cricket of a high standard from many players who were, or were just short of, County standard.

In the early days of the Sykes Cup competition the final was quite an event. It was played at Fartown which was an excellent venue, probably the only flat County ground in Yorkshire. Large crowds flocked to the finals with players and former players making the fixture an annual pilgrimage. The total attendance over the three days of the 1948 final, for example, was more than 11,000.

The first time the writer played in a final he had a somewhat down to earth experience before the match. Being from farming stock on mother’s side of the family it was always a knife and fork affair for Saturday lunch. No fancy pizza jobs, just plain honest food.

During the meal mother said “Are we going to watch him this afternoon?” Dad, never forgetting George Herbert Hirst’s view of my prowess, replied “Watch him! I would rather go for a walk with a nail up in my shoe.” How are the mighty fallen.

During the 40 years there had been changes. There had to be changes, the most significant being after the Second World War when travel became so easy and Sunday was no longer a day of rest.

There is no doubt at all that once Sunday cricket was being played the game changed. It changed at County level and at League level. The more dedicated cricket lover will say it is not the same game. Perhaps so.

Arthur Booth, the former Yorkshire player, used to say it was not as good when he finished as it was when he started, his father said the same, and his father before him held the same opinion. Arthur’s punch line was “It must have been a hell of a game when it started.”

Once overs cricket was firmly established, players were not long in recognising that the game had changed completely. No longer could opening batsmen go to the crease with the intention of providing a firm base for a substantial team score. Two or three overs of acclimatization and then it was every man for himself.

The cricket purist deplored what was happening but the majority of the casual spectators preferred the new format. Like it or not, at the end of the day the game depends almost entirely on the financial aspect. So overs cricket it has to be.

Nevertheless, it will be seen that reports of the matches have not the meat in them as in the previous years. Exciting matches, yes, but difficult to describe a year after the event.

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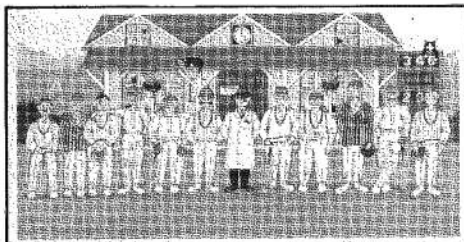
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PRIDE OF THE VILLAGE (LJS LET)

In 1960 Thongsbridge claimed the double. A good professional plus an excellent team spirit served them well.

Almondbury, winning the Cup for the first time in 1962, had Eddie Leadbeater to thank for a fine century in their victory over Paddock. Mind you, they tried their level best to lose by dropping so many catches that the reporters lost count. Leadbeater, as man of the match, became the first winner of the Victor Muff Trophy.

Interesting matches in 1964 were first of all a Slaithwaite match with Paddock. Paddock made 171. Slaithwaite required 28 off the last three overs, 10 from the last over and they scrambled home off the last ball of the match. S Knight and C Moxon put on 38 for the last wicket.

In the Armitage Bridge 89 and Marsden 88 fixture, 17-year-old Nigel Wood scored 11 of a last wicket stand of 16 with V Rodney for Marsden but with only two runs required for victory was caught off B Pennington (six for 38). No doubt it was much to the relief of Nigel's father, Eric, who was captain of Armitage Bridge.

One of the Central League teams, Scholes, 180 for 8, beat Golcar 164.

1965 brought another innings of note from Peter Dibb, playing for Slaithwaite against an Association League team, Britannia Works. Opening the innings, Peter managed to amass 9 runs in 29 overs. Slaithwaite made a miserable 78 but skittled out Britannia Works for 38 (C Moxon had six for 19 including the hat-trick).

Another low scoring game was Hall Bower v Holmfirth. Holmfirth made only 39, D Stow taking five for 16 and I Booth four for 21.

In a first round match between Elland and Lockwood, Elland were worried at 106 all out and even more so when Lockwood were 99 for 5, but the last five wickets fell with no addition to the score.

Without labouring the situation too much it will have been noted that not many high scoring bonanzas are reported.

Other finals during this period were notable for good bowling performances rather than high scores from the batsmen. E Langton had six for 58 for Paddock, beating Golcar in 1963, J Roberts, for Lascelles Hall, had five for 32 in their win against Armitage Bridge in 1961 and B Hirst, back at Meltham, had seven for 46 in their victory against Hall Bower in 1965.

In 1966 John Sullivan, who later was a member of Clive Lloyd's Lancashire team, scored 173 runs for Holmfirth, against Huddersfield. His knock included four sixes and seventeen fours, with 25 being scored off one over from J Taylor. He then took six for 66.

M Bateson, for Meltham v Rastrick, took six for 19 and scored 87 (six sixes and eight fours).

Kirkburton made 247 for 6 after being 33 for 4. Included was a fifth wicket stand of 202 between K Collier (128 not out) and J Senior (96). Their opponents, David Browns, were 73 all out.

At Armitage Bridge, Paddock made 168 for 9 (B Pennington eight for 50). Armitage Bridge hit the winning run with five wickets down and one ball remaining. Calamity! The score-books did not tally. Both books were runs short. Paddock lodged an objection but subsequently withdrew it and graciously accepted defeat.

In 1967 K Bowling, of Honley, made what is still the highest limited overs individual score in the competition by hitting 176 not out against Rastrick on June 5.

Moving on to 1969, Holmfirth had been superior for several years and on this occasion they achieved the double. The season was notable because four "outsiders" beat League opposition. The teams were Emley Clarence 119 v Golcar 105, Birchencliffe 133 v Dalton 82, Scholes 131 v Primrose Hill 129 (who were 37 for 7 at one stage) and Clayton West 127 v Shepley 76 (after being 36 for 6).

C E Gill made his fourth successive appearance in the final as a captain in 1970. It was his fifth in eight years, Paddock in 1963, 1967 and 1968, Holmfirth in 1969 and 1970. Because of barracking, in the 1970 final he refused to leave the dressing room to accept the trophy which was presented to A Netherwood. Holmfirth did the double for the second year in succession.

Association and Central League clubs caused some upsets in 1971. Oakes CYC Old Boys, having bowled out Armitage Bridge for 221, scored 224 for 2 with R Walker on 120 not out, the highest score to date by a batsman outside the League. Even more surprising was Scholes, then in the Central League, beating Lascelles Hall 160 to 128.

There was another score-book problem to face. In round two on June 6, 1971 Linthwaite 122 and Dalton, according to the score-board, 121. After a score-book check Dalton claimed they had made 122. A five star chamber meeting of the League Management Committee commanded that the "tie" should be replayed. It was, and Dalton won.

The Bradley Mills 185 for 7 and Lockwood 184 match was an exhilarating affair. Five runs were required by Lockwood from the last over, two of which were made by Brian Hughes who was batting at number nine. He made 36 and was run out off the penultimate ball. A Darlington was run out off the last ball.

In the 1971 final Elland 136 for 7 beat Hall Bower 82. S Armitage, the Elland professional, took eight for 44. He was the first player to take eight wickets in a final. He also scored 24 runs and won the Victor Muff Trophy as man of the match.

1972 was remarkable that in the second round Lockwood, languishing in Section B, beat the then Section "A" leaders, Broad Oak, by seven wickets, with J Senior making 66 not out.

The final between Honley and Hall Bower, which the latter team won, was notable for two fine bowling performances. Terry Woodhouse, who has since completed 1,000 wickets in the League, took eight for 61 for the victors. That great sportsman and former county cricketer, Johnny Lawrence, well into the veteran stage, took seven for 42 for the losers.

The following season, 1973, the limitation of one professional for each club was discontinued. There was what was termed an "open league."

In a first round match on May 12, Holmfirth 76 for 5 beat Paddock 75 (C Shaw six for 18). A protest at the ineligibility of a Holmfirth player, M Calvert, was upheld and Paddock were reinstated, beating Meltham in the second round although D Doshi, for Meltham, took six for 44. Paddock were knocked out in round three.

Round one on May 11, 1974 brought victory for Central League team, Kexborough, over Shepley by one run 94 to 93.

In the third round B Collier 125 and G Barnard 86 not out put on 200 for Kirkheaton's second wicket against Elland. Kirkheaton went on to beat Honley, 190 for 3 to 191 for 4, in the final.

This was Honley's sixth unsuccessful final and their second in three years. They eventually won on their eighth appearance in 1982 but have subsequently had two further unsuccessful appearances in the final in 1983 and 1985.

Kirkheaton, who had been Sykes Cup winners the two previous years, were beaten in the first round in 1975. Marsden's victory against Dalton was the first time they had tasted success in the competition for seven years.

Kexborough (then in the Central League), 150 for 8 v Lascelles Hall, 153 for 9, provided a large crowd with a last over drama. There was confusion over the score, a disputed six and a run out adding to the excitement. C Taylor for Lascelles Hall, who had made 62, fell at 125 for 6. When the last over began the Hall wanted 8 runs. They took two singles and then 18-year-old Martin Adamson lofted left arm slow bowler J Lapside high in the direction of long off for a six, the ball being helped on its way by Kexborough batting hero P Gibson (54).

Jubilation turned to confusion when the umpires insisted that play should continue with three balls

remaining, as they thought Lascelles Hall's total was 149, the scorers having credited Adamson with a four instead of a six. However, Adamson scored a single and Michael Brown a two, the match being won with one ball left.

In that year's final Holmfirth 200 for 5 beat Elland 198. It was the first of a hat-trick of wins. Don Wilson, the former Yorkshire and Test player, took nought for 52 in 17 overs for Holmfirth.

Something approaching the unbelievable occurred in the first round on May 15, 1976. Broad Oak, riding high and leaders of Section "A", entertained Lockwood CYC Old Boys, an Association League team who were hardly recognised as potential Sykes Cup winners.

Broad Oak collapsed completely to a humiliating 76 all out. The Old Boys knocked them off for the loss of six wickets. The Examiner reporter said "The almost casual approach of the Lockwood CYC Old Boys' side – they took the field in an assortment of sweaters, flannels and multi-coloured socks – was, to say the least, deceptive. Ray Jackson for the winners made 40 not out and took four for 18.

It was said at the time that the Lockwood CYC Old Boys' skipper, on winning the toss, asked the advice of his most experienced colleague as to what he should do. It appeared the experience amounted to being selected as second reserve for the Paddock second eleven 10 years previously.

In 1977 the YMCA playing Lascelles Hall were all out for 60. Arnie Sidebottom of Yorkshire fame took seven for 34, including four wickets in four balls. The YMCA team were 1 for 5 at one stage.

A second round match between Broad Oak (236 for 4) and Thongsbridge (236 all out) was full of incident on top of which was the final result – a tie.

For Thongsbridge, batting second, Wales (107) and Power (69) put on 134 for the first wicket with Wales being the first of six run outs. John Harrison took over and his big-hitting created panic in the field. Allan Greaves conceded 17 in the forty-second over, 9 came from the forty-third, bowled by Denis Schofield, and 11 from the forty-fourth, bowled by Greaves.

The first two balls of the final over, bowled by Schofield, went through to wicket-keeper, Trevor Holmes, the third brought a leg bye. Thongsbridge then lost their nerve, Harrison (32) and Ian Ainley were run out on the fourth and fifth balls and Moorhouse was given out, backing up, off what would have been the last ball of the innings.

The umpire ruled that the delivery had not been completed. Richard Mallinson went in without pads and was sent back to put some on but was run out on the last ball, without having faced a delivery.

Broad Oak won the replay with 197 for 7 against 121 for 8 by Thongsbridge. For Broad Oak, Greaves scored 51 not out and Power took six for 34 for Thongsbridge.

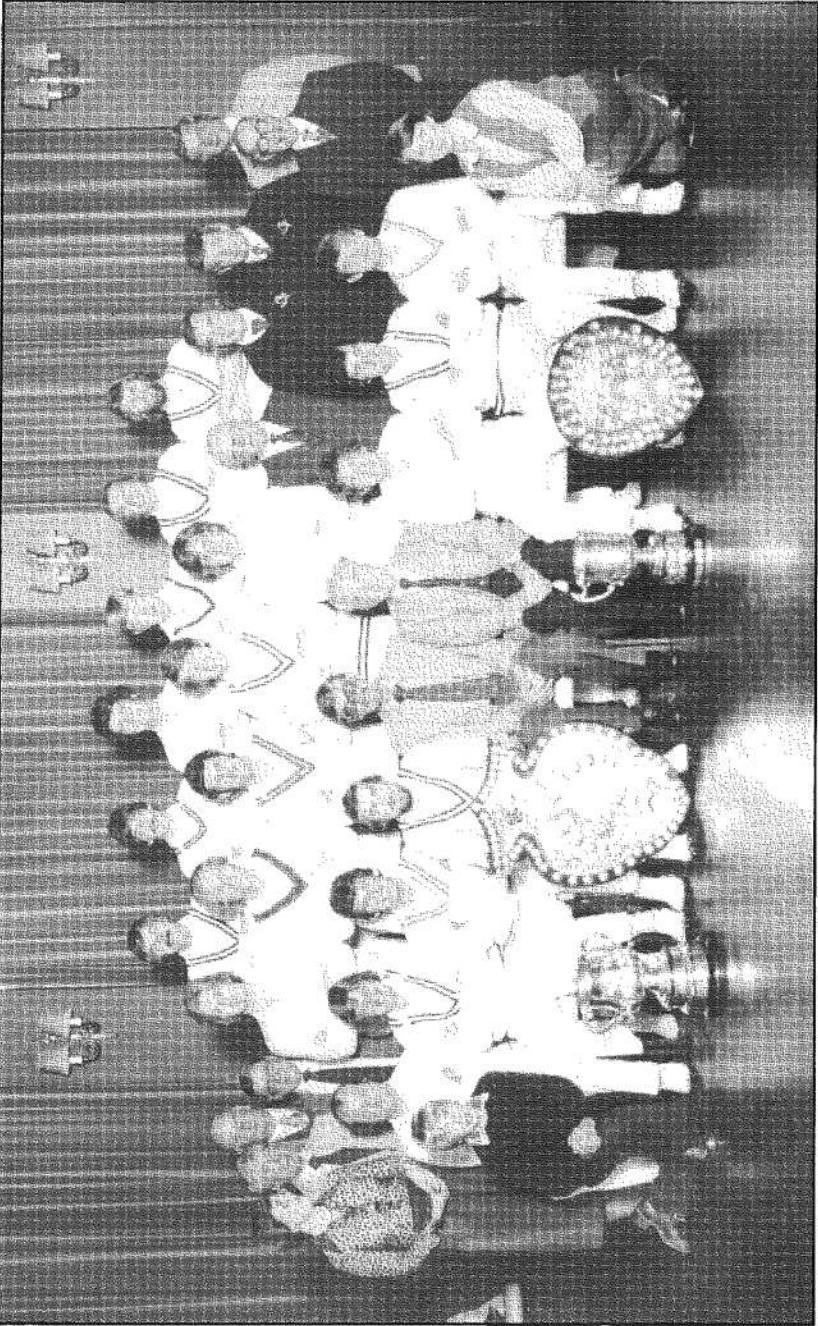
In the two matches, which produced 790 runs from 180 overs, there were no byes until the 178th over. Nineteen-year-old Richard Mallinson, of Thongsbridge, kept a clean sheet. Denis Schofield conceded only seven runs in his last ten overs in the replay. A truly remarkable fixture.

In one of the semi-finals that year Holmfirth 176 for 6 beat Almondbury 175 for 5. The winning run came off the fifth ball of the last over. For Almondbury, Michael Brown bowled 22 overs, taking two for 75 but had six catches dropped.

Holmfirth's win in the final versus Elland, with 185 for 5 against 149 all out, gave them the double for the third year running – then the fifth double. It was their seventh victory in eight finals, and they were the first club to win the Cup three years in succession. It was their fifteenth successive Cup-tie win. They had also been champions six times in the previous nine years. In the match Les Bradbury bowled 22 overs, seven of the first fifteen being maidens. In his last six overs he took seven for 22, clean bowling six.

Brian Lymbury for Honley 186 for 7 against Almondbury 108, batted through the innings in a 1978 second round match. He made 103 not out. The previous day in a League match he had batted through for 106 not out.

Meltham tied with 95 against Elland. M Bocarro had six for 29 for Meltham and P Wilkinson five for 36 for Elland. Meltham won the replay – N Nanan scored 87 for them.



ELLAND CRICKET CLUB — 1979  
First club to win the Byrom Shield, Sykes Cup, Johnson Cup and Paddock Shield in one season

In the semi-final Shepley won an exciting match. Shepley's 146 for 9 overtaking Meltham's 145 all out. For Shepley, Howard Palmer made 46 and Peter Dibb took seven for 72. Mike Bocarro had five for 50 for Meltham.

Shepley at one stage were 17 for 6. The ninth wicket pair, Colin Shaw (34 not out) and 17-year-old Palmer, lifted the score from 86 for 8 to 133 for 9 before the youngster was run out. Shaw and Dibb steered their team to victory.

In the final Shepley lost to Broad Oak. Denis Schofield took six for 46 for the winners. It was the Oak's first final triumph for 21 years.

Holmfirth, winners of the Cup in 1970, 1975, 1976 and 1977 were knocked out in the first round by Lascelles Hall in 1980.

Also in this round in 1981, Primrose Hill were all out for 112 against Elland. They needed only four to win off the last over with two wickets left. Denis Midwood bowled it and took both wickets without conceding a run.

After a reversal of a League ruling on his eligibility, the prolific run-getter at Elland, Roy Dexter, played and got a duck when Bradley Mills were the losers in another first round match. For Elland David Scott made 55 and took four for 39. P Wilkinson claimed five for 2.

In the final of that year Elland beat Honley. Bowling 21.5 overs for Elland, P Wilkinson took seven for 66, taking five for 19 in his last six overs.

Making their first and only appearance in the final to date in 1980, Marsden put up a good fight against the powerful Holmfirth team. Holmfirth made 193, Ron Tindall taking six for 84, and Marsden were held to 181 for 8. It was a commendable effort.

On May 9, 1981 Lascelles Hall scored 309 for 7. M Walwyn had 89 and John Shaw 81. Their opponents were Birkby Old Boys who were summarily dismissed for 30, M Adamson taking four for 1. The 309 is the highest score to date in overs limit Cup matches.

Higham 174 beat Skelmanthorpe 131 and in the Higham innings, John Stanley, a second teamer who had been called to play as the Skelmanthorpe opening bowlers were on holiday, took nine for 69.

In a third round match Shepley 180 for 8 and Elland 183 for 7, 14-year-old Jeremy Firth joined Brian Fitzsimmons when Elland were 130 for 7. The boy remained calm and in murky light shared in a winning stand, making 17 not out.

The final was played at Honley between Elland and Holmfirth. Elland made 217 for 4. It was the first time in a final that the 200 mark had been passed since limited overs were introduced in 1960. R Dexter, missed at 13, made 69, Fitzsimmons 87 and S Bradley 49 not out. Holmfirth's total was 192 for 7, M Smith and G Higgins making 54 each.

Two fiery wickets in the 1982 first round produced low scoring matches. At Rastrick the home side made only 66 (C Shaw nine for 31). Shepley struggled a little but became winners with five down, a young Stuart Fletcher taking four for 30.

At Broad Oak, Bradley Mills made only 62 (D Schofield eight for 28) in reply to 98 (G Byram six for 31).

In round three, a derby match between Thongsbridge, out for 91, and Holmfirth, had Holmfirth scraping home in the 43rd over with two wickets to spare after being 62 for 7. S Armitage took six of the seven for 46 runs.

In one of the semi-finals there was another match of the kind that only overs cricket can provide. Honley made 165 for 6 (S Rimmington 71). Elland were restricted to 161 for 8, after needing 30 from the last 10 overs with seven wickets left. That wily, and also fiery cricketer, Mike Bocarro, along with 15-year-old Jamie Hinchcliffe, took five wickets, bowled tightly to leave Elland requiring 23 from 5 overs, 16 from 1, and 10 off the last from Bocarro, but they failed by 5 runs.

Honley easily beat Primrose Hill in the final to take the Cup for the first time after eight appearances in the final.

A first round game in 1983 between Slaithwaite (160 for 8) and Armitage Bridge, had the latter team doing the chasing. After an eighth wicket stand of 60 between M Webb and C Hawksworth, Armitage Bridge required six off the last over from Roy Brook. They managed only two and finished on 157 for 9.

Honley have probably not won the Sykes Cup as often as they should have done in relation to their appearances in the final. In the 1983 final, played at Elland for the first time, they showed tremendous enthusiasm against Elland. They made 192 for 6 in their overs (S Rimmington 53, M Bocarro 71) and Elland were in serious trouble at 165 for 5 with five overs left. They needed 28 off 5 overs, 10 off 2, and four from the last one. Once again, Jeremy Firth, now only 16 years old, was a saviour, with the experienced P Wilkinson as his partner the runs were made. They got four off the first three balls of the last over, aided by a misfield.

In 1984 a turn-up in the first round was Dalton's victory over Holmfirth by three runs. Five centuries, including 135 from Richard Blakey, of Elland, were scored in the first round. The other batsmen were Imtiaz Ahmed, Dave Booth, Peter Walker and John Lindley.

In the second round John Walker, 123 not out, batted throughout the Slaithwaite innings in their win against Linthwaite. The day before he had done the same in the League versus Armitage Bridge.

The final between Elland (173 for 9) and Lascelles Hall (164 for 9) was much tighter than the score suggests. S Hall bowled throughout the Elland innings on a scorching day to take six for 86 and win the man-of-the-match award. Jeff Senior made 75 for the Hall and P Wilkinson took five for 69 for Elland.

A bit of a shaker in 1985 was when the International from the Association League with 195 for 6 beat Linthwaite 193 for 9. Joe Lewis, for International, batted through to make 106 not out.

In round three, Old Almondburians, bidding to become the first team outside the League to appear in a semi-final, must have been confident of their chances when they bowled out Broad Oak for 115 (Wilford 5 for 65, Jack Taylor 5 for 46) but they collapsed to 50 all out with D Schofield taking six for 15 and A Greaves four for 32.

The 1985 final was the first occasion the League's showpiece had been disrupted to any large extent by weather conditions. It was scheduled for August 11 but was washed out just as it was on August 25 and September 15. It was eventually started on September 21 at 11 am. League officials became so frustrated that at one time they seriously considered playing the match early in 1986.

In different circumstances the match would probably have been recorded as one of the best finals in overs cricket.

The Broad Oak opening pair, S Hoyle and S Rushworth, were aged 18 and 17 respectively. They were the youngest opening pair to play in the final to that date. Ian Kenworthy, of Honley, was playing in his ninth final. He was 18 when he played for Honley in the 1964 final defeat by Kirkburton. He then played in seven finals for Elland.

In this final a dramatic Honley collapse saw Broad Oak snatch a win which at one stage seemed impossible. During the match the man who changed the whole course for Broad Oak was Allan Greaves who was adjudged the man-of-the-match.

The final, which had been started on a Saturday, saw Greaves keep his head to bat sensibly when wickets were tumbling at the other end. He made 32 crucial runs. Broad Oak had only accumulated a modest 112 runs. During the Broad Oak innings the Honley bowlers had always been on top. Apart from Greaves only R Horner (23) and M Dyson (18) offered much resistance.

When the match was resumed on the Sunday, Honley required only 56 runs with seven wickets in hand. Greaves, capitalising on a turning wicket, claimed four victims.

When Honley went in to bat on the second Saturday the result looked a foregone conclusion when they were 57 for 3 after 23 overs. Rain brought an abrupt halt to the proceedings. It was a completely different story when play was resumed on the Sunday. On a damp wicket M Bocarro, who had looked in fine form on the Saturday, went without addition to his overnight score of 22. Opener, M Bridge, who had

stood firm, went for 19 and then in one over Denis Schofield accounted for P Green and I Kenworthy, leaving Honley on a somewhat dicey 62 for 7.

Jamie Hinchliffe obviously resolved not to go down without a fight and made 27. He was out attempting a big hit and was caught in the deep. Honley closed on 98, 15 runs short.

There was a familiar situation the following season. It seemed to be nearly conventional that the Cup holders should have a struggle in the first round the following year. Broad Oak, entertaining Thurstonland, faced problems on a fiery wicket. They managed to get rid of the away team for 44 (G Hurlbatt nine for 16) but had to struggle against a keen Thurstonland attack. They lost seven wickets in scoring the runs required, with Brammall taking five for 28.

Hurlbatt had taken the first nine wickets from 13 overs. Eight of his victims were taken in positions behind the wicket.

In another first round fixture Linthwaite went out at the first hurdle to a non-League team. It was to the nearest of margins – one run. Old Almondburians 104 Linthwaite 103

In a boring final Kirkburton beat Lascelles Hall in a match which kept the opposing spectators interested because either team could have been victors right to the time the winning run was scored. T Hardiman, for the winners, bowled tightly and made 67 not out.

All 12 Section "A" clubs went through to the second round in 1987. It was the first time this had happened.

Lascelles Hall, appearing in the final in successive years, were winners but Elland put up a good fight. It was 198 – 5 (James Pamment 74) and 185 for 7 (M Curry 53 and J Shaw five for 53).

In the first semi-final in 1988 a keen battle was fought in the Primrose Hill v Kirkheaton match. When the match was played Primrose Hill were at the bottom of Section "B" with only 10 points from fourteen games. Kirkheaton were comfortably placed in Section A. The final score was Kirkheaton 227 for 6 Primrose Hill 220 for 8. An enthralling encounter was to some extent spoiled by a disputed decision.

Holmfirth had a comfortable win in the final.

In 1989 Elland made a modest 110 against Holmfirth in their semi-final match. Tony Gray, the West Indian Test bowler, took seven for 50 off 16 overs but he also bowled 13 no-balls. At one time Elland were 32 for 6. A late flurry by S Bradley 22, D Midwood 19 and R Harrison 21 not out, pulled them round. Harrison and Watson added 31 for the last wicket.

Holmfirth at 49 for 2 looked to be coasting to a comfortable win. They had not expected a spell of bowling of the kind produced by Mark Curry. He took seven for 15 and from 49 for 2, Holmfirth were all out 77.

The final between Elland and Shepley produced some good cricket without being one to remember for any particular performance. Following in the footsteps of his elder brother, Jeremy, Robin Firth was, at 18, the most successful bowler with six for 63. Also for Elland, S Bradley scored 53 not out.

1990 provided nothing of particular interest until the final match, which was staged at Kirkheaton for the first time. A new competition rule whereby the final has to be played on a neutral ground was now being applied. Unfortunately, weather-wise, the match was not played on the best of days.

Shahid Mahboob, of Skelmanthorpe, proved too much of a handful for the Slaithwaite batsmen and his bowling figures of eight for 40 were the best ever recorded in a Sykes Cup final.

Skelmanthorpe were worthy winners, the victory being the first step in a remarkable achievement by a club in only their fourth year as members of the League. They followed up their Sykes Cup success by winning the "Examiner" mini-cricket competition and, best of all, the Section 'A' Championship.

## COMPETITION RECORDS

(a) *Timeless Matches pre 1960*      (b) *Limited Over Matches post 1959*

### Highest Team Scores

- (a) 557 Honley v Broad Oak — semi-final 1952
- (b) 309-7 Lascelles Hall v Birkby O.B. — 1st round 1981

### Highest Match Aggregates

- (a) 826 Honley (557) v Broad Oak (269) — semi-final 1952
- 742 Bradley Mills (488) v Kirkburton (254) — 1st round 1947
- 742 Marsden (467) v Kirkheaton (275) — 1st round 1935
- 741 Slaithwaite (395) v Paddock (346) — 1st round 1939
- 736 Paddock (432) v Friarmere (304) — prelim. round 1929
- (b) 492 Elland (248-6) v Kirkburton (244-5) — semi-final 1970

### Lowest Team Scores

- (a) 19 Honley v Broad Oak — 1st round 1944
- (b) 22 Birkby O.B. v Elland — 1st round 1968

### Highest Individual Scores

- (a) 210 J Washington, Broad Oak v Kirkburton — semi-final 1928
- (b) 176\* K Bowling, Honley v Rastrick — 2nd round 1967

### Best Bowling Performances

- (a) 10-19 (incl. hat-trick) H Hinchliffe, Broad Oak v Paddock — 1st round 1934
- (b) 10-57 E Langton, Paddock v Meltham — 2nd round 1960

## CUP FINAL RECORDS

(a) *Timeless Matches pre 1960*      (b) *Limited Over Matches post 1959*

### Highest Team Scores

- 407 Broad Oak v Meltham — 1931
- 226-5 Elland v Shepley — 1989

### Highest Match Aggregates

- (a) 587 Huddersfield (294) v Friarmere (293) — 1925
- (b) 409 Elland (217-4) v Holmfirth (192-7) — 1981
- 403 Elland (226-5) v Shepley (177) — 1989

### Lowest Team Scores

- (a) 47 Primrose Hill v Linthwaite — 1956
- (b) 64 Armitage Bridge v Lascelles Hall — 1961

### Highest Individual Scores

- (a) 137 G Bottomley, Meltham v Lascelles Hall — 1948
- 103 T Thornton, Elland v Broad Oak — 1953
- 102 A Milnes, Friarmere v Almondbury — 1920
- 101 T Walker, Slaithwaite v Elland — 1954
- (b) 105 E Leadbeater, Almondbury v Paddock — 1962
- 100 S Bradley, Elland v Holmfirth — 1975

### Best Bowling Performances

- (a) 7-19 R V Ward, Huddersfield v Linthwaite — 1936
- (b) 8-40 S Mahboob, Skelmanthorpe v Slaithwaite — 1990
- 8-44 S Armitage, Elland v Hall Bower — 1971
- 8-47 L Bradbury, Holmfirth v Elland — 1977
- 8-61 T Woodhouse, Hall Bower v Honley — 1972

**Biggest Winning Margin**

- (a) 318 runs Broad Oak (407) v Meltham (89) – 1931  
 10 wkts. Huddersfield (55-0) v Linthwaite (54) – 1936  
 (b) 65 runs Thongsbridge (163-9) v Meltham (98) – 1960  
 8 wkts. Almondbury (174-2) v Paddock (173-7) – 1962  
 Meltham (81-2) v Hall Bower (80) – 1965

**Smallest Winning Margin**

- (a) 1 run Huddersfield (294) v Friarmere (293) – 1925  
 (b) 9 runs Elland (173-9) v Lascelles Hall (164-9) – 1984

**Highest Attendance**

- (a) 11,064 (3 days) Meltham v Lascelles Hall – 1948  
 (b) 3,638 (2 days) Golcar v Paddock – 1963

**CLUB RECORDS IN CUP FINAL**

<i>Club</i>	<i>Appearances</i>	<i>Won</i>	<i>Lost</i>
Almondbury	2	1	1
Armitage Bridge	1	—	1
Bradley Mills	1	—	1
Broad Oak	9	6	3
Elland	23	12	11
Friarmere	4	3	1
Golcar	2	—	2
Hall Bower	3	2	1
Holmfirth	11	9	2
Honley	10	1	9
Huddersfield	14	8	6
Kirkburton	5	2	3
Kirkheaton	6	4	2
Lascelles Hall	9	4	5
Linthwaite	5	2	3
Lockwood	3	2	1
Marsden	1	—	1
Meltham	5	3	2
Meltham Mills	1	1	—
Paddock	7	6	1
Primrose Hill	2	—	2
Rastrick	2	1	1
Shepley	2	—	2
Skelmanthorpe	1	1	—
Slaithwaite	9	4	5
Thongsbridge	4	1	3

**CLUBS ACHIEVING THE DOUBLE****(Champions of Section 'A' and Sykes Cup Winners)**

- 6 Holmfirth in 1969, 1970, 1975, 1976, 1977 and 1980  
 3 Elland in 1979, 1983 and 1989  
 2 Friarmere in 1921 and 1927  
 2 Huddersfield in 1922 and 1958  
 1 Kirkheaton in 1926  
 1 Paddock in 1937  
 1 Skelmanthorpe in 1990  
 1 Thongsbridge in 1960

## MISCELLANEOUS

- (a) The Cup final has been contested by two Section 'B' clubs on two occasions:  
1945 – Huddersfield 54 v Kirkheaton 102  
1956 – Linthwaite 92-5 v Primrose Hill 47
- (b) The lowest team score ever made in the competition was 19 by Honley against Broad Oak in 1944. The same two clubs produced the highest aggregate score (826) in 1952.
- (c) There have been six instances of tied matches in the competition:  
Golcar 85 v Almondbury 85 – 2nd round 1945  
Hall Bower 100 v Slaithwaite 100 – 2nd round 1958  
Thongsbridge 157 v Bradley Mills 157 – 1st round 1959  
Broad Oak 236-4 v Thongsbridge 236 – 2nd round 1977  
Elland 95 v Meltham 95 – 2nd round 1978  
Denby Dale 147-9 v Linthwaite 147 – 2nd round 1983
- (d) To date 33 teams from the Central and Association Leagues have beaten teams from the Huddersfield League in the competition.
- (e) The highest losing score ever made in the competition is 346 by Paddock against Slaithwaite (395) in 1939.
- (f) The highest individual score made by a player finishing on the losing side is 160 by Cyril Turner for Shepley against Hall Bower in 1948.
- (g) The first player outside the League to score a century in the competition was G. Pickersgill, who scored 111 for Cawthorne against Lockwood in 1970. He went in when the score was 17-3 and hit six sixes and twelve fours.
- (h) The most appearances made by one player in the final is 9, by Ian Kenworthy. On seven occasions he played for Elland and on the other two for Honley.
- (i) In the 1968 final C E Gill (captain), W F Oates and R E Holroyd played for Paddock (138-5) against Elland (134). Two years later, in the 1970 final, Gill captained Holmfirth (191-7) against Elland (174-6), who included Oates and Holroyd in their side.
- (j) In 1956 Linthwaite won the Cup without needing to make a three-figure score in any of their matches:  
1st round: Dalton 79 (Biggs 8-35), Linthwaite 80-1  
2nd round: Armitage Bridge 83 (Biggs 5-34), Linthwaite 87-7  
3rd round: Linthwaite 93-7, Kirkheaton 81 (Biggs 6-30)  
Semi-final: Slaithwaite 86 (Biggs 6-23), Linthwaite 87-7  
Final: Linthwaite 92-5, Primrose Hill 47 (Holroyd 6-26)



**W H BOLT**



**J WILSON SENIOR**

## LEAGUE OFFICIALS OVER THE YEARS

### Presidents

**I**n the early days of the League the position of president was usually an annual appointment made from members of the committee. Unfortunately, little information is available concerning some of these pioneers.

**Mr E Flint:** Mr Flint was Umpires' fixture secretary for 23 years. He was also secretary of the Dalton club for many years at the turn of the century.

**Mr H Johnson:** One of the great officials. He held the position of League secretary for 18 years from 1897. He was League president for nine years and also acted as secretary at the Huddersfield Club.

**Mr Warwick Mitchell:** A player of above average ability, who was also recognised as an administrator with great vision. He represented Kirkburton on committees for many years.

**Mr J J Lodge:** Another first class administrator who was involved in stabilising the League over a difficult period when new clubs were admitted in the 1920s.

**Mr Herbert Sykes:** In his day he was recognised as one of the most knowledgeable men in league cricket. Besides being a very good batsman he also spent many hours working on the field at Slaithwaite. He was for many years the Yorkshire second eleven scorer.

**Mr WH Bolt:** The first president to hold the office for a long period. Most of his cricket was played in the Bradley Mills second eleven but he was an accomplished footballer and had trials with Manchester City. He was a founder member of the Yorkshire Cricket Federation. A kind and jovial man.

**Mr Herbert Robinson:** If ever a person could be described as 'Mr Huddersfield Cricket' it must be Herbert Robinson. A player of county class he was an indefatigable worker for the game he loved so much. He was president for 17 years and then to the amazement of his friends he suddenly became wholeheartedly interested in local politics. League meetings were never dull when Herbert was present. If an early closure was a possibility he usually stood up to propose a new "scheme" — much to the dismay of many who did not realise he was simply trying to create some extra interest in the game.

For at least 40 years he was a great ambassador for the League as he was a much sought after speaker for dinners throughout the north of England.

**Mr R E Haigh:** Son of a famous father, Schofield Haigh. A good batsman. His involvement in committee work was with the Huddersfield club and the Yorkshire County Committee where he was the local representative. Ill-health resulted in his early resignation as president after only one year in office.

**Mr S L R Waite:** Invited to become president on the retirement of Mr Haigh, Roy Waite had never played cricket. His love for the game began late in life. He was a popular president, probably because he was unassuming and disliked controversy.

**Mr Alec Lodge:** Invited to take over the presidency on a temporary basis on the death of Mr Waite, he was president for ten years. A fuller note of Mr Lodge's contribution to Huddersfield League cricket appears at the front of this book.

**Mr Jim Dawson** Started his playing career with Holmfirth but the best of his playing days were with Thongsbridge as a wicket-keeper. It was said that on one occasion an appeal he made at Thongsbridge resulted in a batsman being given out at Holmfirth. A winner of the Lady Sykes Trophy he was appointed secretary at Thongsbridge in 1948, relinquishing the position in 1963.

He began his association with League affairs in 1965, was chairman of the League from 1976 until accepting the presidency in 1978.

## Chairmen

In the early days a chairman was elected from the committee, not necessarily for more than one meeting. When an official president became part of the administration he took the chair until 1962, when Mr R E Haigh, the then president, asked for a chairman. The position still exists.

**Mr Joe Robinson** had been the representative for Huddersfield from 1943 when he became chairman. He held the position until 1976 when he retired. He had been elected as a vice-president in 1974, and so he remained until his death in 1985.

A key man at Fartown, he was also an executive member of the Yorkshire Cricket Federation.

**Mr Jim Dawson** — see list of presidents.

**Mr Philip Oldfield** served as a member of the League Council for Marsden from 1965 until taking the chair in 1980. He has given a lifetime of service to the Marsden Club, much of it in official positions. He has also been a senior Rugby League referee.

**Mr G R Smith** was League representative for Thongsbridge from 1976 until accepting the chairmanship in 1985. A man of great integrity, he has been a valuable administrator for the League and Thongsbridge where he was chairman of their cricket committee for 17 years of his 30 years association with the club.

**Mr Roger France** replaced the legendary Ephraim Peel as the Elland representative on the Council in 1985. Played most of his cricket at Lockwood and Elland. He was a prominent member of the Lockwood committee and held the office of club secretary.

## Secretaries

**Mr A Shaw:** The Huddersfield and District Cricket League was, without any shadow of doubt, the brainchild of Mr Shaw. I am old enough to remember stories concerning Arthur Shaw told by old men when the writer was a youngster. By all accounts he was a remarkable man who knew what he wanted and fought until he achieved his target. The first secretary-treasurer of the League, he held the position until the League was sailing steadily on a well planned course.

**Mr H Johnson:** One of the pillars on which the League was built. Secretary-treasurer for 18 years, president for a year in 1907, when also secretary and treasurer, he was again president from 1916 to 1924. Besides holding these positions he was also the cricket secretary for the Huddersfield club.

**Mr G Walker:** Another stalwart of the early days. Connected with the Cricket Association he became secretary-treasurer of the old Alliance (later Council) League from 1896 until it closed down in 1914. He then took over the position of secretary-treasurer of the Huddersfield and District League from 1914 to 1920. From 1921 to 1931 he occupied the secretaryship of the cricket section at Fartown.

**Mr J W Senior:** Acted as secretary-treasurer for 25 years. He then continued as secretary for a further 10 years and for 22 years was appointment secretary for the umpires. He was a founder member of the Yorkshire Cricket Federation, involved in schools cricket and was made a vice-president of the League, which office he held for 13 years until his death.

**Mr C Garthwaite:** If the League had looked for a complete contrast to Mr Senior in approach to the job, it could not have appointed a better man than Colin Garthwaite. His playing career started at Bradley Mills, but at his best he acted as professional in the Central Yorkshire League. When League secretary he became an enthusiastic umpire. Always a smile on his face, his sudden death was a sad loss to the League.

**Mr L Duncalf:** Leslie Duncalf played with Armitage Bridge for many years. Leslie was a perfectionist, always with an eye for detail. The League has certainly never been conducted better than in the period he held office.

**Mr H Dawson:** To be a little Irish, it is probably true to describe Hedley Dawson as a professional administrator in an amateur sport. A one club man he was a more-than-useful batsman for Slaithwaite. He was secretary at Slaithwaite before his appointment with the League.

Hedley was a prime instigator of the Yorkshire Senior Leagues competition, was instrumental in launching the Bill Bowes Scholarship Fund and is active in northern cricket circles.

**Mr H Collins:** Although the position of fixture secretary was created as long ago as 1969, the incumbent is still Mr Collins. The task of dealing with registrations and results has really become quite a problem. Hedley's son, David, now acts as assistant. On the Umpires' List Hedley is one of the longest serving members.

### Treasurers

**Mr G E Hemingway:** George Hemingway was the Bradley Mills representative on the League Council for many years. He was a well respected legislator. When Billy Bolt retired as League president, to take up the representative position for Bradley Mills once again, the Council members, rather than lose George's experience, split the position of League secretary-treasurer and made George treasurer. He also became appointment secretary for the umpires.

**Mr F Illingworth:** Most of Frank Illingworth's work was with the Umpires' Association, which he helped to re-form. He had only one year as treasurer before his duties with the County umpires necessitated him spending more time with that group.

**Mr G Holroyd:** George Holroyd was one of the most cheerful officials ever to be in office. Dalton was his team as a player and as an official. He served the League well as a representative to the Cricket Federation. He is still interested in League affairs at ninety years of age.

**Mr C H Taylor:** An opening batsman with Dalton. When he left the League he became treasurer of the Evening Cricket League, a position which he still holds.

**Mr J Beaumont:** Played the game with Bradley Mills and later as an opening batsman for Almondbury. He was an active umpire for many years and resigned only because of ill-health. Once again we have one of our officials much respected in other areas as Jack has been treasurer of the League Cricket Conference since he was first appointed in 1964. He left our organisation after 21 years of faithful service.

**Mr D Ellis:** A Lascelles Hall committee man, he also has strong connections with the Huddersfield Rugby Union Club. Took up the position of League treasurer in 1989.

On behalf of all members of the Central League, I have great pleasure in offering our most sincere congratulations on reaching your Centenary. We all hope that you make it a "double ton".

Our two leagues have always been closely connected. Thurstonland, our longest serving member club, played in the Huddersfield League between 1910 and 1913, while Huddersfield League clubs Primrose Hill, Almondbury, Armitage Bridge, Meltham, Broad Oak, Hall Bower, Shepley, Scholes, Penistone, Skelmanthorpe and Kexborough all tasted success in the Central League.

In addition, many cricketers playing in the Huddersfield League first started their senior cricket in the Central League.

The Huddersfield area and the Huddersfield League have produced many great cricketers — Wilfred Rhodes, George H Hirst, Schofield Haigh, Freddie Jakeman, Willie Watson, to name a few. Today one can be proud of the likes of Richard Blakey and Stuart Fletcher.

I am sure that many more deserve their chance to shine for our beloved county.

I sincerely hope that your Centenary celebrations are a great success.

GORDON HINCHLIFFE  
President, Huddersfield Central Cricket League

## OFFICIALS OF THE LEAGUE

### Presidents

1891	Mr F Lewis	Linthwaite
1893	Mr A Shaw	Golcar
1895	Mr J H Preston	Meltham Mills
1896	Mr B Langrick	Armitage Bridge
1897	Mr T H Eagland	Slaithwaite
1898	Mr W Walker	Holmfirth
1899	Mr G Hey	Kirkheaton
1900	Clr J Berry	Lockwood
1901	Mr G Borwell	Honley
1902	Mr J C Broadbent	Lascelles Hall
1903	Mr J H Noble	Primrose Hill
1904	Mr C Firth	Marsden
1905	Mr E Flint	Dalton
1906	Mr J Schofield	Paddock
1907	Mr H Johnson	Huddersfield
1908	Clr J Schofield	Paddock
1909	Mr L Stead	Kirkheaton
1910	Mr J E Holroyd	Holmfirth
1911	Mr J J Lodge	Meltham Mills
	Mr H Denton	Slaithwaite
1912	Mr H Denton	Slaithwaite
1913	Mr W Mitchell	Kirkburton
1916	Mr H Johnson	Huddersfield
1925	Mr J J Lodge	Meltham Mills
1927	Mr H Sykes	Slaithwaite
1929	Mr J A Littlewood	Holmfirth
1930	Mr W H Bolt	Bradley Mills
1946	Mr H Robinson	Paddock
1962	Mr R E Haigh	Huddersfield
1964	Mr S L R Waite	Honley
1968	Mr S L R Waite	Honley
	Mr A Lodge	Lascelles Hall
1969	Mr A Lodge	Lascelles Hall
1978	Mr J Dawson	Thongsbridge

### Vice-presidents

Mr W H Bolt 1956-1958	Mr H Robinson 1962-1984	Mr J Robinson 1973-1985
Mr J W Senior 1956-1970	Mr G Holroyd 1963-present	Mr H France 1985-present
Mr H V Wood 1959-1960	Mr A Lodge 1966-1968, 1978-present	Mr G Boothroyd 1987-present

### Honorary Life Member

Mr B Jessop — 1986

### Chairmen

The president took the chair until 1962

1962	Mr J Robinson	Huddersfield
1976	Mr J Dawson	Thongsbridge
1980	Mr P Oldfield	Marsden
1985	Mr G R Smith	Thongsbridge
1990	Mr R France	Elland

### Secretaries

1891	Mr A Shaw	(Sec/Treas)	1898	Mr A F Walker	(Sec/Treas)
1893	Mr H Johnson	"	1899	Mr H Johnson	"
1895	Mr R Cadwell	"	1915	Mr G Walker	"
1896	Mr A Shaw	"	1921	Mr J W Senior	"
1897	Mr J Berry	"			

**Secretaries (cont)**

1946 Mr J W Senior  
 1954  
 1955  
 1956 Mr C Garthwaite  
 1963  
 1968  
 1972 Mr L Duncalf  
 1976 Mr H Dawson  
 1989

**Fixture Secretary**

1970 Mr H Collins

**Treasurers (cont)**

Mr G E Hemingway  
 Mr F. Illingworth  
 Mr G Holroyd

Mr C H Taylor  
 Mr J Beaumont

Mr D Ellis

**Assistant Fixture Secretary**

1990 Mr D Collins

**Auditors**

1897 Mr B Langrick  
 1898 Mr A Shaw  
 1917 Ald J Berry  
 1928 Smith & Garton  
 1966 Mr F Dyson  
 1972 Mr F R Laycock  
 1991 Mr P J Dibb

**Solicitors**

1937 Mr A E T Hinchcliffe  
 1948 Mr F Hall  
 1975 Mr W A Sugden

**Doctors**

1937 Dr E J Pye-Smith  
 1973 Dr J M Gilmour  
 1974 Dr R W J Naismith  
 1976 Dr W E Sharman

**HEADQUARTERS OF THE LEAGUE**

1892 The Queen Hotel  
 1905 The Cherry Tree Hotel  
 1928 The Plough Hotel  
 1932 The Pack Horse Hotel  
 1962 The White Swan Hotel  
 1964 The Commercial Hotel  
 1973 The Albert Hotel  
 1986 The George Hotel  
 1988 The Huddersfield Hotel

When I was asked to write a few words to celebrate your Centenary my mind went back to 1986 when the Association celebrated its first 100 years. Then, as always, a spirit of true friendship existed between our respective organisations.

One hundred years is a long time and from modest beginnings the Huddersfield League has grown into one of the most respected in the county. This I feel is reflected by the county and international cricketers who have learned their skills through your clubs.

Your excellent facilities and the encouragement which you give to your young players is envied by all. Long may you continue to be the breeding ground for representative players of the future.

May I pass on to your officials, both past and present, the congratulations of the Association and wish you every success with the many celebratory events you have planned for 1991.

Well done the Huddersfield League. Keep up the good work.

BARRY ALLISON

President, Huddersfield Cricket Association

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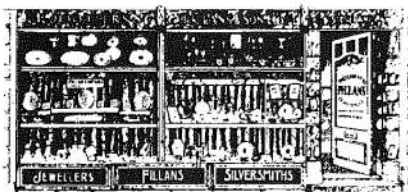
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## THE JUNIOR LEAGUE

*I appreciate the help given by Mr George Boothroyd on this section.*

A pre-requisite of involvement in junior cricket is being blessed with a sense of humour. Many years ago when the writer was the secretary of two junior leagues a problem always arose with the end-of-season averages. It was not unusual to have batting averages of well over 100 and bowling averages in the region of two or three.

One particular year I dug my toes in. The committee was told that scorebooks would have to be produced to confirm the reported averages. One member said someone would have a shock when their book was read. He was told to bring it to the next meeting.

At this point it must be explained that in many cases some poor boy (or girl) is cajoled into being the scorer. Often the innocent victim has little knowledge of the game or the laws.

When the scorebook in question arrived it was certainly an eye-opener. The records started off all right but it was disturbing to note that the number three batsman, E Wray, was "twisted-out" for 3. Even more alarming was the method of dismissal for the number eleven batsman, A Noble. In the appropriate column was a curt "buggered off". There is certainly no room for dispute on that kind of dismissal.

Junior cricket was launched in Huddersfield on January 7, 1926 at the Waterloo Hotel. The following clubs were represented — Almondbury, Dalton, Kirkburton, Kirkheaton, Lascelles Hall and Rowley Hill. Organised junior cricket in the area has flourished ever since, even during the difficult war years when arranging for youngsters to all be at the same place at the same time was a rare old problem.

It is always difficult and sometimes unwise to mention individuals but one man stood out like a beacon in the early days of junior cricket. Willie Mallinson, of Kirkburton, took over as secretary and held the position for more than 30 years. To the best of our knowledge it is the oldest junior organisation. Other stalwarts at the time were Irvine Gledhill and Percy Beaumont, of Almondbury, and Harry Metcalf and Frank Wadsworth, of Shelley. Harry came on the scene a little later but I feel he has served junior cricket longer than anyone else as he is still involved.

There was an attempt to form a junior league in the Colne Valley during the late 1920s but it came to grief. However, during the war years junior cricket was started up in the valley but the teams were mostly run by the local churches, although matches were played on League grounds.

The Holme Valley Junior League was established in 1937 at the instigation of Mr G F Thornton who was then president of the Honley club. It was later labelled 'Section A'. Mr Thornton donated a cup to be awarded to the champions.

In the late 1940s and early fifties clubs took over to run more in line with the Kirkburton area league, with a committee being formed in 1947. The Colne Valley Junior League was re-formed from this new found enthusiasm in 1947. It was a strong organisation on equal terms in all aspects to the Holme Valley and Kirkburton Junior Leagues. When the League was launched, Mr Herbert Sykes of Slaithwaite, a former League president, gave a pair of pads and two bats to every club.

The Huddersfield Junior Cricket League came into being in 1951. It was the idea of Herbert Robinson who was president of the senior League at the time. It did not have an easy birth. The Kirkburton area in particular took exception to being bludgeoned into accepting what was tantamount to losing independence. Strong objections were made by all three junior sections with the Kirkburton group making application to join the Yorkshire Cricket Federation in an attempt to ensure they had control of their affairs. The application was rejected.

It was well known that Herbert Robinson wanted the Huddersfield and District League to have a three division scheme involving the acceptance of six more clubs into the League. Some junior officials thought this was yet another attempt to achieve the target by a back-door method.

On January 24, 1951 a meeting was called and the delegates, some with grave reservations, accepted the proposition to have a joint league to be under the senior League's jurisdiction.

Mr George Boothroyd was elected chairman, a position he still holds. Mr Cyril Fisher, of Lascelles Hall, became the secretary-treasurer. Mr Fisher never played cricket but he was one of the best administrators ever to take office. He gave a lifetime to this work.

The clubs were divided into four Sections – Holme Valley as Section "A", Colne Valley as Section "B", Kirkburton area as Section "C" and the "town" clubs as Section "D". The latter Section was formed from clubs which had previously been in other Sections, plus one or two new clubs. Since the beginning of Junior League cricket in this area teams from other local leagues have always been involved.

There was an executive committee in overall charge, consisting of two representatives from each Section and two from the Huddersfield and District Cricket League. A membership fee of £1 was paid to the Section treasurers.

In the years following the formation of the League many further applications to join the new set-up were received, from the Kirkburton area in particular. In time the admission of these extra clubs placed a strain on the structure of the League, and in 1962 the introduction of a new Section "E" enabled the 35 clubs then in membership to be divided equally into five Sections. Section "E" was run by the officials administering Section "C".

In 1947, Mr Wilfred Walker, a local businessman, donated a cup to be played for by all the junior teams. In the first place the competition was run on a regional basis to determine four semi-finalists, to be followed by a knockout at that stage. The first winners were Hall Bower. The Walker Cup is still a keenly contested competition, though it is no longer on a regional basis.

When the Junior Leagues were first established the age limit was that "Players who attain the age of 17 years on or before April 1 become ineligible to play in the League". This rule was in operation until 1963 when, until 1978, the age limit was raised to 18 years.

The reason for the age alternative was that we entered the Joe Lumb Cup competition and the rule for that organisation was that players should be under 18 years of age on May 1. The Huddersfield League objected to this but there was little that could be done because all sorts of selection problems would obviously have arisen.

This was a running sore for some years. The Joe Lumb Cup competition then moved their qualifying date to September 1. All this because when the National Cricket Association was formed all national competitions for junior teams used September 1 as a deadline. We were the first in the junior field yet we had to come into line with a comparatively new organisation.

Needless to say, eventually someone came round to our way of thinking because we are back to an under 17 age limit, although the deadline date is September 1.

The Joe Lumb competition was a great idea by the donor of the trophy. Joe Lumb was for many years the Doncaster representative on the County Committee. Doncaster, Leeds and Scunthorpe took part in the first year. The competition was strengthened when the Central Yorkshire, Huddersfield and Sheffield leagues were recruited the following year. In 1989, 16 teams were involved.

Mr Ben Jessop, a former Lascelles Hall man who was involved for many years in Huddersfield junior cricket, has been chairman since the competition started. He is also at the present time the president. When Joe Lumb died in 1973, aged 92, he was succeeded as president by our own Reg Haigh, but he had to retire due to ill health after two years in office.

In 1963, the first year we entered the competition, our boys were probably denied a chance of winning the trophy when a cloudburst over Kirkburton stopped the match against Scunthorpe. We were in a good position and a victory would have placed Huddersfield at the top of the section. The position was remedied when we were winners in 1964 and 1965. These successes were repeated in 1977, 1983 and 1984. The Wilkinson Sword Edge Trophy for the best of the two losing semi-finalists was won in 1986 and 1989 and we were beaten finalists in 1988.

It is a record of which we can be proud. It is also a fact that more honours would certainly have come our way if clubs would release the players selected. This is sad, not only from the League's point of view, but also for the young players who miss out when representatives of the County club are watching.

Going back to the League affairs, in the beginning there was an uneasy relationship between the junior and senior League officials. Men who had run the junior affairs for 20 years or so resented being told what to do by other people who, it seemed, had just realised the importance of junior cricket. One particular incident resulted in Mr Fisher resigning as Junior League secretary. Mr N Long took over at a difficult time to hold the position for four years.

In 1958 Mr H France accepted the position of secretary. By this time a lot of problems had been ironed out. Harry France played a tremendous role as he was also involved in the running of the senior League. George Boothroyd, Harry France, Norman Hallas and Bob Harris provided a continuity badly needed. To them must go a lot of the credit for the sound organisation we have at the present time. Running junior cricket has never been easy.

Once Harry France decided to have a well-earned rest his place was taken by Mr G R Pickup from Kirkheaton. The League was fortunate to enrol a man dedicated to junior cricket. When George Pickup had to relinquish the position as secretary it was taken over by Mr Jack Waring, of the Lepton Highlanders Club. Once again we have been fortunate to acquire a man who loves his sport and carries out his work in a quiet and unassuming manner.

In the early 1970s Mr G D Beaumont had undertaken the job of coaching very young players. David had a way with youngsters. They held him in respect because he was still a professional cricketer and had a good track record. When he suggested teams of Under 13 players George Pickup and myself were asked to co-operate with him. It was a difficult beginning but the harvest has been good, thanks mostly to David, the late Colin Shaw, Barry Robertshaw and Philip Dyson. Thus was the Under 13 League born.

David Beaumont also had an interest in our junior League. He acted as team manager and selected the teams for some years. As he also was chairman and secretary of the Under 13 League he had little choice but to ease off. This he did and from then to the present time George Boothroyd has been the man responsible for team selection. And believe me, it is not an easy job when calls are made as late as 10 pm on the night before a match to say "so-and-so is unavailable".

In 1985 there was some concern when it was mooted that we were to have an Under 15 League. Clashes were feared and it was thought that clubs would have problems finding enough days in the week. Fortunately, the fears have been unfounded. Colin Smith and his merry men seem to trouble no-one. They just do what they intended to do, they play cricket and provide continuity between the Under 13 and Under 17 Leagues.

It is fair to say that junior cricket in Huddersfield is in a strong position. There is a wish that more new people would give a hand. Apart from the men mentioned, long service medals should be struck for Donald Pearson ("B" Section secretary for 37 years and still on the executive), the late J K Senior, R Kilner, J McShane, J Cockburn and P Awty from the Central League.

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**1991 Cricket Committee**

**H V WALKER** *Chairman*

**W C WHITELEY** *Secretary*

**M SHAW** *Treasurer*

**P WHITELEY** *League Representative*

**K BROOKE**

**R M FRANCE**

**D GLANFORD**

**D GLEDHILL**

**P KING**

**D MIDWOOD**

**V MYLETT**

**E C PEEL**

**M WESTOBY**

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H SCOTT

J CLAYTON

A POLLITT

D H PEARSON

A P PEARSON A DEAN

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E W JEBSON

*Former Captain & President*

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M PAMMENT J D SHAW B SHAW RICHARD S SMITH

T SHAW B WHITTAKER

SELWYN WHITELEY *Hon Life Member*

J WHITTAKER *Hon Life Member*

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## THE UMPIRES' ASSOCIATION

*I appreciate the help given by Mr A Buck (Training Officer for the Association) in providing information for this section.*

“Without Fear or Favour” is the motto of the Association. Mr J J Booth, of the Bradford League, conjured it up many years ago. It was adopted by the Yorkshire Cricket Federation of Umpires and appears to be used by many Yorkshire Associations.

Being an umpire has always been a job for brave men. In the history of the League mention has been made of the somewhat hazardous situations they had to face. It would appear that before the establishment of the Huddersfield Cricket Association, and afterwards the Leagues, umpires must have had a fatalistic outlook on life.

When Dalton and Huddersfield played the Bradford Challengers in 1843, T McLean in a book entitled “Men in White Coats” portrays the conditions of play as described earlier by “Scores and Biographies”: “The Dalton and Huddersfield natives were a rough lot and treated the visitors shabbily. The ground was rough except the bowling crease, the field was complete land and furrow”.

In the early part of the last century play was hardly ever interrupted due to rain but frequently over some dispute.

In 1892 the MCC published “The MCC Instructions to Umpires”. Although it did not cover everything, it did serve as a kind of manual.

One of the reasons why the Huddersfield Cricket Association was formed in 1886 was to make an attempt to iron out problems relevant to match officials. The men who had the foresight to deal with the difficult situations that had arisen did a first class job. One important innovation was the appointment of neutral umpires for all future matches.

The first time an official was elected to be solely responsible for umpire appointments was in 1897 when Mr Ernest Flint, of Dalton, undertook the job. He was a wicket-keeper batsman at Dalton, still playing at the turn of the century. It was a labour of love which continued until 1921. Ernest Flint was one of the stalwarts in the early days of the League, not only for his club but also for the League and cricket in general.

Once second eleven cricket became organised, they also warranted a more satisfactory appointment system for match officials. Messrs C B Mellor, Lewis Stead and J E Theaker at one time or another volunteered to be responsible.

When some system had been introduced the next step was to make an attempt to improve the standard of umpiring. In 1911 the Golcar club had made a suggestion that before an umpire could officiate in a first eleven match he must pass an examination. It fell on deaf ears.

In the years following the First World War the high standard of organised cricket demanded a high standard of umpiring. The year 1925 saw the birth of an Umpires' Association to raise the status and efficiency of umpires. It must be said that our umpire organisation soon became the envy of other leagues. These founder members perhaps created the seeds of vision only recently recognised by higher authorities.

Prior to the setting up of an official organisation, law interpretation, allied to actions on the field of play, lacked consistency and uniformity. The Umpires' Association had only limited independence, and the appointments were made by the League secretary until during the Second World War, i.e. 1944.

Umpires were admitted to the Association, although in some cases they were not really qualified and certainly had not passed any examination. It was thought at the time that a man who could give elaborate and correct answers to questions on the game was not necessarily the best umpire. A knowledge of the Laws of the Game has always been a necessity but a fair measure of common sense is sometimes just as essential. Tact, judgment and temperament are a ‘must’ along with confidence in your own ability.

An umpire is well on his way to being a good umpire when he learns that the players respect him and have confidence in his ability.

In 1929 the local Association became members of the Yorkshire Cricket Federation Umpires' Association. The League, to show appreciation of the work of the Association, introduced white caps for members.

In 1938, just when everybody thought the Umpires' Association had become stable and a vital part of League administration, it was disbanded. It is not clear what prompted this action although it has been suggested that some of the umpires disagreed with a League decision not to introduce in full a package of laws suggested by the MCC.

So, once again we had a position where each club nominated two umpires and the League secretary made the appointments. A case of one step forward and two steps back in administration value.

Although not an official body, umpires continued to meet on a regular basis throughout the year. They congregated at the old Fields' Cafe up Westgate every Saturday morning when cricket and the Laws of the Game were the subjects discussed.

League officials were fully aware of these meetings. When the rules were re-written in 1944 one of the suggestions made by the authors was that the Umpires' Association should be launched again on a much firmer base. The umpires accepted the invitation, the result being a far stronger body which began to offer some excellent umpires.

The first officials were president, Mr B Ripley; chairman, Mr F Illingworth and Mr N Howarth as secretary. Over the years the Association has been fortunate in having loyal stalwarts to take office and better still, to hold office for long periods. Messrs A G Briggs, R A Mortimer, B Quarmby, D Boulton and W B Ashton have all given long service as officials. During the formative years lack of funds was a problem. Gordon Briggs and Reg Mortimer were responsible for gathering in much-needed finance.

Reg Mortimer will be a man to be remembered in Huddersfield. For 19 years he was a first class football referee, gaining most of the honours such an official can win including being in charge of the 1949 FA Cup Final at Wembley. He never found it necessary to send a player off the football field. His matey approach meant that he had a good relationship with the players.

Reg had a good introduction to umpiring when a young player. He made an appeal when bowling, the umpire announced that the batsman was not out but if he did the same thing again he would have to go! 37 years of service to our game from a man whose first love was football is to be admired.

Cricket in the last 20 years has become more organised than at any time in the past. Umpires are now recognised as having a key role in the game. Through the Association of Cricket Umpires they have representation on the National Cricket Association.

The Association of Cricket Umpires is an international body with the same objectives as our local Umpires' Association. It was regionalised in the 1970s when the membership increased. Our Umpires' Association is affiliated through the West Yorkshire branch.

Information on law interpretation, new rules on conditions of play, advice on disputes, sticky problems, etc. are discussed via this channel.

The ACU conducts what is considered to be the toughest umpiring examinations in the world. Locally we have 16 members who have graduated to full ACU membership. Local umpires have officiated in the Minor County matches, eg Jack Waddington, Brian Booth, Ben Quarmby and Stuart Jakeman, Ron Aspinall, Fred Jakeman and Percy Holmes served as first class umpires. Chris Balderstone is at present on the list.

Anyone involved in running a league must be fully aware of the vital function umpires play in our game. In Huddersfield we have been fortunate to have men who have been the hard core of the Association, eg in 1990 W B Ashton, D F Boulton, R A Mortimer and H B Sykes were on the list – just as they were in 1960.