

## BATLEY CC

The Early Years

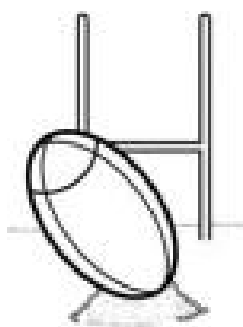
# From then...

## TWIN SPORTS

### ORIGINS

It was in the 1840s, we are told, that cricket was first played in Batley. The probability is that, in some form, cricket reared its head much earlier.

One key date in the emergence of cricket in Batley was 1862, when an All England XI visited Batley and beat the home side by 62 runs. This sporting spectacle would have increased interest in the embryonic game. It is no coincidence that a year later, Batley Cricket Club was founded as successor to Prince of Wales CC.



By 1880 the Club had set up home at Mount Pleasant, and been joined by other local sportsmen,

including rugby players who had set up Batley RFC – later to become known as 'The Gallant Youths'.

## **W.G. IN TOWN!**

### **BIG MATCHES**

By the 1860s Batley cricket was developing a high profile. Prestigious matches against the major touring XIs, which included the sport's leading players, were being staged in the town. As early as 1862, the All England XI visited the town to play against '22 of Batley & District'.



When in May 1876 the United South of England XI played against '20 of Batley & District', the visitors included the great W.G. Grace.



The match commenced in front of around 4,000 to 5,000 people. Grace scored 4 and 40 as the local 'Twenty' won by 11 wickets.

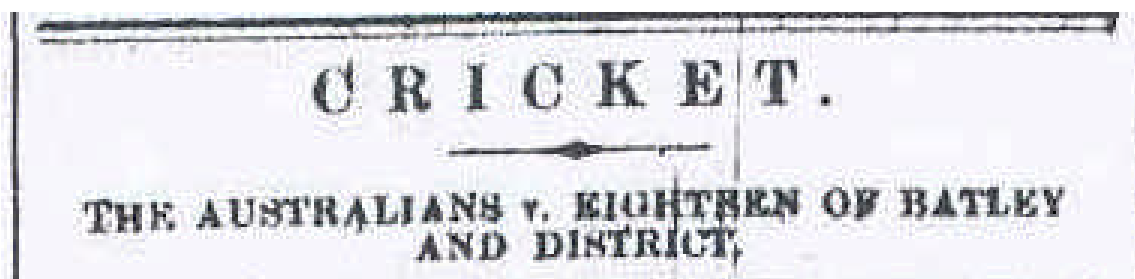
THE ELEVEN.			
Mr. W. G. Grace, c Sub. b Blackburn	8	b Smithson	40
Elliott, c Hall b Blackburn	2	c Hansell b Smith...	6
Jupp, c Stocks b Blackburn	4	b Mycroft	19
Mr. W. R. Gilbert, b Blackburn	3	* Hind b Hall	32
Mr. G. F. Grace, c Sub. b Blackburn	8	c Taylor b Mycroft	8
Charlwood, c Hall b Blackburn	3	c Blake b Sykes	5
R. Humphrey, b Blackburn	0	run out	7
Poolley, c Hind b Blackburn	20	c Popplewell b Mycroft	20
J. Lillywhite, b Blackburn	7	b Mycroft	11
Southerto, not out	6	not out	4
Filley, b Hind	7	c Mycroft b Hansell	5
		Extras	9
Total	68	Total	167

TWENTY.		"	
First Innings.		Second Innings.	
R. G. Barlow, b W. G. Grace	0	c and b Lillywhite	9
M. Riley, b Southerton	0		
J. Taylor, c and b W. G. Grace	10	c G. F. Grace b Lillywhite	2
J. Hansell, c W. G. b G. F. Grace	8	c and b Lillywhite	5
J. Blackburn, c W. G. Grace b Lillywhite	11	c Jupp b Lillywhite	11
L. Hall, b G. F. Grace	20	c Pilly b Lillywhite	5
A. Hind, c Gilbert b G. F. Grace	8	c W. G. b G. F. Grace	9
B. Sykes, b G. F. Grace	0	b G. F. Grace	0
W. Shaw, c Charlwood b Lillywhite	7		
E. Lamb, not out	21	b G. F. Grace	4
J. Smith, b Lillywhite	3		
G. Gibson, b Lillywhite	0		
I. Stocks, c W. G. b Lillywhite	3	not out	4
R. Eastwood, b Southerton	0		
W. Farrar, c Charlwood b Lillywhite	1		
S. Smithson, at Pooley b Lillywhite	0		
J. Blake, b Southerton	3		
F. Popplewell, c W. G. Grace b Southerton	0		
Knowles, at Pooley b Lillywhite	3	not out	25
Mycroft, c Charlwood b G. F. Grace	0		
Extras	7	Extras	2
Total	152	Total for 2 wks.	75

# HELLO AUSSIES!

## 1878 - BATLEY v THE AUSTRALIANS

Two years after the United South of England visit, Batley took on the Australian tourists.



The Australian side (pictured below) was formidable, and included the demon fast bowler, Fred Spofforth.

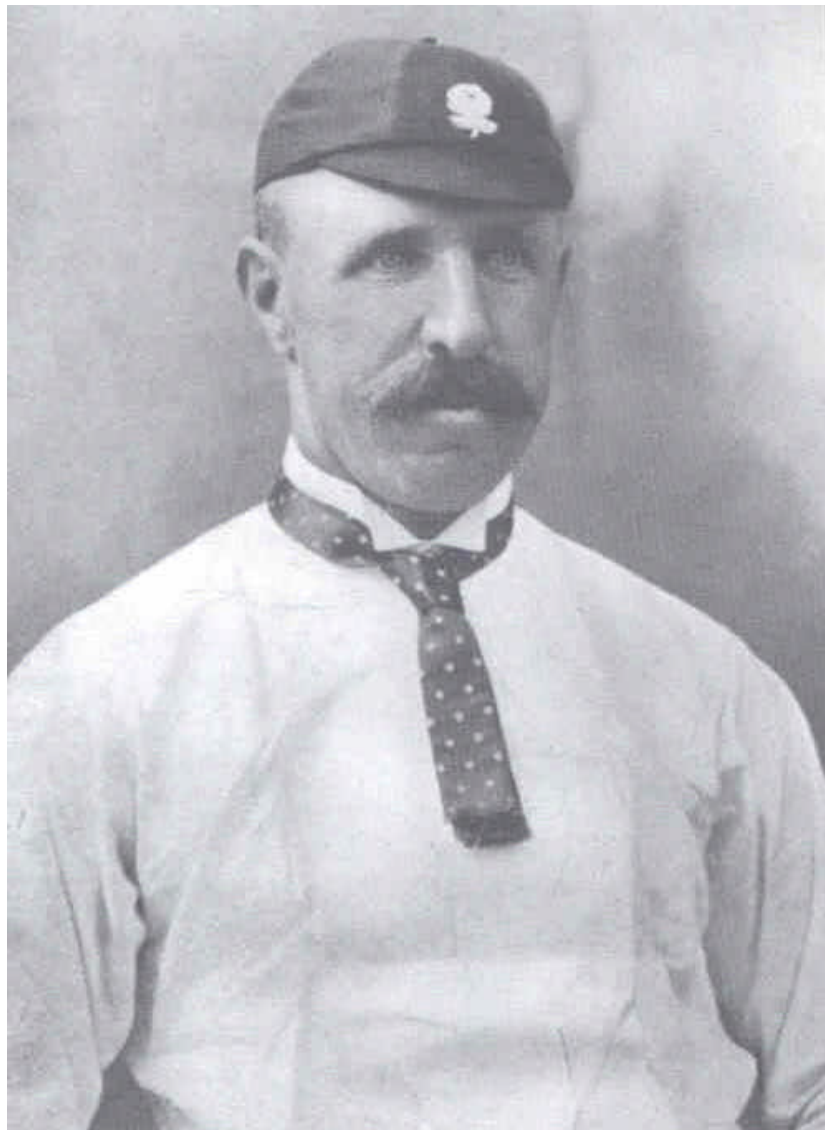


J. Blackham, F. Heran, G. H. Bailey, I. Conway, A. Bannerman, C. Bannerman, W. Murdock,  
F. Spofford, F. Allen, D. Gregory, (Capt.), T. Garrett, H. Boyle,  
W. Midwinter.

# FIRST CLASS!

## 1883 – FIRST-CLASS BOW

On 17 September 1883 Mount Pleasant, Batley, hosted its first and last first-class fixture, between T. Emmett's XI v RG. Barlow's XI.



**Tom Emmett, one of Halifax's most famous cricketing sons**

# Sods & Suspensions!

## BATLEY AND THE HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP

In the early years of the Heavy Woollen Cup, Batley's record was only bettered by that of its great rival Dewsbury & Savile. It contested 10 finals before 1914, winning five of them.

Historically, Batley has always been one of the most colourful and controversial clubs in the competition:

- Pelting the supporters of victorious Birstall with grass sods in 1892.



- Objecting to the re-scheduled final date in 1898 as it clashed with an attractive opening match of the Rugby League season (Morley were awarded the Cup without a ball being bowled).
- Suspended in 1899.
- Spectators attacking a Morley batsman in 1914.
- A withdrawal in 1928 after the 1st round draw.
- Crowd troubles in the 1930 semi-final against Dewsbury.

- The chaotic semi-finals of 1944 which were never played.

Batley have been one of the most important clubs in the history of the Cup, competing almost every year and they are the fourth most successful club in the history of the competition.

On 12 occasions the trophy has gone to Mount Pleasant but only three of those were since the end of the Second World War.

The Cup final has been staged at Mount Pleasant 13 times, a total only exceeded by Savile Town and Heckmondwike.



**Dewsbury & Savile Ground**





# Sweet 16!

## 1894 – HEAVY WOOLLEN CUP WINNERS



P. INESON      J. B. GOODALL      Scorer: J. BARKER      Vice-President: J. GOODALL      President: D. F. BURNLEY      J. HOPKINSON      I. HALL  
J. S. BLACKBURN      R. PRESTON      A. FARRAR      J. PICKLES      G. H. BLACKBURN  
J. BREARLEY      B. WOOD      Captain      P. B. COATES      W. H. PEACE  
Secretary

Batley C., A., & F. C. Cricket Team. Winners of the H. W. D. Challenge Cup, 1894.

This was the Batley side that triumphed in the 1894 Heavy Woollen Cup final. Note that there are 16 people in the photo: 13 dressed in white and three other 'club men': the club scorer, president and vice-president.

'The Batley Giant', Louis Hall, is standing far right. Note also the amount of bats on display, the chap wearing the tie, and the array of non-functional caps in evidence.