

'Todmorden's Cinderella Club'

Bridgeholme Cricket Club does not have an official nickname but is often referred to as 'Todmorden's Cinderella Club'.

The last of the town's many all-amateur clubs, Bridgeholme is somewhat dwarfed by the town's other two clubs, Todmorden and Walsden. Todmorden, founded in 1835, is the town's oldest surviving institution after the church and National School and has played in the high profile Lancashire League since 1897. Walsden first played around 1856, has been in continuous existence since 1870 and has played in the Central Lancashire League since 1893. Both these clubs have employed professionals, who include some of the world's most famous players.

Bridgeholme's Keith Hudson explains the pros and cons of the local competition: 'If we develop a player who becomes particularly good, we're going to lose them, probably as an amateur to Todmorden or Walsden, although some have been offered money to play in Halifax.

'On the other hand, we are still developing our youth set up and have been grateful to acquire players from the Todmorden and Walsden junior teams who probably aren't going to make the first team there, or who just prefer our set up.

'We know our place but we're a friendly club. We may not be the best cricketers around but we can play the game as sportingly as anyone else. Some clubs find it strange when we applaud the opposition but we are proud to play the game that way. Maybe it's less cut throat here than at clubs where you play against professionals and some people prefer that.'

Cinderella club or not, there is clearly an important niche for Bridgeholme Cricket Club.