

CRICKET

Focus on - Greetland

The 11th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

Future looks bright for club with glorious past

Local cricket historian Andrew Hardcastle has uncovered matches featuring a number of Greetland teams during the mid-nineteenth century, with the earliest coming in 1858.

By 1864 a team called Greetland Royal Albert was playing matches, and in that year they met West Vale United.

By the time the Halifax Parish Cup committee carried out a report on the grounds of member clubs in 1891, Greetland's move to West Vale had taken place.

The report explained: 'When completed, this field gives promise of being a very good one.'

In 1894 Greetland became founding members of the Halifax & District Cricket League. They also won the Parish Cup – thus becoming the first club to break the Halifax-Elland stranglehold on the trophy.

Greetland also bagged the Parish Cup in 1911.

In 1919 the club began to hold an annual Workshop Competition for local works teams and others.

During the 1920s Greetland C.C. began to arrange annual away fixtures during the Wakes Week holiday.

One such match was played at Pateley Bridge, in North Yorkshire, where some remarkable early action photographs were taken.

A Greetland women's team also existed in the 1920s – an indication that the inter-war boom in ladies cricket affected small village clubs as well as 'town clubs' such as Brighouse and Todmorden.

1934 was a busy year for Greetland. They won the Parish Cup, they bought a scoreboard from King Cross for £18, and also A.J. Richardson was employed as cricket coach during May and June. His fee was 5/- per evening.

In the 1930s a local blanket manufacturer, John Horsfalls (based on Stainland Road), donated the ground, The Holme, to Greetland C.C. as a gift. The club was charged just a pepper-corn rent - sixpence a year.

In 1957 Greetland bagged the Parish



Grand day: A large turnout for the opening of Greetland's new pavilion in 1921

Cup and the Halifax League Championship – a very special 'double'.

As club stalwart Bill Betts comments: 'Greetland were a top side in the 1950s and 1960s'.

Last summer Greetland welcomed players from ex-Halifax Association side New Riding CC and are now looking forward to a bright future.

FACT FILE

Founded: c.1870s/1880s

Ground: The Holme, Saddleworth

Road

Nearest Landmark: Andy

Thornton Ltd. mill

Nearest Other Clubs: Elland,

Coppley, Barkisland

League: Halifax

Greatest Moment: Winning the Parish Cup for the first time in 1894.

Local Hero: 'Mr Greetland' Les

Forester – tireless club stalwart and umpire.

Bizarre Fact: The ground incorporates pigeon coops belonging to Stainland and District Homing Society!