

## CRICKET

## Focus on - Old Crossleyans

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

# Crocs are the young guns of the local scene



Work and play: The first XI pictured in 1999 (above) and club members enjoying a recent tour of Surrey (right)



**O**LD Crossleyans is a relatively young cricket club, formed in 1976. It has a historic link with what is now the Crossley Heath School, located close by in the Skircoat area of Halifax.

The Crossley Heath School is the product of a 1985 merger between Crossley & Porter School and Heath Grammar School.

Crossley & Porter School was originally the Crossley Orphanage and became a secondary school in 1919. Heath Grammar School had been founded by Dr John Favour in 1600.

Boarders at the school previously resided at Standeven House, Broomfield Avenue. What is now the function room and bar used to be the schoolboys' library.

Even though the boarders have long since gone, the school still uses the arena for sports fixtures. And today, Old Crossleyans C.C. play their home fixtures at Broomfield Avenue.

Old Crossleyans joined the Halifax & District Amateur Cricket Association in 1976.

In the early days, they were very much an 'old boys' cricket club.

Today, Old Crossleyans are a hybrid organisation: there is a rugby union club, a cricket team, a squash side and a junior rugby league XIII. The grandiose clubhouse by the main entrance, Standeven House, serves all club sportsmen.

Not so long ago, Old Crossleyans were captained by Australian batsman Charlie Daly.

He was also involved in a special sponsorship deal, whereby the club

benefited financially if he hit a certain run target by the end of the season. Daly did his bit in the nick of time - and the club duly hit the jackpot!

Old Crossleyans C.C. celebrated 25 years of cricket in 2001. To mark the anniversary, they held a special reunion event, which was attended by players from the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s and many other guests. Ex-England batsman Derek Randall was the speaker.

Today, perhaps just less than 50 per cent of the club's members have a connection with the school. As such, it is now an 'open' club and welcomes new members from all over.

The club run a 1st XI, 2nd XI and a Sunday team, plus junior sides. Club officials also suggest that their ground is the biggest in the Halifax League in terms of the size of the playing area.

## FACT FILE

Founded: 1976  
 Ground: Broomfield Avenue  
 Nearest Landmark: Standeven House  
 Nearest Other Club: Copley  
 League: Halifax  
 Former League: Halifax Association  
 Greatest Moment: 1978 - joining the Halifax League  
 Local Hero: Charlie Daly - Aussie star of the 1990s. Skipped Old Crocs to Lindley Moor Trophy glory in 1993.  
 Bizarre Fact: In 1991 the club launched an irreverent newsletter entitled Stumps.