

CRICKET

Focus on - Outlane

A hard road to success

OUTLANE C.C. was formed in 1897 as Outlane Methodist New Connexion Cricket Club.

In 1898 a tent (pavilion) was purchased for £2-10-0d and in 1903 a subscription appeal was launched to pay for a new pavilion costing £18.

The 1917 season saw the cricket ground requisitioned by the wartime authorities for food production and the club effectively ceased to function.

A momentous meeting took place in April 1919 at which the club decided to 'take hold' of the field and also change its name to 'Outlane Cricket Club'. The Church trustees were also asked to renounce all claim to the club.

The club originally played their Huddersfield Association fixtures near Outlane Golf Club but in 1929 they moved to a new ground at Cote Farm, and

then in 1934 they relocated to Lindley Moor.

In 1951 running water arrived and then, on 3 April 1958, the club was able to purchase the ground off Websters Brewery for £100.

The 1960s were dominated by motorway-related troubles. The first mention of the proposed M62 came in 1961, and by June 1964 the club had made its first official objections.

In 1970 the club was told to vacate their ground so building could start - and they only returned in 1974.

In between they hired the Highfields ground in Huddersfield for home fixtures, although it was also mooted that the club might move permanently to another site, either in nearby Mount or Salendine Nook.

On their return to Lindley



Sturdy men and true: The Outlane team from 1960

Moor, the club laid a new wicket and erected a new pavilion. They also had electricity and a bar.

In 1975 the first XI won the Halifax Parish Cup and the Under-18s and Under-14s won their respective league titles - a golden summer.

On 30 August 1997 there was a fire at the club, caused by a

faulty thermostat in the kitchen. Extensive damage was caused by the smoke, which meant having to renovate the whole of the clubhouse.

In 2004 Outlane C.C. put on a spectacular Sportsman's Dinner at the Cedar Court Hotel, Ainley Top. The main speaker was Essex and England batting legend Graham Gooch.

The 14th in a Saturday series on Calderdale cricket clubs by Dr Peter Davies of the Cricket Heritage Project at Huddersfield University

FACT FILE

Founded: 1897
Ground: Lindley Moor Road
Local Landmark: M62
Former Grounds: Outlane Golf Club, Cote Farm
Greatest Moment: 1921 - winning the Lumb Cup for the first time

Local Hero: Andy Wray - club stalwart, official, historian and umpire
Bizarre Fact: The club bought its first mower in 1926 - a 14" Ransome costing £14!