

HALL BOWER CRICKET CLUB: the fifth in a second series of cricket histories...

# Cricket 'Babes' are on top of the world!

## AROUND THE WICKET

...with historian Peter Davies

HALL BOWER Cricket Club was founded in 1876. They staged their first fixture at Castle Hill on 14 April 1877.

In their early years, Hall Bower played at a variety of venues:

1877 - Castle Hill

1878 - A field opposite Hall Bower Sunday School.

1881 - New Laithe Hill.

1884 - The club moved into its current premises.

In 1893 Hall Bower were founder members of the Huddersfield Alliance League.

Then, in 1914, as world war loomed, the club became one of the six founder members of the Huddersfield Central League.

The 1930s were good times.

In 1934 and 1936 the 1st and 2nd XIs both won league titles.

On the eve of the Second World War, in 1939, the 2nd XI scooped the Tinker Cup and Hall Bower also sought entry into the Huddersfield and District League.

In the midst of war, Hall Bower's application to join the competition was accepted.

As such, Hall Bower earned the nickname Babes of the League.

In 1954 Alex Exley took 10 wickets against Dalton in July, and then repeated the feat by taking 10 wickets against Kirkheaton in

August - an amazing achievement!

The Sixties were certainly swinging for the Hall Bower Lane club.

They won the Paddock Shield for the first time in 1966, and in 1967 the Byrom Shield was claimed.

Throughout the 1950s and 1960s the club made various alterations to its premises - extending the tea room, erecting boundary walls and putting down paving stones and new seating.

In 1970 it put up a prefabricated building to act as pavilion (and a set of showers came with it).

The 2nd XI won the 'double' in 1968 and the 1st XI hit the headlines in 1972 by bagging the Sykes Cup - a red-letter day in the club's history.

It was birthday time in 1977 as the club celebrated its 100th anniversary - another major landmark.

More silverware followed, and today the club are famous for two things.

First, their beautiful ground high up above Newsome and perched just under Castle Hill.

And second, Andy Booth - Huddersfield Town soccer legend and dedicated Hall Bower cricketer.



□ HALL BOWER: Amazing views make Hall Bower Lane one of the most picturesque cricketing venues in the Drakes Huddersfield League.



□ MEMORIES: Above: 1977 club president Tommy Taylor; Below: 1963 1st XI. Back row (from left): Gilbert Kelly (scorer), Roy Wilkinson, Jack Barron, Laurie Poulter, Jack Walwright, Eric Exley and Ronnie Copley; front: Bill Pickering, Les Richardson, Clifford Horsfall, Alec Exley and Frank Goddard



□ LEFT TOP: 1967 Byrom Shield winners. Back row (from left): Chris Galvin, Les Richardson, Terry Heaton, Tommy Lynes, Peter Dibb, John Ogden, Stuart Greaves; front: Harry Galley, Peter Thorpe, Tommy Galvin, Derek Stow, John Greaves and (inset) Geoff Heywood.



Bottom left: a 2nd XI line-up from the 1958 season.

