

## Hall Bower CC

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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XIs won league titles.

On the eve of the Second World War, in 1939, the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 moniker '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 2<sup>nd</sup> XI won the 'double' in 1968 and the 1<sup>st</sup> 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 100<sup>th</sup> 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 legend and dedicated Hall Bower cricketer.