

"Remembering" Thornton Le Dale Cricket.

It is thought Thornton Le Dale cricket club was formed over 100 years ago, How-ever, no records, or photo graphs are available to substantiate that claim!

In 1958, committee minute book refers to my grandfather Harry Hill who had played in his younger days, and been a generous supporter all his life, "He died that year aged 24", which suggests the club was formed over 100 years ago! Reference was also made regarding Thornton Dale Estate giving the club permission to play cricket on a Sunday but the matches had to finish before church started at 6-30am. "How times have changed!"

The Oldest photograph dated 1936 (See enclosed) was taken of the team which played away from home, this we know because Charlie Meyers bus was used for away games. The 1938 team (See enclosed) was taken at Thornton Le Dale after a match against Scarborough, Dale's total was 149, of which it is said Arthur Robson Scored 128 runs.

It was during the late 50's and early 60's that Thornton Le Dale's teams were most successful, we won the Major Walker cup in 1958 (see photo enclosed) 1959 we won the Ryedale Beckett League, (photo enclosed) In 1961 we won the Major Walker cup again, and also the Harome cup, (photo enclosed) that same year the Thornton Le Dale ladies

Cricket team also won two trophies, the Snainton KO cup, and the Kirkby-in-Wharfedale cup, a dinner was held at "The Hall" to celebrate the occasion.

1965 saw Dale win the Ripedale Beckett league again, and also the Burgess top four play off trophy (see photos enclosed).

During these successful years Thornton Le Dale did not play in any Saturday league cricket, Sunday fixtures with teams from York, and Leeds were very much enjoyed!

Dale started to play Saturday league cricket in 1982, "after a meeting was called to see if the club was to continue". New chairman Peter Lockwood explained the accounts showed a deficit of £22,719, a lack of interest by young players, groundsman, and Secretary / treasurer were needed, and he estimated £500 to £600 was needed to purchase new equipment, and repair boundary fence,

Stuart Hill, and Cliff Warriner agreed to be groundsman, Roland Peel would be secretary / treasurer, and Colin Pickering would organize several discos to raise funds, other events to raise funds were held later, ie "Fun Run" and Wine & Savoury evening. The treasurer informed meeting held on 11th November the club had a bank balance of £361.00 This had been a great effort by committee!

Thornton-Se-Dale cricket club joined the newly formed B. division of the Derwent Valley League in 1982, and finished champions that year!

1983, promotion into the A division proved more difficult, and Dales team finished mid-table, but in 1984 they improved winning the Wards trophy, and finishing 3rd in the league.

In 1985 Dale were runners up to the very good team "Langdale End", who also beat Thornton in the Semi final of the Wards cup that Season, this trend continued with Langdale winning the league four years in succession, 1986 Dale were 4th 1987 2nd, and also lost in the Wards final to Langdale, 1988 saw Dale win 14 of the 18 league games losing only 2 matches, and were joint top of the league with Wards cricket club, Thornton lost the play off by one run!

1989 Dale finished 4th in the league, and in 1990 were again runners up, and won the Home Guard cup!

In 1991 Dale finished 5th in the league which was the worst Season since they were promoted in 1983!

Dale finished 4th in 1992, and lost to Staxton in the Semi final Welford cup.

In 1993 Thornton lost to Staxton in the final Wards cup, but won the Welford trophy by beating Sherburn! (Photo enclosed)

Dale finished 3rd in the league in 1994, and lost to Fords in the Semi Final Welford Cup, 1995 they again finished 3rd, but in 1996 after 13 years Dale were champions of the Derwent Valley A division, and were promoted into the Scarborough Beckett League, this was the first season that automatic promotion from the Derwent Valley was implemented. 1997 Dale started to make plans to build a new pavilion, a very enthusiastic fund raising committee chaired by Colin Pickering was formed. 1998 Dale were champions of the league, "1999" a 2nd eleven team was formed led by John Farrow, and entered the Derwent Valley C division, the first team finished 8th and were struggling having lost their star player Mark Shepherd. Year 2000 saw Dale improve, and finish 6th, with young players coming through, and the experienced David Bowton as skipper they continued to improve, 2002 a finish of 4th in the league was the highest they had achieved. After six years of fund raising on the 25th May 2003 Dale's new pavilion was opened, it cost almost £120,000, "an excellent achievement" which won Dale the trophy for the most improved ground in the Scarborough Beckett Leagues! 2004 Season proved very successful winning the League

and gaining promotion into the B. division, which is now the A division, "Since the Scarborough premiere has replaced the A. division!" 2004 also proved a successful season for the Juniors teams formed, and led by Pat Stephenson, and Graham Hunt. 2005 more ground improvements were planned, a very successful auction of promises raised funds to provide Sight Screens, new Scoring facilities, and practice nets which in 2006 are now in place, on the cricket front our first team are struggling, but with the 2nd team, and Junior teams in promotion places, and our Ryedale Evening League team in the final of the league cup, and also 2nd in the league the future of Thornton-le-Dale cricket has never looked better! Dale beat Sherburn in Semi Final of Cayley cup to reach the final this year!

Yours Sincerely,

Colin Pickering

P.S. Many Thanks to Bernard Goulding and John Crossland for providing information required.

C.P.