

# Robert Bowett



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to Scholes  
Cricket Club  
for the  
coming season



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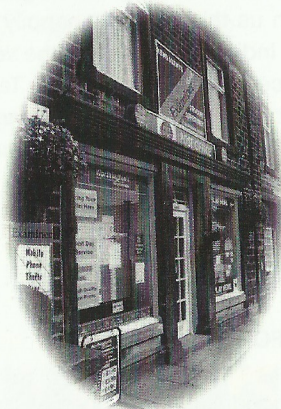
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## 1876 - 1919 - Duncan Dyson

The Cricket Field in the early days was situated below the Boot and Shoe Inn, transferring to our present ground in Chapelgate around 1880. The earliest recorded match involving Scholes C.C. was on 29 April 1876 when New Mill C.C. were the visitors; the Huddersfield Examiner reported that the match was drawn with Scholes C.C. scoring 93 runs. The New Mill total was not recorded.

The next game to be played on 6 May 1876 was a mouth watering local derby against Hepworth C.C., played at Uppergate. No doubt this match would provide intense rivalry between the two villages and it is interesting to note that both Clubs fielded a professional player that season. Hepworth batting first reached a total of 55 with their professional, Dawson, contributing 23 of these runs. Scholes C.C.'s most effective bowler was their professional, Dalton, who produced a fine bowling display to take 7 wickets for 41 runs; five of his victims were clean bowled! In reply Scholes C.C. fell 20 runs short, being dismissed for 35 runs. Dalton only contributed 1 run towards this total, whilst his fellow professional on the Hepworth team, Dawson, took 5 wickets for 18 runs. On the same day Hepworth's Second Eleven completed a notable double over Scholes C.C., Hepworth scoring 103 and Scholes totalling 32 in reply.

Other matches played in this inaugural season involved Farnley Tyas C.C., Skelmanthorpe C.C., Holmbridge C.C., Denby Dale C.C. and Lockwood Mechanics Institute. In the return match against Hepworth C.C. at Scholes, Hepworth emerged as convincing victors having made 140 runs (Dalton 7 wickets). They then bowled out Scholes C.C. for a paltry 27 runs.

Also in this year, W.G. Grace topped the National Averages with 62.2.

A question that crosses my mind is how on earth did the Scholes Team travel to Skelmanthorpe, a distance of approximately 7 miles, for their game, as it is most unlikely that the rudimentary public transport system of the day would link the two villages?

In 1887 Scholes played under the name of Scholes Moor C.C. There are no records to explain the reason for the change in name and the first report of any match involving Scholes C.C. was reported in the recently formed Holmfirth Express on 21 May 1887. Scholes Moor C.C. v. Hepworth C.C. (Second Elevens) played at Hepworth and this resulted in an easy win for Scholes Moor C.C., who scored 56 and then bowled Hepworth C.C. out for 24. In the interests of brevity it has not been possible to give full details of the teams that played on that day, along with their respective scores, but it is intended that full details of our extensive research into the Club's formative years will, in the near future, be recorded for posterity on the Scholes C.C. website ([www.scholescc.co.uk](http://www.scholescc.co.uk)).

On 11 June 1887 Scholes C.C. fortunes hit an all time low when they were dismissed for the miserly total of 16 runs in the First Round of the Lumb Cup Competition by Deanhouse C.C., the Home Team then going on to score 25 runs to



win the tie. However, Scholes did not have to wait long to extract their revenge as the two teams met again in a league encounter at Chapelgate on 16 July 1887. Scholes batting first made 37 before bowling out the visitors for 26.

A representative match was played at Chapelgate on 6 August 1887 when Scholes C.C. faced a District Cricket League XI. Scholes won this low scoring match, scoring only 34 runs and then restricting the District Team to 32. Fascinatingly, on the same day, Scholes C.C. Second Eleven played Paris C.C. First Eleven in a match played on Paris C.C. ground (I wonder where the ground was?). In reply to the Scholes total of 42, Paris C.C. were bowled out for 33.

The year 1888 also marked another milestone in the history of our Club as Scholes played under the name of Scholes Clarence C.C. Again, the local press of the day are silent as to the reasons behind, or the derivation of, the name change and on 5 May of this year Scholes Clarence C.C. gained a notable victory against the old enemy, Hepworth C.C. In a match played at Uppergate, the Home Team must have felt quietly confident, having restricted the Scholes innings to a relatively modest score of 32. However, it appears they had under estimated Scholes' demon bowler, T. Roberts, who tore into Hepworth taking 7 wickets for just 8 runs as Hepworth were dismissed for a total of 13 runs. Revenge must have tasted sweet since this was the first recorded win against Hepworth C.C. at First Team level.

The following extract from the Sports Editorial of the Holmfirth Express dated 7 July 1888, although not concerning Scholes C.C. is, I feel, worthy of mention:

"The Cup-Tie Match today between Holmfirth C & A Club and Skelmanthorpe C.C. ought to be a source of revenue to the Holmfirth Club, insomuch as they have been unfortunate in losing good gates through the inclement weather this season. Complaints are being generally made at the charge of threepence, which is being made to all spectators at Cup Matches, members and subscribers alike. Indeed, many of the latter think it will cost them a small trifle (sic) if four or five cup matches are played at home. There can, however, be no excuse for the large crowd who congregate on Huddersfield Road to witness the First Team matches. Surely some of them can afford to pay to witness a good match occasionally as it would assist the Club considerably in the course of a season. It is, needless to say, their appearance that is the subject of much comment to strangers in Holmfirth and it does not speak well for the interest they profess to take in Cricket"!! (New Millennium, same old problem)!!

Clubs in 1900 were listed as follows:

District League: Meltham Mills, Linthwaite, Marsden, Honley, Lockwood, Holmfirth, Slaithwaite, Golcar, Lascelles Hall, Paddock, Primrose Hill, Dalton and Kirkheaton. The Alliance was made up on the following clubs: Lindley, Meltham, Denby Dale, Linthwaite Hall, Bradley Mills, Skelmanthorpe, Holmbridge, Thongsbridge, Almondbury, Hall Bower, Broad Oak and Kirkburton. Most of these teams are now playing in the Huddersfield League.

In 1900 the Scholes C.C. team played in the Combination League Section, along

with Cumberworth, Hepworth, Netherthong, Shelley, Shepley, Cartworth Moor and Thurstonland.

Bearing in mind the limited leisure pursuits available for villagers living in this era, one can only imagine the excitement engendered at the meeting of neighbouring village clubs on a Saturday afternoon and the after-match atmosphere in the local inns as the victors toasted their success and the losers drowned their sorrows.

The Alliance League was disbanded in 1913 and some of the clubs joined the Dearne Valley League which stretched out towards Wakefield, Barnsley and Penistone. 1914 proved to be a difficult year for the Central League as this was its first season and, shortly after its birth, World War I delayed any activity and, by the end of 1919, the league almost went out of existence with many clubs resigning their membership. However, on 16 December 1919 it was announced that the new Central League would carry on with the help of the Holme and Dearne Valley Leagues. Scholes C.C. remained in the Central League until they joined the Huddersfield League in the mid 1980's.

During my research for this article, many questions crossed my mind which still remain unanswered, e.g. how many overs did a match consist of? How did players and spectators travel to opponents' grounds? Who, if anyone, prepared the pitches? On this latter question, our own octogenarian ex-player and keen supporter, Clifford Oldroyd, can recollect end of season wicket reparation involving clumps of turf being dug from surrounding fields and then being transplanted onto the square. I suspect that many of our older ex-players and supporters will still have some forgotten items of old Scholes C.C. memorabilia, e.g. scorebooks, fixture cards, team photographs, etc., gathering dust at home somewhere so, please check your wardrobes and sideboards for anything with an historical interest relating to the Club. If you find anything interesting, please either pass these to one of your Committee Members in order that we can make photocopies or, if you wish, we will give original items pride of place in a display cabinet in the Clubhouse.

## A WORD FROM THE CHAIRMAN

"We at Scholes should be looking very seriously to the future. As mentioned on a number of occasions previously everything has, and will, continue to cost more and more, so some of us will have to come up with many more attractions than we have had in the past to meet these every increasing costs".

These are not the words of our present Chairman, Robert (Crowbar) Pell, as many readers no doubt surmised, but Mr. J. R. Hallas, Chairman of Scholes C.C. writing in 1976.

The message, however, remains the same. Over the last quarter century the turnover of the Club has increased 25 fold and, likewise, our operating costs have risen year on year so that in 2002 it will cost the Club in the region of £4,000 before a ball is bowled.