

A 1922 cup-winning local cricket team

Shortly after the History Group was formed in 2011, we were given the photograph below by the Keighley and District Digital Archive.



Enlarging the image quickly allowed us to conclude that the team was the 1922 Kildwick Albion Cricket Club (KACC).

Obviously the team had won a trophy. But which trophy, was it an easy victory, and who were the members of the team ?

These are questions that we now feel confident we can answer. At least we can have a good try.

Which trophy ?

Examining at contemporary newspaper reports shows that, in 1922 Kildwick Albion were in the Second Division of the Craven League.

That year they were Division Two champions, and were awarded the “Wilberforce Cup”.

This trophy was first presented to the Skipton and District Cricket League by Mr H W Wilberforce in 1913. Initially it was intended for the First Division champions, but from 1921 until 1966 it was the Division Two champions who received the trophy. The First Division champions received the trophy from 1967 and 1978. Between 1979 and 2003 the Third Division winners received the trophy, and from the 2004 season, it has been presented to the Division Four champions.

Was it an easy victory ?

Far from it. In fact, it would go right down to the wire.

At the beginning of September the league table (reported in the Craven Herald, 8/9/1922) looked like this:

THE LEAGUE TABLES.					
CRAVEN CRICKET LEAGUE.					
SECOND DIVISION.					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bradley 2nd	13	9	2	2	20
Kildwick Albion .	12	8	2	2	18
Cowling 2nd	13	7	4	2	16
Glusburn I. 2nd. .	13	7	4	2	16
Skipton C.I. 2nd .	12	6	4	2	14
Kildwick P. 2nd ...	13	5	6	2	12
Skipton 3rd	13	5	6	2	12
Eastburn 2nd	12	5	5	2	12
Salterforth 2nd ...	14	5	7	2	12
Thornton 2nd	12	4	7	1	9
Cononley 2nd	13	3	7	3	9
Embassy 2nd	12	1	10	1	3

E. WALKER, Hon. Sec.

Bradley 2nd XI were two points ahead with one game to play. Kildwick were in second place but with a game in hand. It was going to be close !

Both teams won their next game, leaving Bradley on 22 points and Kildwick on 20, with a match to play. Kildwick Albion completely outmatched 3rd placed Cowling 2nd XI, scoring 76 and their opponents getting nowhere near the target, all out for just 28.

For Kildwick, the last match was going to be crucial.

SECOND DIVISION.

Provided Kildwick Albion defeat Glusburn Institute Second to-morrow (Saturday) they will equal Bradley Second, and a deciding game will be necessary between the two teams for the possession of the "Wilberforce" Cup. Each of the teams achieved easy victories on Saturday, Bradley over Skipton Church Institute Second, and Kildwick at the expense of Cowling Second.

In the event, 4th placed Glusburn Institute 2nd XI were no match for Kildwick. Glusburn batted first, and when no one on the team managed to make it into double figures, the game seemed to be all over. However Kildwick managed to make hard work knocking off the 18 runs required, and were five down before the final runs were scored.

This left the table after the last games of the season with a tie at the top.

CRAVEN LEAGUE.					
SECOND DIVISION.					
	P.	W.	L.	D.	Pts.
Bradley 2nd	14	10	2	2	22
Kildwick Alb.	14	10	2	2	22
Cowling 2nd	14	7	5	2	16
Glushburn Inst. 2nd	14	7	5	2	16
Skipton C.L. 2nd...	14	7	5	2	16
Eastburn 2nd.....	14	6	6	2	14
Kildwick Par. 2nd	14	6	6	2	14
Salterforth 2nd ...	14	6	6	2	14
Skipton 3rd	14	5	7	2	12
Cononley 2nd	14	4	7	3	11
Thornton 2nd	13	4	8	1	9
Embsay 2nd.....	13	1	11	1	3

E. WALKER, Hon. Secretary.

It would need a "decider" to see whether Bradley or Kildwick Albion were going to win the trophy.

The match was played at the Kildwick Albion ground on Saturday 23rd, watched by a sizeable crowd made up of the supporters of both sides. Kildwick batted first and made a dreadful start: losing their first five wickets for just six runs, but a rally by the late order batsmen left Bradley requiring a reasonable total of 52 to win.

Bradley made a confident start, quickly moving to four down for 32. At that point good fortune switched sides. The next three Bradley wickets fell for the addition of just one run; and the final four wickets put on only another eight.

Kildwick won by eight runs.

Kildwick Albion

S. Sunderland, c. Anslow, b. Walmsley	2
T. Hargreaves, c. Watson, b. Walmsley	0
G. Sunderland, c. Watson, b. Webster	19
H. Kitson, c. Wilson, b. Webster	0
F. Pollard, run out	1
C. Hargreaves, b. Walmsley	0
R. Inskip, b. Webster	7
R.E. Barker, c. Webster, b. Pollard	9
Rev. T. Ladlay (capt.), b. Pollard	1
E. Darby, not out	2
A.D. Hargreaves, b. Pollard	5
Extras	5
Total	51

Bradley 2nd XI

H. Walmsley, c. Pollard, b. Sunderland	12
A. Wilson, b. T. Hargreaves	4
B. Chapman, b. C. Hargreaves	0
R. Thompson, c. Kitson, b. C. Hargreaves	10
B. Webster, c and b. Sunderland	6
H. Watson, c. Inskip, b. Sunderland	0
H. Pollard, b. C. Hargreaves	1
J. Gill, b. C. Hargreaves	2
J. Webster, c. Ladlay, b Sunderland	1
H. Chapman, c. Inskip, b. T. Hargreaves	4
H. Anslow, not out	1
Extras	2
Total	43

Immediately after the match the Wilberforce Cup was presented to the winning team captain, Rev. Ladlay, by the vicar of Kildwick, Rev. C.E.V. Hodge.

Note: Rev. Ladlay was the minister at the Farnhill Methodist Chapel. With the Methodist minister in the Kildwick team and the vicar of St. Andrew's leading the supporters, could the result ever have been in doubt ? Kildwick Albion clearly had God on their side.

Epilogue – 100 years on, a part of the trophy comes home

In July 2022 the Farnhill and Kildwick Local History Group, were able to acquire a small piece of silverware that had recently been found in a car-boot sale.



Measuring little more than an inch high, this has clearly been taken off a much larger trophy. We believe this must have been one of the "previous winners" shields, commemorating Kildwick's win, fixed on the pedestal of the Wilberforce Cup.