

SNAKES & LADDERS The third 25 years (1943 to 1967)

1946 – Safely back *Debut Alf Pickles*

For the third time in the Oakworth club's short history the reformation of the team began this time in 1946 after the Second World War. It is of worth to record the efforts of that enthusiastic band of people who maintained the club's existence through those terrible days of 1941 to 1945. President E J Rouse, First team bowler and club secretary John Preston, Treasurer Willie Hodgson and Chairman Arthur Brooksbank along with many of the pre-war players such as Prince Stobbs, Arthur Lockwood, Harry Adams and Arthur Pickles deserve our gratitude for preserving the club for 5 long years, when commitment could so easily have waned. The playing squad retained fortunately the services of those mentioned plus youngsters Cyril Pegg, Bill Hough and Edwin Greenwood. Alvin Laycock and Jack Scarborough were recruited to embark on a campaign with bat and ball thankfully instead of gun and bayonet on April 27th 1946 against Ingrow St Johns.

A fifteen-team single division where each team played each other only once was the order of the day and Oakworth started in real style winning their first three matches quite comfortably. Preston and Stobbs turned out only when required as the main bowling responsibilities now rested with Pegg, Laycock and Hough. The Second team produced another young batting prospect in Duncan Bower who topped the Second XI league averages. Arthur Lockwood, having lost five years at his peak, really began to again make his presence felt, finishing second in the league lists with an average of 25.28 from 177 runs in 12 innings. Edwin Greenwood in his second season backed him up admirably in sixth place, ending his year with a 50 in the last match against Ingrow, which was easily won by a first 10 wickets margin in the WBL. Bill Hough took 38 wickets to claim 8th place in the bowling lists. All in all, it was a satisfactory restart behind League Champions Haworth Methodists, who had dominated War-time cricket in the area.

Oakworth were blasted from the Cup by N Gillson, whose 98 (from 150) produced a Haworth 8-wicket win. The knock remains the most dominant (65.33%) against Oaks in a Cup match.

1 st	WBL		14	8	0	1	5	5 th of 15
2 nd	WBL		13	3	1	5	4	7 th of 14

Farewells Arthur Boardman, G Lund, E Mace

1947 - Pipped by Meths *Debuts Alan J Eden, James Hewitt*

The "Brylcreem" summer of 1947 started with high hopes and Greenwood and Adams soon justified that optimism with their bats. Greenwood accumulated 327 runs and Adams became the club's second Centurion with 112 not out against Bingley Congs in a massive team total of 241. Harry was the first player ever to score a hundred on the Wide Lane ground. The other notable achievements fell to Cyril Pegg who had developed into a genuine all-rounder of immense talent. He scored 314 runs (av. 20.93) and took 35 wickets at 7.62 each to make both averages. Pegg with Joe Rhodes set a last wicket partnership of 118 (unbeaten) in taking Oakworth to victory over Morton Banks, which was to remain a league record for 31 years.

On 28th June Oakworth's growing confidence brought them victory over Haworth Meths by a clear 48 runs, Edwin Greenwood's 33 crucial to the 120 total. Peacock's 6 for 36 had threatened to maintain Meths unbeaten record against Oaks, which stretched back to 2nd September 1911 and 18 matches. Bill Hough was the Oakworth hero, picking off six batsmen for 27 and Meths were all out for 72. If ever an omen for a first ever Championship loomed this victory was it.

With 1 match remaining Oakworth headed the table by 1 point from Haworth Meths and Cross Roads and prepared to take the West Bradford League Championship for the first time in the return showdown with the old enemy at Cure Hill. However, despite fine bowling from Alvin Laycock (5 for 50), Oakworth's 84 (J Jones 6-45) was overhauled by the Meths with one tantalizing wicket remaining and it was Haworth who qualified to meet Cross Roads in a play off. It was an epic and the fiftieth League match between the two clubs.

Haworth, including Harold Barber, won the title for a 4th consecutive year by bowling out Cross Roads for 59 in reply to a winning 96. For Oakworth it was the best West Bradford League season to date.

1 st	WBL	E Greenwood	18	12	1	1	4	3 rd of 18
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2 nd	WBL	P Stobbs	18	8	0	1	9	13 th of 18
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Farewell R Haddon

1948 - Arthur's second Debut *Stanley Moules*

During the winter Prince Stobbs and Irwin Scarborough proposed that the club enter a team in the Junior League, which had first operated during the 1947 season, which was accepted.



Arthur Lockwood

The season commenced in great shape with the adoption of two divisions for the first time in the West Bradford League and Oakworth were naturally placed in the First. Back-to-form Lockwood, Pegg and Adams completely dominated the league batting scene finishing first, second and fifth in the averages. Pegg and Lockwood both passed 400 league runs for the season with Pegg setting a club record total of 462. Lockwood's average was a superb 41.90 and Pegg's 38.50 with Adams on 25.91. Arthur pushed the club's record individual score to new heights with a magnificent 120 not out against his home village Oxenhope Church in a total of 223 for 6. The Oxenhope reply of 185 for 6 also contributed to a new high match aggregate of 408 runs. Not to be outdone Cyril Pegg hammered the Bingley Congs bowlers for 115 not out to become the club's third three-figure man in a summer of regular high scores. Alf Pickles finished

off Bingley with a hat trick, his first and the club's fourth. The club twice suffered defeat to 5-in-a-row Champions Haworth Methodists although both West End and Long Lee were each twice trounced by over 100 runs.

It was a far cry from those bewildering days of 1933-1937 and for the first time Oakworth's batters topped 2,000 runs in a season, an unprecedented 1,329 in their 9 visits to other grounds.

1 st	WBL1	E Greenwood	18	10	0	3	5	5 th of 10
2 nd	WBL3	L Judson	18	8	0	1	9	5 th of 10

Farewells *George Preston, Joe Taylor*

1949 - Junior winners Debuts *Frank Shallis, Stanley Milner*

In 1949 Lockwood and Pegg continued to pile up the runs but Greenwood failed to build on his last three brilliant seasons. On 9th July the club scored 82 runs and was defeated without loss of a wicket by guess whom? Yes, those nasty Methodists again, thanks again to N Gillson's dominance with the bat. He scored 69 of their 83 runs to notch up 83.13% of the Haworth total, still the highest conceded by Oaks in a League match. Skirrow finished the job with 8 for 35. The result was Oakworth's worst defeat at the time.

However the Junior Team led by John Sayer won their League with 9 wins, 1 draw and two reverses. An almost unbelievable turn-round in fortune since the 1948 campaign had ended with no wins and rock bottom place. Remarkably one of the two defeats was at the hands of Haworth Methodists (a real jinx team) who bowled our young lads out for only 5 runs!

1 st	WBL1	A J Eden	18	7	0	1	10	6 th of 10
2 nd	WBL3	L Judson	18	9	0	0	9	5 th of 10

Farewells *Alan J Eden, C Bailey*

1950 - Bigger square

Whether or not the club believed that the relatively narrow Cure Hill pitch was working against them and causing their decline, the committee decided to extend the playing square by about ten yards. The enlarged square was available for the start of the 1950 season and there is strong rumour that much of the infill consisted of old Oakworth scorebooks! Sacrilege!

Cyril Pegg maintained form and recent newcomers Frank Woodward, Stanley Moules, Stanley Milner and Frank Shallis continued to learn the trade and as the contributions from Lockwood, Adams and Greenwood declined so did the fortunes of the entire team. Yet again Haworth Meths provided pain for our lads, this time with a 177

run thrashing, our second worst. Meths batsman Jack Inman was chief torturer with 60 of the Meths 225 runs and he was aided and abetted by J Greenwood with 6 for 21. More pain came from Cullingworth bowler W Abbott who claimed 12 of our scalps for 54 runs in completing their winning double.

1 st	WBL1	A Lockwood	18	6	0	5	7	6 th of 10
2 nd	WBL3	I Scarborough	18	3	1	5	9	Last of 10

Farewell Harry Adams

1951 - Double double *Debuts Ernest Wilson, Leslie Wilson, Willie Lambert*

On 11th January 1951 the club membership recognizing the major impacts on the club's early development played by two tremendously long servers, unanimously awarded Life Membership to (Captain) William Adams and Treasurer James Woodward.

Pegg again made both average lists but only Jack Lancaster with two half-centuries offered any tangible support. Cyril took Oakworth into the second round of the Charity Cup almost on his own with a double of 83 not out and 5 wickets for 10 runs versus Cullingworth. He obviously enjoyed the experience so much that he repeated the dose against Ingrow St Johns 3 months later, this time following up his 5 for 17 with 53 not out in a nine wicket victory which included a 97 run first wicket stand with Arthur Lockwood.

1 st	WBL1	A Lockwood	20	6	0	5	9	7 th of 11
2 nd	WBL3	C Bailey	20	6	0	3	11	8 th of 11

Farewells Alvin Laycock, J Ritson

1952 – Relegation *Debuts Frank Turbitt, A Harrison*

The gradual slide from the team pinnacle of 1948 continued during 1952. A disastrous run of five consecutive losses at the end of the season plunged the club to the bottom of the division and for the first time it faced the prospect of 2nd Division cricket for 1953. The Cullingworth side rattled up a highest to date 241 for 5 against Oakworth thanks to a first occasion of 3 fifties in a match from Haigh, Wood and Baldwin. What Oakworth batting prowess there was again came from Lockwood, Pegg and Lancaster and the bowling attack of Hough and Pegg was supplemented by Willie Lambert and one season man A Toft.

Something drastic was needed to halt the club's decline. But what? Since no one made either averages I suppose you could say batsmen, bowlers and perhaps fielders! Perversely the committee decided to purchase a refreshment hut to replace the one purchased in 1931!

1 st	WBL1	C Pegg	20	6	0	3	11	Relegated
2 nd	WBL3	A Laycock	20	9	0	3	8	6 th of 11

1953 - No return *Debuts Raymond Mitchell, Smith Butterfield*

Coronation year in the Second Division should have been one of triumphant return but this was not to be. Jack Lancaster's batting provided real comfort as did that of A Harrison. A magnificent Cup win overhauling Morton Banks 190 with 7 wickets remaining (Lancaster 62 no & Frank Turbitt 50 no) offered hope but we lost to Denholme. Oakworth first played the Ingrow club in 1912 and had not managed a success at the Ingrow club's ground. All that changed on 23rd May. Jack Lancaster led the victory dance, with 30 n.o., to register an 8-wicket turn-over. Since the War Prince Stobbs played second team cricket but he did turn out on occasion for the First XI. 34 years after his debut, on 12th September he played against Harden. It was his last match for the side. As with all teams in trouble the rumblings soon began.

1 st	WBL2	E Greenwood	18	7	0	2	9	7 th of 10
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	20	9	0	4	7	3 rd of 11

Farewell Prince Stobbs

1954 - Lifers

At the AGM in January 1954 Life Membership was approved for George Lee, John Preston, Arthur Brooksbank and Willie Hodgson. George started as a player in 1901 and captained the side in 1919. John of course had been one of our great bowlers between 1922 and 1947, taking five wickets or more on no less than 17 occasions and he remains the only bowler to twice take nine wickets in a match. He was club captain in 1931 and served handsomely as club secretary from 1929 to 1938 and from 1946 to 1951. Willie served the club faithfully as treasurer for a magnificent unbroken 27 years from 1925 to 1951. Arthur had been Committee Chairman from 1937 to 1951. All were fine examples of dedication to the club.

Willie Lambert's hat trick in a bowling return of 8 for 15 against Eldwick & Gilstead was noteworthy indeed. Whilst Lancaster, Pegg and Lockwood all made the averages, not one reached 300 runs for the season. Pegg's bowling was as good as ever and he made the bowling list with 44 wickets at only 7.61 runs each.

1 st	WBL2	J Lancaster	20	7	0	3	10	7 th of 11
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	20	11	0	2	7	3 rd of 11

Farewells Arthur Lockwood, A Harrison

1955 - Goodbye Arthur

Something had to happen, and the bombshell exploded with news that Arthur Lockwood at the age of 47 was to leave the club and return to his native Oxenhope. This was not the sort of change the loyal supporters expected and 1955 inevitably got under way with a great deal of trepidation. Jack Lancaster showed he had lost none of his sparkle and Eldwick & Gilstead felt the brunt of his 34 and 5 for 1. Pegg continued in admirable vein clocking up 297 runs and taking 30 wickets. He received inconsistent back up from Lancaster; Greenwood and Turbitt and one tremendous score of 97 not out at Ingrow St Johns from Ronnie Asquith. Lambert continued to pick up wickets (36 at 9.20) and Newsholme farmer Raymond Mitchell had the occasional good bowling return. The team ended on a high note with a 109 run thrashing of Prince Smith & Stells (R Mitchell 6 for 11). Many anticipated something dramatic from Arthur Lockwood in his innings against Oakworth but they breathed easy as he chalked up scores of only 3 and 7.

1 st	WBL2	E Greenwood	20	8	0	6	6	5 th of 11
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	20	9	0	2	9	7 th of 11

Farewell James Hewitt

1956 - Tale of two tons Debut Peter Holmes



Frank Turbitt

Jack Lancaster decided it was time for him to let the younger brigade have its turn and announced his retirement. Three wins on the trot opened the 1956 season and not surprisingly again raised hopes of a return to the top flight. In the first match Pegg devastated Eldwick & Gilstead with the ball, in the second Lambert did even better taking 7 for 14 to wipe out the Prince Smith's challenge, and in the third Frank Turbitt rattled up 106 runs in only 49 minutes to crush Oxenhope by 116 runs despite Place's 8 for 58. His amazing century included 7 sixes. Cyril Pegg achieved his third double taking 6 Cullingworth wickets for 20 to add to his innings of 63 not out. By the beginning of July the side were handily placed in third spot to launch their bid for promotion. Unfortunately the holiday months of July and August produced only one win. Turbitt's ton helped him to 407 runs for the season and third place in the league averages. The consistent Pegg once again made both lists. Cyril not for the first time wrote his name into Oakworth C.C. folklore when on 4th June he scored an unbelievable highest to date 129 out of a suspended team Cup score of 150 for 8 against Wilsden. Typically Wilsden won the Cup-tie!

1 st	WBL2	A Pickles	20	8	0	4	8	5 th of 11
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	20	8	0	3	9	6 th of 11

Farewells John Preston, Frank Shallis, Harold Buffet

1957 - Re-election *Debuts David Greenwood, Wilf Scarborough, Dudley Varley*

Clearly the 1956 season had been pivotal in that many new players made their debuts and many older ones headed elsewhere. If the ructions that followed the departure of Arthur Lockwood two years earlier were hard to take, then those that welcomed the news that the foundation stone of the team, Cyril Pegg, was to leave to join Morton Banks to eliminate travelling from his Riddlesden home clearly added to the club's frustrations. The departure of Pegg was followed by that of Frank Turbitt to Ingrow St Johns and Harold Buffet to Prince Smith & Stells. The experienced heart was well and truly ripped out of the club and it was asking a lot of newcomers David Greenwood (Edwin's son), Stanley Moules, P Ingham, Peter Holmes and Dudley Varley to fill the boots of two players who had both recently scored centuries. Without doubt the lads tried their best with Dudley taking six wickets twice and seven once. He also scored 40 not out against Cullingworth and finished top run-scorer for the year with 136 to underline his all round potential. David was less consistent but made the season's highest score of 65 not out in the surprise draw with eventual champions Cross Roads.

A disastrous 1957 campaign resulted in Oakworth and Eldwick & Gilstead having the ignominy of applying for re-election, which thankfully was granted. The unavailability of Ronnie Asquith and Arthur Pickles for the entire season was obviously crucial. This miserable season was epitomized by the two games against long-time rivals Haworth Meths in that Oakworth scored only 25 runs at home (Haworth's Jim Greenwood took what is still a record 9 for 8 and Jack Inman top-scored with 39) and an even worse 19 away (Jack Inman 5 for 7 including debutant Wilfrid Scarborough bowled for 1).

1 st	WBL2	E Greenwood	20	2	0	5	13	Re-elected
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	20	7	0	1	12	7 th of 11

1958 - Fair play *Debuts Arthur Spink, David Lockley*

It seemed that survival was the name of the game for 1958 and indeed all the players responded to the leadership of new captain Ernest Wilson and they hauled themselves to sixth place. The batting remained somewhat brittle as the 100 mark was passed on only two occasions, the second against neighbours Ingrow. Haworth's Jack Inman continued his torment of Oaks, this time with 5 for 6 in our all out 24 total. In June L Wood of Cullingworth picked up 9 Oaks victims for only 36 runs and cruelly exposed that batting brittleness.

In the Ingrow match Edwin Greenwood returned to form with a smooth 58 but lower down the order a 15 years old lad was making his official debut (he had appeared as a last match stand-in in 1957), with a contribution of 3 runs. He and the others saw Ingrow with the help of Mel Oldfield's 100 not out reach 167 for 4 in reply to Oakworth's 173. The match was a draw. In comparison to the previous week's sacking by Yorkshire of the great Johnny Wardle this debut did not make the headlines but for Oakworth it was to be the start of a life-long association for that particular schoolboy. He had been a club member since the tender age of six (in 1948). It seems likely that on 28th June that year he saw former Oakworth player Harold Buffet demonstrate the fairness of play that is sadly lacking these days. Harold had hit the ball in the air and in defending his wicket attempted to strike the ball again when he realized that one of the Oakworth fielders could have made a catch. He immediately walked without waiting for the umpire and the scorebook entry listed "out obstructing the field". Fair play indeed!

The schoolboy was Wilfrid John Scarborough and he was a member of the Oakworth junior team, which won the inaugural Junior Cup against Cullingworth on July 10th. Captain that historic day was Brian Wilson, who led his team to a handsome 114 run victory on home soil. Whilst hero Roy Littlewood took a hat-trick

1 st	WBL2	E Wilson	20	6	0	8	6	6 th of 11
2 nd	WBL4	I Scarborough	20	6	1	3	10	7 th of 11

1959 - Two in a row *Debut David Copeland*



It was another so-so season in 1959 and escape from the Second Division seemed even further away. Wilf Scarborough's season was evidently a very tough one in the First XI and he gathered only 16 runs in 6 visits to the wicket, with his best a score of 9 versus Harden. However at the age of sixteen he also captained the Junior XI and he won the league batting average prize with 235 runs from 8 innings for an average of 47.00. The Junior XI won the West Bradford Junior League Cup for the second season in a row again beating the Cullingworth team, this time by 9 wickets. In fact they were also unbeaten in the League but lost out to Denholme.

On 16th May Skipper Stanley Moules had the last laugh on Haworth Methodists after J Greenwood (8-22) had again demolished the Oaks batting for only 61. Raymond Mitchell returned the compliment with 7 for 9 to skittle the rivals for only 35 and our first win on home soil against them since 1911 was gained! In the intervening 18 home fixtures the Haworth side had achieved 11 victories and 7 draws in an amazing period of domination over our Oakworth club.

David Greenwood and Peter Holmes, who made the averages with 305 runs, carried the batting. Raymond Mitchell was the pick of the bowlers, although, thanks to the printers' strike my records for 1959 are incomplete, there might have been other performances of merit.

1 st	WBL2	S Moules	18	6	0	5	7	5 th of 10
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	18	6	0	2	10	7 th of 10

1960 - One match trick *Debut* *Brian Wilson*

The good news was that Frank Turbitt had returned from exile at St Johns and the immense promise of Scarborough had translated into runs on the board. These batsmen were amongst a record-equalling 28 who donned the Oaks colours in 1960 for skipper Raymond Mitchell.

A score of 45 out of a poor total of 84 at home to Long Lee in May announced Wilf's arrival on the Oakworth stage. At the age of 17 years and 9 months he led the team to victory at Riddlesden on 18th June with his first half-century a brilliant 85 not out. A personal tally of 270 runs rocketed him to 8th place in the league batting averages, a meteoric rise and much value to an Oakworth Club somewhat in the doldrums. The bowling attack was boosted by the addition of good returns from David Greenwood who was now adding to his reputation as a batsman. In fact he twice took seven in a match.

But the real turn up for the books was in the team's home game with old enemy Haworth Meths when P Hardisty turned out for his one and only game for Oakworth and promptly took a hat trick in a stint of 5 for 10. Needless to say that as usual the Methodists still managed to win despite another half-ton from Wilfrid. The away match with Meths had been a closer affair with Oaks surprise winners by 1 wicket. Frank Turbitt's 37 knock nullified Jack Inman's 5 for 23. A Stone (Morton) and A Smith (Long Lee) both harvested 12 Oakworth wickets in the year as their teams completed the double over our young team.

For the second time Oakworth applied for re-election, finally ending 8th in the 9-team Second Division.

1 st	WBL2	R Mitchell	18	4	0	3	11	Re-elected
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	18	11	1	2	4	2 nd of 10

Farewells *Peter Holmes, Leslie Wilson, Arthur Pickles*

1961 – Dismal *Debuts* *Laurence Bankhead, Jeff Hobson*

Jack Lancaster made a comeback to Oaks ranks after 5 seasons on the sidelines. His runs were badly needed. The swinging sixties weren't doing much for Oakworth CC's attempts to escape Division Two and yet another dismal year followed the previous nine. Varley and Greenwood spearheaded the attack but the only help came from another veteran, Willie Lambert, with a best of 7 for 20 against fellow strugglers Eldwick & Gilstead. Wilf Scarborough scored his only half century in the last game of the season, a 64 against Cullingworth. This time he didn't make the averages as only 164 runs at 12.62 left him well short of qualification.

1 st	WBL2	E Greenwood	18	5	0	4	9	6 th of 10
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2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	18	7	0	2	9	6 th of 10
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Farewells Willie Lambert, Stanley Moules

1962 - Lucky Debut Eddie Smith

On 18th August 1962 Oakworth were next to the bottom of the Second Division with only 4 wins. The spectre of those dark, depressed days in the mid-1930's reared an ugly head. But with another 4 wins from the last five games the side pushed up to third place in the table and when it was decided to re-admit Prince Smith & Stells to the League, Oakworth were awarded a third promotion place in order to maintain a balance of numbers. A rapid if somewhat lucky trip to the top drawer! The renaissance was brought about by some excellent all round performances from David Greenwood, more "big-hitting" from Scarborough and a fifth double for the club through David Copeland. Copeland hit a smashing 74 and followed it up with bowling figures of 6 for 18 to pulverize the Cross Roads opposition.

At the season's close veteran Edwin Greenwood retired after 22 seasons in the First XI.

1 st	WBL2	E Greenwood	18	8	0	1	9	Promoted
2 nd	WBL4	W Hough	18	10	0	1	7	3 rd of 10

Farewell Edwin Greenwood

1963 - Relegation again Debut Richard Harris

And so whilst the rest of the world was whooping it up to the Beatles and the Mersey sound in 1963, the locals were celebrating their return to the First Division after an absence of 10 seasons. The anticipation of further success might not have been misplaced as the backbones of the side, Greenwood and Scarborough were maturing well and Dudley Varley continued to give Greenwood some support in attack. But the old complaint of insufficient depth of batting persisted as no one could provide consistent back up to Scarborough. The team were relegated back to Division Two at the first time of asking.

1 st	WBL1	W Hough	20	4	0	5	11	Relegated
2 nd	WBL3	D Lockley	20	7	0	2	11	8 th of 11

Farewells Frank Turbitt, Bill Hough

1964 - Promotion and junior success Debuts Barry Sayer, Graham Nolan, Alec Leeming



Wilf Scarborough

Wilf Scarborough, now aged 21, again dominated the club batting and he went on to pile up 374 runs at an average of 26.70 to finish an astonishing fourth in the 1964 league averages. The highlight of this 1964 season without doubt was his first century. It came on 18th July at Ingrow in a match that Oakworth probably had no chance of winning. Ingrow posted a score of 206 for 3, Saxton, Farrar and Kenealey all making 50s. I'm sure most teams would have gladly and negatively settled for a draw. Not Wilf. Seven sixes and eleven fours later he had reached his maiden century, finishing unbeaten on 102. He had been very capably backed up by new recruit Barry Sayer who chipped in 28 runs to a final team total of 179 for 7 wickets. The addition of Dales' lad Sayer, who made his debut on 4th July with 3 runs against Eldwick, seemed to have been the missing piece of the batting jigsaw as Oakworth finished the campaign with 7 wins on the trot and more pertinently in second place. It was a genuine promotion to the First Division, only 2 points behind Morton Banks. Certainly Barry played his part in the promotion push with valuable knocks in four of those games including his first fifty against Riddlesden; but I suspect

the psychological boost provided by the return of a mobile Cyril Pegg from Morton Banks had more than a little influence.

The success of the First XI seemed to rub off on the juniors and Captain Graham Nolan led his team to their second league title, commemorative caps were purchased.

1 st	WBL2	J Lancaster	18	9	0	3	6	Promoted
2 nd	WBL4	E Bennett	18	12	0	1	5	2 nd of 10

1965 - Final and relegation

Edwin Greenwood assumed the Chairmanship of the General Committee and in direct contrast to the seven match-winning streak, which brought them promotion, the team started the 1965 season with seven matches without a win and by early July were well anchored at the bottom of Division One. What had gone wrong? Sayer, Scarborough and Pegg were getting their fair share of runs and Greenwood, Mitchell and Copeland and new seam prospect Richard Harris were also picking up the wickets. Harris it was who looked the pick of the bunch with four 5 wicket hauls proving his 4 wickets in 4 balls as a junior in 1962 was no fluke. So what indeed had gone wrong? In a word it was the "CUP".

A strong dose of Cup fever had grabbed the club and not just the exploits of the newly promoted Leeds United in the FA Cup, but the teams own progress to their own first Cup Final. A first round ten wickets thrashing of Haworth Meths had produced the club's first documented 100 opening partnership (Laurence Bankhead 60 not out) against opponents used to dishing it out to Oaks. Two weeks before the final against Bingley Congs the lads sharpened up their batting in a high scoring draw with Oxenhope. A new record aggregate of 419 runs came from an Oxenhope reply of 202 for 5 to Oakworth's 217 for 7. Wilf hit 87 and Cyril 61 to send them to the final in very good heart.

The Keighley club's Lawkholme ground was the venue for Oakworth's first tilt at the Cup in 72 years as a League club. The Oakworth opening bowlers Richard Harris and David Greenwood did a grand job of containing the Bingley batsmen, Harris coming up with excellent figures of 4 for 33. Bingley totalled only 105 and they were indebted to D Petch who ground out 47 priceless runs in true Boycott fashion (127 minutes) to give their score some respectability. Oakworth were very strong favourites to reach their modest target but that man Petch chipped in with 4 late wickets for only 12 runs to back up Mountain's earlier 4 for 34. Cyril Pegg and Laurie Bankhead gave Oakworth a 23 run start but Bankhead remained the side's top scorer with 19. Pegg made 11, Greenwood a late 15 and veteran Jack Lancaster 12, everyone else failed to reach double figures on a bowlers pitch. Oakworth finished well short with a total of only 80 in reply and Bingley deservedly took the Cup.



Cyril Pegg

The Cup run dominated the club's season and, after the disappointment of losing, the team could only collect 2 wins from their final league fixtures. 9th place resulted and another slide down the snake, and relegation to the lower division. Wilf Scarborough racked up 327 runs but three league wins and a Cup runners-up medal was the reward for everyone's hard work.

1 st	WBL1	J Lancaster	18	3	0	6	9	Relegated
2 nd	WBL3	W Hough	18	10	0	3	5	Relegated

1966 - Second for Seconds

Richard Harris continued to terrorize even the best league batsmen throughout 1966 with five 5-wicket hauls but once again the batting let the side down. There were only two half centuries, inevitably one to Wilf (82 v Eldwick) and the other to Pegg (51 v Harden in a 5 wicket Cup defeat). There were only two team scores in excess of 100. The satisfaction in watching England win the World Soccer Cup was all the First XI had to show for the 1966 season, but the Second XI came up trumps winning their second Championship and the first since 1925 and the era of Willie Anderton. It was adequate consolation for the Second XI's ignominious departure from the Charity Cup at the semi final stage. They had been truly humiliated by Riddlesden who bowled them out for only 19 runs to win by 8 wickets. It was a major disappointment after wins against Morton, Denholme & Harden. 19 year-old Graham Nolan rattled up a string of scores to win the Division Four batting prize (average 63) from 379 runs (best 78 v Cross Roads IIs). Pickles and Mallinson were the pick of the bowlers, neither dominant.

1 st	WBL	C Pegg	18	8	0	4	6	5 th of 10
2 nd	WBL	A Spink	18	12	0	3	3	Champions

Farewells Jack Lancaster, Dudley Varley, Lawrence Bankhead, David Copeland, Raymond Mitchell

1967 - Third promotion Debut Geoff Pickles

There was something of a clear out of the 1967 First XI in order to make way for promising youngsters from the Second Team. The session got off to a damp start with three of the first four games victims of the rain without a ball being bowled. Sandwiched in between was a thrashing by Cross Roads, which thankfully did not prove to be the future norm. The bowling of Richard Harris went from strength to strength and 60 wickets at 6.68 earned him third place in the league averages. The club record of 69 wickets was coming under serious threat from Oaks new star! Yet more impressively he took five or more wickets no less than seven times to equal another J Hey 1904 record. Ironically his was not the best performance of the year. That honour fell to Herbert Atkinson with 8 for 29 in a match when old adversary Jack Inman took 5 for 3. Barry Sayer led the batters but Wilf Scarborough was surprisingly only able to chip in 69 runs to the cause.



Richard Harris

In the club's 75th year there was a promotion play off with near neighbours Knowle Park Congs for whom D Sunderland had returned a wonderful 49 no and 7 for 43 v Oaks earlier in the year. On 16th September Oakworth mustered 130 in reply to the Congs suspended 150 for 4. The Knowle Park team owed their victory to Neil Creighton who scored 100 not out to propel his team to the top flight. The last laugh though was with the Oakworth lads as another reshuffle of teams awarded them a third promotion place and another unexpected trip up the ladder. Oakworth now had three promotions and two relegations in 6 years!

1 st	WBL2	D Greenwood	20	8	0	7	5	Promoted
2 nd	WBL4	A Spink	20	7	0	8	5	4 th of 11

