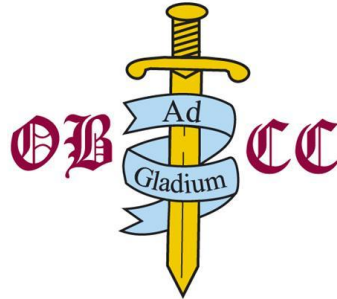


# Ockbrook & Borrowwash Cricket Club

Founded 1850



In July 1850 a match was played between Ockbrook and Hallam and became the first recorded event in the history of the club. This took place at Ockbrook and was well supported, as according to a newspaper report 'notwithstanding the unfavourable state of the weather some hundreds were on the ground'. During these early years matches were played at both Ockbrook and Borrowwash, against such teams as Risley, Stanton, Hallam fields, Sandiacre and West Hallam. By 1894, two teams were playing on Saturday afternoons, using the home pitch on alternate weeks, and including a 'professional' in the line up.

In 1898 the club joined the Sandiacre and District league, and also acquired the use of the present ground on land adjoining the Queens Head, on which in 1900, F Cranham memorably took six wickets with six balls, all bowled, against West Hallam.

Between 1900 and the beginning of the First World War, many young men who were to feature prominently in the club were starting their cricketing careers, and it was their effort and enthusiasm that saw the club through the hard times of this era. Local cricket ceased during the war years. In 1946, the club became active again following the Second World War, but resources, including players were scarce, and the club often struggled to field a side. It had always been a rule that only players born in or resident in either village were automatically allowed to become members of the club, but that rule was broken in 1947 when Arthur Honeybun became the first outsider to apply and be elected by the Committee.

The field was rented from the tenant of the Queens Head, who also allowed it to be used by Ockbrook Football Club during the winter months, which did little to enhance the state of the wicket. Following the departure of the football club, a local nursery was employed to re-lay the square at a cost of £90, not an inconsiderable sum in those days. The pavilion was old and rather crudely fitted out, consisting of one room with no running water. Water had to be carried by bucket from a house on Victoria Avenue. Teas were prepared in a small wooden hut next to the pavilion, and served in a converted single decker Trent bus.

During the 1950s and 60s, concerted efforts were made to improve the ground facilities and the image and fortunes of the club began to steadily improve. In 1971 Gerry Ford took 10 Belton wickets for 10 runs, the only time this had been achieved for the club, and the club won the Butterly Cup in 1972, its first trophy for many years. Shortly afterwards the club entered the Derby and District League, doing well enough to enter Division 1 in 1974, and becoming Div 1 R/U and League Cup winners in 1974; Div 1 winners in 1975; Div 1 winners and League cup R/U in 1976.

In 1977 the Notts & Derby Border league reorganised the leagues making the top two divisions into Premier Divisions, and the club were offered a place in Premier Div 2. To help meet this challenge the club hired a professional and worked their way up this division to gain promotion to Premier Div 1. During this time, the existing pavilion was damaged by fire, resulting in necessary refurbishments to the building, including the provision of a bar. This proved so lucrative that funds were soon available to allow the club to replace the pavilion in its entirety. Much of the work was undertaken by club members, and the new pavilion was officially opened on 24th July 1985.

The first Premier Div 1 title came to the club with a win over Matlock in the last league match of the 1987 season, which came a week after winning the Silver link Final. Winning the Derbyshire Cup in 1988 was another first for the club and the Jackson Cup was won for the first time in 1994.

During the 1990s, the priority was to gain a 'Grade A' ground rating, necessitating the leveling of the outfield and improvements to the showering facilities and sightscreens.

In 1991, the club took the decision to develop the junior section, starting an under 13's and then an under 18's team. In 1995 the club became one of the founding members of the South Derbyshire Kwik Cricket League.

The 3rd X1 commenced league cricket in 1994 followed by the 4th X1 in 1998. The club leased the back field in 1998, allowing the 3rd and 4th X1 to commence playing on it in 2002.

The pavilion was extended in 2004 resulting in it almost doubling in size. A new score box was completed in 2008.

**Sources:** Ockbrook and Borrowash Cricket Club 1872-1972. P. Wainwright (Ed).  
Ockbrook and Borrowash Cricket Club 1850-2000. P Wainwright (Ed).