

# A Club of Many Grounds and Faces.

## A potted history 1938 - 2013

### Origins in the war effort

The original Club grew out of the establishment of a De Havilland aircraft propeller factory in Bolton in 1936 as Britain was approaching war. A works team was formed and started playing friendlies in 1937.

### Bolton and District Cricket Association (BDCA) 1938 - 62

In 1938, as De Havilland CC, we joined Bolton and District Cricket Association League 2nd Division, sharing our first ground at Bee Hive Mill with Brunswick Methodists of the Horwich Churches League. The pretty ground dated back to 1890 and over time was improved with a new pavilion and sight screens. As our first ground it was used off and on right up until the 1970s.



Over the difficult period of the 1940s the Club made temporary use of other locations including Leverhulme Park and a ground sharing spell with Daisy Hill (1945 -47). Our mildly nomadic pattern of changing grounds has a long history!

In the post war years friendlies and inter factory games were played on various local grounds until 1954 when land behind what is now Barnstormers was leased for the development of playing fields for the works sports club. Our second ground.

A post war cricket section was re-formed in 1955 with the Club playing in the BDCA. In 1956 the Club won its first trophy as champions of BDCA Division 2B and with it promotion to Division 2A. By 1957 the Club was fielding two teams and saw the opening of a new pavilion that served us so well until it was destroyed by arsonists in 2002. One of our many tribulations over the years.

A new league was formed in 1962 and we were invited to join as founder members. The South West Lancashire Cricket Association was to be our home for the next 12 seasons. The ten founder member clubs were: - De Havilland (Lostock), Bickershaw Colliery, Golborne, Highfield, Orrell Red Triangle, Standish, Heinz 57, Norley Hall, Southport Trinity and Winstanley Park. We were a Bolton team playing in Wigan!

### South West Lancashire Cricket Association 1963 -74

Our time in the South West Lancashire Cricket Association proved to be the most successful period in our history. It coincided with the employment of Reuben Snape as our first ever professional. The highlight of the first season came in June when Snape hit the first ever century in the SWLCA with a remarkable whirlwind knock of 116 against Standish which included 10 sixes and 10 fours!

In 1964 the De Havilland company became Hawker Siddeley and our new name.



Jackson Trophy 1973

Success followed in 1967 as we defeated Highfield in a nail biting Rathbone Cup final by just 2 runs. Five weeks later came another win as Gaskell and Barlow dismissed Norley Hall for just 56 in the final of the new Heaton Trophy to set up an easy win.

The 2nd XI added to the silverware in 1968 taking the Baxter Cup with Bill Ackers the star of the show taking 6/45.

More winning ways in 1969 as the 1st XI won the Heaton Trophy - Jack Keeley taking 6/31 to rout Highfield for just 52. The 2nd XI too had a good season, finishing 3rd in the league and just failing to retain the Baxter Cup as they lost to Poolstock in the final.

Ground problems raised their head again in 1969 with the proposed M61 link road taking our site and requiring relocation to land next to the factory off Lostock Lane. Our third ground.

Success followed in the next 3 seasons 1970 -73 with more cup wins at both 1st & 2nd XI. Les Barlow, our longest serving professional, proved his worth as he became the first ever bowler to take all 10 wickets in an innings for the club. 1970 also saw 3 hat tricks during the season - 2 by Geoff Woodward in the Under 18 & 2nd XI, and Malcolm Leather in the 1st XI.

The move to the new site took place in 1972 including the relocation of the pavilion to the new ground. The 1st XI played on the new ground with the 2nds once again playing home games at the Bee Hive ground.

The League title finally came our way in 1973 in what was to be our penultimate season in the SWLCA. Led by skipper Bob Leeming and losing only twice in the season we pipped Highfield by one point to lift the Jackson Trophy.

### Back in the BDCA 1975 - 2005

Our time in the SWLCA was very enjoyable but members wanted to return "home" and play in one of the two Bolton cricket leagues. When the BDCA sought to expand the League in 1974 to 14 teams we were successful applicants with Walshaw. Echoes of the future.

Roy Marland was appointed as pro in 1977 helping us to finish runners up (behind Little Hulton) and reach the final of the Cross Cup for the first time. Once again we were bridesmaids, losing out to Clifton by 57 runs.

In 1979 the Club followed the company's corporate identity again with a name change to British Aerospace, but not for the first time we had ground problems. Poor weather and an end of season fertiliser treatment combined to damage the square requiring the 1st XI to play away all season. A portent of later events. Skipped by Bill Ackers the 2nd XI won the Halliwell Shield in 1981 sparking a run of three successive League titles from 1985-87, and a further 3 Halliwell Shield wins in 1982, 1985 and 1988.



Lostock Lane 1984

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1st XI success arrived in 1990 in the shape of the Vimto Trophy with an 82 run win over Blackrod in the final. Even better was to follow in 1991 with our first and only win in the Cross Cup final. We faced our neighbours Blackrod in the final and came out on top by a margin of 46 runs. Since 1990 our trophy cabinet has been bare and we have experienced many of the ups and downs of grass roots cricket clubs. We achieved 50 years in BDCA in 2013 and over those years have made a full and competitive contribution with senior and junior teams in the BDCA.

### Pitch battles

In 2002 the British Aerospace factory was closed and sold, including our Lostock Lane ground. We maintained occupation with the name of the Club changing from British Aerospace to Lostock Cricket Club as part of the Lostock Sports Club including rugby and bowls.



The ground was maintained and all sports were running well until vandals burnt down the Clubhouse. Our tribulations were not helped by a United Utilities

replacement of a water main in the outfield and an incompetent reinstatement making part of the outfield resemble a ploughed field. Despite much hard work, including a replacement but temporary pavilion, the threats of eviction from the landowner and leaks from the new water main delivered more problems.

The Club's senior teams were contentiously suspended from the BDCA in 2006 due to League fears over ground condition and general uncertainty of the future. The juniors remained in BDCA. The Committee resolved to keep the Club alive and work to secure relocation as part of the housing development scheme in liaison with Persimmon Homes and Bolton Council.

### Manchester and District Cricket Association Days (MDCA) 2007-2013

The Manchester Association graciously admitted us to the league from the 2007 season, but still the problems with the ground hung over the Club. At the end of 2007 after battling with an unsympathetic landlord we were finally evicted from the ground and faced a fight to survive. A temporary relocation deal was negotiated

enabling the senior teams to play at Haydock CC and the juniors at Bolton School. Over this time the Committee worked tenaciously and skillfully to secure a new permanent ground for Lostock Sports Club in Bolton against many legal, commercial and planning obstacles none of which were of our making.

Our time in the Manchester Association was fruitless in terms of trophies, but we have visited many new grounds and made many new friends. The Club maintained a thriving junior section under the loyal stewardship of Mitch Cregan and regular senior team cricket for over a hundred players. Reward indeed. Sadly recent years have seen a gradual exodus of clubs from the MDCA with the likes of Stretford, Hindley St Peters, Westleigh, Brooksbottom and Euxton all moving on to different leagues.

In our 75th anniversary year of 2013 there was another threat to our future as the Manchester Association stuttered.

Our solution and lifeline came with the finalisation of a deal with Persimmon Homes to construct a new ground

at Chew Moor Lane which also cleared the way for their development of our old ground at Lostock Lane. We are grateful to Persimmon Homes for their support without which we may not now be in existence. This coincided with the Bolton Association deciding to expand the league by four clubs. Lostock CC was readmitted for the 2014 season and we look forward to a debut at our fourth ground in 2015.

The Club is now on the brink of a new future at Chew Moor Lane and the start of a run in to the centenary. Hopefully we have now well and truly come home and will not be on the move again.



Cross Cup 1991



Burnt out pavillion 2002



New ground 2013 - From this...



...to this!